

UPPER MERION TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
WORKSHOP MEETING
DECEMBER 2, 2013

The Board of Supervisors of Upper Merion Township met for a Workshop Meeting on Monday, December 2, 2013, in the Township Building. The meeting was called to order at 7:49 p.m., followed by a pledge of allegiance.

ROLL CALL:

Supervisors present were: Greg Philips, Erika Spott, Greg Waks, Bill Jenaway and Carole Kenney. Also present were: David Kraynik, Township Manager; John Iannozzi, Township Solicitor; and Angela Caramenico, Assistant to Township Manager.

CHAIRPERSON'S COMMENTS:

Chairman Waks reported an Executive Session was held prior to this meeting to discuss legal and personnel matters.

DISCUSSIONS:

DISCUSSION OF A STUDY OF VOLUNTEER FIRE RESCUE & EMS SERVICES BY AN INDEPENDENT THIRD PARTY

Mr. Waks provided an overview of the need for a study of Upper Merion's Volunteer Fire Rescue & EMS services by an independent third party. Mr. Jenaway noted that his views are expressed in his capacity as a member of the Board of Supervisors. He indicated the 5-year strategic plan was initiated in 2011; however, it is not completed as yet. It was his opinion that a study would look at multiple year spending, planning, etc., and the question is whether the township should look outside to accomplish this goal. Mr. Jenaway pointed out that commercial studies would ignore the value of volunteer firefighters.

A discussion ensued as to the intent of the study, the length of the study, and the pros and cons of going outside or having it remain in house.

Pam Forster of Lafayette Ambulance stated 70 percent of the previous study had been completed. She emphasized the Fire Board was waiting for direction from the supervisors to complete a 20-year plan, and asked if the study could be less than a 20 year projection. In response to Greg Philips' question about how long it would take to complete, Ms. Forster replied that once they receive Board direction, it should be completed by June or July 2014.

Dennis Orangers, Fire & Rescue Services Board Chairman, reiterated Ms. Forster's comments about needing Board direction. He also noted that the fire companies are in the middle of preparing paperwork for accreditation, however, a strategic plan is needed to complete this process.

Mr. Waks asked Mr. Orangers, the Swedeland Fire Company Fire Chief, if the Upper Merion Fire & Rescue Services Board could provide the supervisors with a list of priorities for the study.

There was also some discussion that the use of a firm from the Washington, DC metro area to do a study may produce a non-volunteer result.

After further discussion, it was agreed that the Fire Board and Board of Supervisors would exchange a list of issues and ideas and that this matter would be discussed further at a January Board of Supervisors workshop.

PRESENTATION OF STAFF STUDY – TRASH & RECYCLING COLLECTION METHODS

Mr. David Kraynik, Township Manager, explained that the Environmental Advisory Council (EAC) asked staff to do a study of the pros and cons of the township's current trash collection (open market) versus in-house or single hauler collection. He advised information was gathered from over two dozen communities. There are three possible scenarios for trash hauling/recycling: (1) open market; (2) single hauler, and (3) municipal collection. Both he and Ed O'Brien, Public Works Director, gave a power point presentation outlining the pros and cons of each scenario.

One resident expressed his support of changing to a single hauler because of its environmental benefits. Another resident expressed her support of the current hauling system (open market).

Tim Hartman, Municipal Waste Authority, stated that the decision of trash hauling is individual to each community based on its size, needs, etc., however, he noted that most of the municipalities in the County are with single hauler collection.

After further discussion, the Board agreed that the best course of action at this time would be for a residential survey to be done in conjunction with the Environmental Advisory Council (EAC) and the Economic and Community Development Committee (ECDC). The Board also asked that the power point presentation be placed on the Upper Merion Township website and UMGA-TV, along with EAC's prior presentation.

CONTINUED REVIEW OF REVISED ZONING CODE

Mr. Rob Loeper, Township Planner, provided an overview of some of the proposed changes to the Code, in particular the Business Improvement District. He then presented a proposed schedule of zoning discussions for the upcoming year, and the Board was receptive to the schedule. Some topics included new stormwater ordinance, commercial districts, special districts, and multi and single family dwellings. It was agreed that the best course of action was to have the Board of Supervisors workshops dedicated solely to discussing the zoning code and no other matters.

ADJOURNMENT:

It was moved by Mr. Philips, seconded by Mrs. Spott, all voting "Aye" to adjourn the workshop meeting at 9:48 p.m.. None opposed. Motion approved 5-0.

DAVID G. KRAYNIK
SECRETARY-TREASURER/
TOWNSHIP MANAGER

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Minutes Approved:
Minutes Entered:

Note: Due to an audio problem, there was no audio available for this meeting.