

UPPER MERION TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
OCTOBER 15, 2015

The Board of Supervisors of Upper Merion Township met for a Business Meeting on Thursday, October 15, 2015, in Freedom Hall, in the Township Building in King of Prussia. The meeting was called to order at 7:40 p.m., followed by a pledge to the flag.

ROLL CALL:

Supervisors present were: Greg Waks, Erika Spott, Bill Jenaway and Carole Kenney. Also present were: David Kraynik, Township Manager; Sally Slook, Assistant Township Manager; Joseph McGrory, Township Solicitor; Rob Loeper, Township Planner. Supervisor Philips was absent.

MEETING MINUTES:

It was moved by Mr. Waks, seconded by Mr. Jenaway, all voting "Aye" to approve the September 10, 2015 Zoning Workshop Meeting Minutes, September 10, 2015 Workshop Meeting Minutes, September 17, 2015 Special Meeting Minutes, September 17, 2015 Business Meeting Minutes as submitted. None opposed. Motion approved 4-0.

CHAIRPERSON'S COMMENTS:

Chairperson Spott stated an Executive Session was held prior to this meeting to discuss litigation matters and a meeting of the Upper Merion Foundation was held at 6 p.m.

NEW BUSINESS

SWEARING IN OF TWO NEW POLICE OFFICERS

Police Chief Tom Nolan stated the police profession has had a very tumultuous year across our nation. The President's Task Force on 21<sup>st</sup> Century Policing recently recommended that all law enforcement agencies examine their departments and ensure their policing practices promote effective crime reduction while building public trust. Chief Nolan emphasized the Upper Merion Police Department has always strived to achieve this goal by recruiting quality men and women to serve on the police force. He explained the department's hiring philosophy is first and foremost to hire someone of high moral character and additionally look for candidates who possess intelligence, courage and integrity. Chief Nolan said these qualities are reflected in the two most recent police officer hires.

Chief Nolan noted the current hiring process started with nearly 150 applicants applying for the position of police officer over a 5 month period. Potential candidates worked through a selection process which involved a written examination, physical agility test, oral interview panel, polygraph examination, comprehensive background investigation and a Command interview. The two new hires coming on board from the eligibility list will fill a current vacancy and a pending vacancy in the department.

Chief Nolan introduced Officer Jessie Daywalt who was sworn in by District Justice William Maruszczak and Officer Alexander Clark who was sworn in by District Justice James Gallagher who both serve together on the King of Prussia Volunteer Fire Company.

Mrs. Spott congratulated the two newest police officers and commented the reason Upper Merion has such a stellar police force is the selection process in place to narrow the field of applicants to advance the best qualified team

members. It was noted the Mayor and President of the West Conshohocken Borough Council were in the audience to support Upper Merion's newest police officers.

PRESENTATION OF GUTKOWSKI TOWNSHIP FIREFIGHTER OF THE YEAR AWARD TO ROB DRONITSKY FROM SWEDELAND VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY

Chief Fire Marshal John Waters asked Supervisor Carol Kenney and members of the local fire and EMS service to participate in honoring *The Firefighter of the Year*, Lt. Rob Dronitsky, Swedeland Volunteer Fire Company for his sacrifice and service in the training program and engine company operations. He has over 25 years of experience in the fire service.

PRESENTATION OF THE MARY BACCHI EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES RESPONDER OF THE YEAR AWARD TO GREGORY "GREG" AMATO FROM LAFAYETTE AMBULANCE SQUAD

Chief Fire Marshal Waters stated this year marks the third awarding of the Mary Bacchi Emergency Medical Services Responder of the Year Award named after Mary Bacchi who was a longtime member of Lafayette Ambulance. Chief Waters asked Darryl Bacchi to participate in presenting this award. The Emergency Medical Services Responder of the Year Award was presented to Greg Amato who is responsible for all of Lafayette's radio communications equipment. It was noted he recently completed a major upgrade from a simplex to a multiplex system which has enhanced Lafayette's capabilities to improve communications with the Upper Merion Police Department, Montgomery County, out of county resources and the Mall. With over 3,000 runs a year this equipment is critical to Lafayette's mission.

PRESENTATION RE: FIRE & RESCUE APPRECIATION AWARDS

Prior to the awards presentation, Chief Waters stated the 39 individuals receiving awards at this meeting represent 880 years of total volunteer service to the community.

On behalf of the Board of Supervisors and all the people of the township, Mrs. Kenney expressed appreciation to our dedicated fire and rescue personnel who support the community with the resources needed to answer the calls, save lives and protect property.

Mr. Jenaway reported on the Pennsylvania State Firemen's Convention during which he had the opportunity to represent all three fire companies and EMS at this event. He noted fire and rescue personnel were occupied with events surrounding the Papal visit last month and were unable to attend. Mr. Jenaway stated he accepted the awards on behalf of all three fire companies who were recognized for their fire prevention programs. King of Prussia Volunteer Fire Company received first place for communities over 10,000 population, Swedesburg Volunteer Fire Company received second place and Swedeland received first place for communities in the middle range 5,000 to 10,000 population.

Mr. Jenaway pointed out each agency has over 50 events per year directly related to educating the public on what causes fires and accidents and how they are prevented. Because of these activities Upper Merion enjoys a relatively low fire loss and accident rate.

Mrs. Spott expressed appreciation to all the firefighters and EMS for their dedication and invaluable service.

PRESENTATION OF RENMATIX – RECIPIENT OF U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY’S 20<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY PRESIDENTIAL GREEN CHEMISTRY AWARD

Mr. Jenaway offered his reflections on first seeing Renmatrix while answering a fire alarm while he was still fire chief. When he arrived on the scene he was surprised to see former governor Mark Schweiker whom he had known from the early days of the Pennsylvania Fire Service.

Mr. Jenaway stated Renmatrix is a unique, progressive civic-minded “next generation” company that is a vibrant part of our community. He said the facility on First Avenue has been rejuvenated into a Class A operational space for their innovative technology that converts biomass into cellulosic sugars for renewable chemicals and fuel markets.

On behalf of the Board of Supervisors, Mr. Waks read and presented the proclamation to Mr. Schweiker.

Mark S. Schweiker, Senior Vice President and Chief Relationship Officer, Renmatrix, stated Renmatrix was uniquely recognized at the White House this past summer as one of the Green Chemistry Manufacturing honorees and it is equally as validating to have the support and encouragement of the local leadership.

Mrs. Spott expressed appreciation to Renmatrix for making Upper Merion Township their corporate home.

Mr. Schweiker mentioned while several locations were considered Upper Merion Township was the victor because of its sophisticated technical environment.

CONSENT AGENDA:

1. Request by Lafayette Ambulance Squad and approved by the Fire & Rescue Services Board to Replace Lafayette Ambulance 317-1 in the amount of \$190,000
2. Equipment Replacement Request re:
  - a. Replacement of Mobile Data Computer Equipment in Police Department Vehicles - \$44,047
3. Awarding of Bids re:
  - a. 2016-2018 Street Line Painting Contract to Traffic and Safety Signs, Inc. in the amount of \$231,869.00
  - b. 2015-2018 Sidewalk Snow Removal Services Contract to Greenscape Landscape Contractors, Inc. in the amount of \$13,800.00
  - c. 2015-2018 Snow Plowing Services Contract to Schultz Enterprises in the amount of \$109,920.00
4. Resolution No. 2015-38 re: Sanitary Sewer Plan Module Revision for the Village at Valley Forge
5. Authorization to Sign Settlement Agreement and Release – Liberty Property Limited Partnership
6. Consider Accepting an Extension of Time to January 31, 2016 re: Mancill Mill Road Company Development Plan; Warehouse & Office Facility (298,000 SF) and two hotel buildings (245 units); 22.82 acres, SM/SM-1.

7. Equipment Replacement Requests – IT Department re:

- a. Replacement of Core Networking Equipment – 27,000
- b. Repair and Replacement of Cell and Building Cameras - \$12,000

Board Action:

It was moved by Mrs. Kenney, seconded by Mr. Jenaway, all voting “Aye” to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. None opposed. Motion approved 4-0.

HEARING RE: AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 37 OF THE UPPER MERION TOWNSHIP CODE, PENSIONS, ARTICLE IV, SECTION 4.01 AND SECTION 4.04, REVISING THE LANGUAGE TO REFLECT SOCIAL SECURITY DISABILITY PENSION OFF-SET AND SOCIAL SECURITY OFF-SET TO NORMAL RETIREMENT BENEFITS FOR THE MEMBERS OF THE POLICE PENSION PLAN FOR UPPER MERION TOWNSHIP

Joseph McGrory, Township Solicitor, opened the hearing and introduced into the Record Board Exhibit #1 the Ordinance itself and Board Exhibit #2 the Proof of Publication. He asked Mr. Kraynik to provide a brief summary of the need for this ordinance.

David Kraynik, Township Manager, stated the offsets in this ordinance are currently in place as part of a collective bargaining agreement previously agreed to between the Township and the Police Association. The Pennsylvania Auditor General’s office requested an administrative endeavor to make sure the Township’s ordinances are consistent with the collective bargaining language. This ordinance simply memorializes the offsets so they are consistent with the language in the collective bargaining agreement.

Mr. McGrory opened the floor for any further Board of public comment, and hearing none he adjourned the hearing and reconvened into the public meeting portion of the agenda placing the ordinance in a position for consideration by the Board of Supervisors.

Board Action:

It was moved by Mr. Jenaway, seconded by Mrs. Kenney, all voting “Aye” to approve Ordinance 2015-839 as submitted. None opposed. Motion approved 4-0. Ordinance 2015-839 was adopted and will be filed in Ordinance Book #17.

Board Comment:

Mr. Jenaway commented that two weeks ago two committees from the Pennsylvania House of Representatives held a hearing about pension reform throughout the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. He said with the help of the Township Manager and Pension Advisory Board he was provided with some details he presented as testimony at the hearing. Mr. Jenaway emphasized that because of the due diligence of the Finance staff, Pension Advisory Board, and township leadership Upper Merion’s pension programs are much better funded than the majority of those in Pennsylvania. He was the only one of 15 witnesses who presented positive commentary.

## ACCOUNTS PAYABLE & PAYROLL:

### Board Action:

It was moved by Mr. Jenaway, seconded by Mr. Waks, all voting "Aye" to approve the Accounts Payable for invoices processed from September 9, 2015 to October 7, 2015 in the amount of \$3,040,175.84 and the Payroll for September 11, 2015 and September 25, 2015 in the amount of \$1,367,144.67 for a total of \$4,407,320.51. None opposed. Motion passed 4-0.

## ADDITIONAL BUSINESS

### SCAM ALERT

Mr. Jenaway reported the Upper Merion Police Department has received multiple scam phone call complaints from residents in the township. Each report from the resident seemed to vary a bit but the final request was for the resident to call the Chester County Sheriff's Department and/or send money through a PayPal account. The caller would claim that the resident did not respond to a court notice, has a warrant for their arrest, and was due in court for jury duty/grant jury. In checking the County's Sheriff's website [www.chesco.org/sheriff](http://www.chesco.org/sheriff), they have a warning notice on their front page in reference to this scam and request that people ignore the calls or contact their agency for further information.

### FEMA LETTER – FLOODPLAIN MAPS

Mr. Jenaway emphasized at the outset that this is a decision by the Federal Government and it is not an Upper Merion determination. He stated on September 2, 2015, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), issued a letter of final determination for the preliminary FEMA Flood Plain maps which are now expected to become effective on March 2, 2016. The township issued letters to all affected property owners. Maps have been made available on the township website and will be available for public view at the Township Building. FEMA's mapping center can be reached at 1-877-336-2627 or online at [www.floodmaps.fema.gov](http://www.floodmaps.fema.gov). Mr. Jenaway reiterated this is a FEMA responsibility to establish flood zones and the township is simply advising individual property owners if their particular property has been affected by this FEMA determination.

### CITIZENS ACADEMY

Mrs. Kenney stated today was the deadline for registration for the Upper Merion Township Citizens Academy. Twenty-seven (27) people have signed up to have an in-depth look at the functions of local government and receive an introduction to all the departments and "behind the scenes" activities of the Township.

### UPPER MERION FOUNDATION

Mr. Waks stated prior to this meeting the Upper Merion Township Foundation held its second meeting to discuss ways to turn the Foundation into a grant resource to support programs for the benefit of the citizens of Upper Merion Township. More information will be forthcoming about Amazon Smile, a donation program for nonprofit organizations and how by shopping at Amazon.com citizens can help support the Upper Merion Township Foundation with their purchases.

### UPCOMING MEETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mrs. Spott announced a number of upcoming Township meetings and events.

SENIOR FALL FLING

Mrs. Spott expressed appreciation to everyone who made the Senior Fall Fling such a resounding success with over 225 seniors attending. She recognized the special efforts of the members of the Senior Fall Fling Committee including Mary McCree, June Dolan, Eileen Rodrique, Terry Stevens, Frank Dube, Dottie Wisniewski and township staff which includes the Public Information Officer, Carla Showell-Lee, Upper Merion Police Department, and UMGA-TV crew who was on hand filming the event which will be broadcast on Channel 22 and 33.

ADDITIONAL NOTE RE CITIZENS ACADEMY

For the benefit of residents who signed up for the Upper Merion Township Citizens Academy, Mrs. Spott noted classes will be held on Tuesday evenings starting November 10<sup>th</sup> from 7pm to 8:30 p.m. Additional information is on the township website.

TOWNSHIP E-NEWSLETTER

Mrs. Spott noted as an incentive for new subscribers the Public Information Office will be giving five new subscribers a \$10 township gift certificate during its "Got Your Email" New Subscriber Fall Campaign.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business to come before the Board, it was moved by Mr. Waks, seconded by Mr. Jenaway, all voting "Aye" to adjourn the meeting. None opposed. Motion approved 4-0. Adjournment occurred at 8:40 p.m.

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DAVID G. KRAYNIK  
SECRETARY-TREASURER  
TOWNSHIP MANAGER

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Minutes Approved:  
Minutes Entered