

UPPER MERION TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
JOINT MEETING  
APRIL 28, 2016

The Board of Supervisors of Upper Merion Township met for a Joint Meeting on Thursday, April 28, 2016 in the Board Room, in the Township Building in King of Prussia. The meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m., followed by a pledge to the flag.

DISCUSSIONS:

UPPER MERION MUNICIPAL UTILITY AUTHORITY (UMMUA)

ROLL CALL:

Supervisors present were: Greg Philips, Greg Waks, Erika Spott, and Carol Kenney. Others present were: Dave Kraynik, Township Manager; Sally Slook, Assistant Township Manger; Ed O'Brien, Public Works Director; Edward Veneziale, Chairperson; Diane Reilly, Secretary; Jim Ruddy, Treasurer. Supervisor Jenaway was absent.

Mr. Edward Veneziale, Chairperson, reported the Authority both financially and operationally are in excellent shape. He reported Ed O'Brien and his staff have done a wonderful job to make sure the township is in compliance throughout the year. The projects and initiatives reflect great credit on the work being accomplished by his staff.

Mr. Ed O'Brien, Director of Public Works, provided an overview of the 2015 projects for the Upper Merion Municipal Utility Authority (UMMUA) as well as the Sewer Revenue Account (SRA).

Upgrade of the Matsonford Pumping Station – through design, bidding and ready to start construction phase. The Authority is the funding source for total of \$500,000. Engineer is Cardo BCM and the contract award went to Blooming Glen Contractors. Construction to commence in late spring 2016. The major construction items of interest are:

- modification of a web well
- installation of two submersible pumps
- removal of dry well pump pit
- construct dry well building to house the pump controls instrumentation
- remove and replace the existing transformer.

Mr. O'Brien provided an update of the Municipal Industrial Pretreatment (MIPP) Program with a summary of 2015 compliance award winners as follows:

Arkema, Hope's Country Fresh Cookies, Renmatix, Inc. and GlaxoSmithKline.

Mr. O'Brien noted Upper Merion Township also recognizes what companies are doing in other areas regarding the environment and pollution prevention. For 2015, Arkema was the award winner for energy conservation and LED lighting.

The Upper Merion 2015 operation of the MIPP Program was rated 92.2% which is considered a Category 1, a top rating received from the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

During his update of the MIPP program, Mr. O'Brien reported there were 10 permitted industrial users in Upper Merion Township in 2015. All were sampled and inspected during the year as required; four enforcement actions were taken which resulted in two 2 IU's with penalties amounting to \$1,000.

With regard to the conveyance or collection system. items of note for 2015 are as follows:

- operate and maintain 11 pumping stations
- total of 5 sanitary sewer overflows or SSO's
- all DEP mandated reporting procedures were followed
- there were no new sewer extensions added to our system last year
- with regard to capacity for the system, there are no sections of the system that are currently hydraulically overloaded and on that basis no hydraulic overloads of the conveyance system are foreseen within the next five years.

Mr. Dave Kraynik, Executive Secretary, stated about two years ago the State passed a law allowing municipalities to form and create stormwater authorities. For the last eight to ten months the Authority has done a lot of research on this subject. Meetings were held with the supervisors to discuss the merits of taking on stormwater management in a comprehensive way throughout the entire township. Those discussions, among other things, centered on creating a separate authority and if those duties should be incorporated into the existing Municipal Utility Authority. After a presentation at a workshop meeting in the early part of this year, the decision was made that the existing Municipal Utility Authority would be expanded at the appropriate time, but would take on stormwater management as soon as legally possible. The legal effort is currently underway and the Authority's solicitor is working on the revising the Articles of Incorporation which date back to when the Authority was formed. The revisions will incorporate the duties of the Authority to take on stormwater management. The revised articles will be reviewed in depth with the solicitor and the Authority at its May meeting. It is anticipated in the next month or two the Authority will approve the revised Articles of Incorporation which will then require further action by the Board of Supervisors.

It is anticipated by mid-summer the Authority will have officially been incorporated to take on stormwater management. The Authority members have been discussing the first initial steps once that takes place. The Authority's engineer has been authorized to prepare two RFP's. The first one would be for the comprehensive stormwater basin study. Once the Articles of Incorporation are adopted the Authority will go out to bid for engineering services to do a comprehensive study of the entire stormwater basin in the township. The last study was about 21 years ago and will be used as a baseline. Much has changed in the last two decades as it relates to runoff and the Authority anticipates once the 12-18 month study is completed it will provide recommendations as to the first projects the authority will undertake. Simultaneously with that study will be a stormwater fee study commissioned by the Authority. It was noted legislation passed by Pennsylvania allows authorities to levy a fee and the study will look at various aspects of how that fee will be determined.

Mr. Veneziale stated a great deal of work is ahead of the Authority as they work towards understanding stormwater issues, projects and fees.

Mr. Waks stated with the expansion of the Municipal Utility Authority it has been discussed that one of those two seats, assuming it would be extended by two members, should go to a member of the Environmental Advisory Council (EAC). He pointed out there will be some educational requirements and one of the main goals of the EAC is to educate residents about various environmental issues. Stormwater management is inherently an environmental issue and it would be a natural collaboration. Mr. Waks said it is important to note there are regulatory mandates that Upper Merion Township and all the other municipalities will be facing with regard to stormwater.

Mr. Waks mentioned for the record that Mrs. Spott has now joined the meeting.

With regard to the Articles of Incorporation, Mr. Philips asked if this just involves amending and creating new ones. Mr. Kraynik responded in the affirmative.

Mr. Philips asked for more information about the fees. Mr. Kraynik responded the fees would be used to fund stormwater projects recommended by the engineer conducting the study. It would also provide funds for hiring limited staff, if necessary, to do the work maintaining the projects once they are implemented.

Mr. Philips asked if those areas of the township experiencing the trend of the last 15 years of heavy stormwater damage would be the type of projects that would be done. Mr. Kraynik responded in the affirmative.

Mrs. Kenney emphasized this is a federally mandated project for every municipality in the country. She stated the two basic reasons for the stormwater projects are to reduce the amount of stormwater going into the stream of our locality and ultimately into the river. The second reason is to maintain the quality of the water going into stormwater system. This is a quantity and quality issue and the township is being asked to improve and take steps to mitigate stormwater problems. As a result of the 1995 study a number of recommended projects have been done. Since then other projects have been done to improve stormwater which is in evidence in places like Carmax and Home Depot.

## MEDIA COMMUNICATIONS ADVISORY BOARD

### ROLL CALL:

Supervisors present were: Greg Philips, Greg Waks, Bill Jenaway, Erika Spott and Carole Kenney. Also present were: David Kraynik, Township Manager, Sally Slook, Assistant Township Manager; Don Herbert, TV Services Coordinator; Howard Hoffman, Chairperson; Portia Waller; James Kravits.

Mr. Howard Hoffman, Chairperson, offered introductory remarks.

James Kravitz reported on the successful installation of the LED message board outside the township building at the corner of Henderson Road and Valley Forge Road. He said the Media Board received a lot of positive feedback from the citizens and it is accomplishing what was envisioned. Only a couple of minor punch list items remain to be finalized and everyone is pleased with how everything turned out.

Mr. Hoffman discussed the digital antenna system (DAS). He explained the DAS ordinance was needed because as data demands increase the 4G systems that cellular companies are employing are getting overtaxed. A distributed antenna system allows for additional antennas to be installed within the township and they all connect back to the cellular system. An additional benefit of the ordinance is that the township will be able to control how the antennas are installed in the township. Mr. Hoffman said one company is installing DAS so Verizon can increase their density and there will, no doubt, be additional demand for more cellular companies that need the technology.

Mr. Kravitz stated last year Comcast generated about \$381,000 in franchise fees versus 385,000 from 2014. In that same period 2015-2014 Verizon had an increase from \$256,000 to \$272,000 in 2015 due to a much larger increase in subscriptions providing a net increase of 1.8% for a total of \$603,411.

Mr. Hoffman the Comcast franchise is in the “home stretch” of negotiations

dealing with some language in the franchise agreement concerning DAS and how the franchise agreement relates to the ordinance the township has enacted.

Mrs. Kenney asked for more information about Verizon. Mr. Hoffman responded Verizon is using DAS for the proliferation of internet data and expanding 4G closer to the neighborhoods. It was noted that refranchising Verizon discussions will come up in the next year or so.

Don Herbert, TV Services Coordinator, discussed the township website and use of social media which has expanded significantly and everyone is pleased with the direction it has taken. Highlights as follows:

- Active with Facebook and have become more active with Twitter
- Facebook – 2,260 followers (up 1,000 from last year this time)
- Nearly 70% of followers use their mobile devices to access
- Highest activity is 9 a.m. on Wednesday morning
- Largest audience is between 25 and 34 years old
- Twitter – number of tweets are up 200%
- Vimeo is online video archive with 190 videos posted on 15 different channels – it has had views from 85 different countries
- Evaluating website for upgrades and improvements
- There is new technology Media Board would like to take advantage of and will be forming a website committee to talk to the various departments about what they need

Mr. Hoffman said the Media Board is exploring ways the website could be made more mobile friendly.

Portia Waller provided an overview of the various internal and external printed and electronic publications.

- Quarterly the *Township Lines* is mailed to every resident. The content is done internally through the Information Office, but the printing of the publication and advertising is outsourced to Franklin Maps. An issue being considered is whether to send to everyone and or if it should be a subscription.
- The e-newsletter, a weekly publication comes out every Friday. There is a high open rate.
- The new information portal will soon display everything going on in the township building and the Community Center.

Mr. Herbert thanked the Board of Community Assistance for funding the portal project.

Mr. Herbert stated this past year for 2015 the Pennsylvania State Association of Township Supervisors (PSATS) UMGA-TV won 2<sup>nd</sup> place for the E-Newsletter, our television programs won first place for the *Spotlight Series*, second place for the PSA collection and third place for the *Township Talk Series*.

Mr. Herbert provided a compilation of videos and UMGA-TV programs aired during the past year.

As Board Liaison for the Media Board, Mr. Waks commended the speed with which the LED sign was completed as well as the board's work on the DAS ordinance which will serve as a model for all other media boards.

### ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

#### ROLL CALL:

Supervisors present were: Greg Philips, Greg Waks, Bill Jenaway, Erika Spott, and Carole Kenney. Also present were: Dave Kraynik, Township Manager; Sally Slook, Assistant Township Manager; Janet Serfass, Staff Liaison; John Wellnau, Chairperson; Chris Kaasmann, Vice Chairperson; Brittany Grala; Sandra Moskowitz (arrived late).

Mr. Wellnau outlined several goals that are linked to the EAC's mission statement as follows:

- Make regulatory recommendations such as improving township recycling
- Encouraging sustainable building
- Evaluating future development sites for sustainable building
- Increase education and awareness
- Web communications, community activities and TV specials
- Supporting natural resource conservation and remediation through monitoring of Superfund site remediation
- Preventing future contamination

Mr. Wellnau stated over the past several years the EAC has had an unofficial goal to assist the township in meeting its municipal separate storm sewer or MS4 requirements which deals with education and public outreach.

Mr. Wellnau outlined the EAC's key accomplishments and issues for the past year:

- Schuylkill Scrub
- Applied for Board of Community Assistance grant
- Installed mile markers every quarter mile on newly created Schuylkill River

#### West Trail

- Recommendation to Board of Supervisors to work together with the Schuylkill Action Network

Mr. Wellnau outlined future projects as follows:

- 2016 Clean Up Event on May 14, 2016
- Meadows – building meadows in the Township
- rain barrel display at Heuser Park which was built from a grant received in 2013. The idea for this year's grant is to have educational events at the Farmers Market, for example, telling people about the benefits of rain barrels and how to install them. Ideally a free rain barrel would be provided to all attendees.
- Continued partnership with other township committees and boards
- Continued evaluation and monitoring of township Superfund sites.
- Continued education on environmental topics and issues with presentations to Board of Supervisors.
- Remain alert to grant funding opportunities. There is a pending grant application for the rain barrel project.

Ms. Spott commented how much the scope of the EAC has expanded from an initial focus on recycling to a vast array of other initiatives. She noted the exceptional work done on the “cleanup” days and the promotion of rain barrels. Mrs. Spott mentioned she has seven rain barrels on her property.

Mr. Philips recalled last year he asked if the EAC has looked into some water conservation measures for future development. He pointed out water is going to be a more precious resource commodity going forward in the next decade. He said is intrigued by the “Meadows” idea and would like to see the standards for that idea so that it could possibly be incorporated into land development. Mr. Philips noted the good work being done with rain barrels and suggested possibly having a compost seminar for brush and trees, etc.

Mrs. Kenney also favored the Meadows idea and emphasized the importance of communication with the residents about such initiatives. She commended the educational efforts that are ongoing which will go a long way assist with stormwater issues.

Mrs. Kenney asked for clarification about the EAC's oversight of Superfund sites. Mr. Kaasmann responded from time to time the EAC receives reports and updates from the EPA or DEP and the oversight involves looking at the reports and providing any feedback or recommendations.

Ms. Serfass commented there is one Superfund site that is still active and monthly reports are issued from EPA. These reports are reviewed and if there is something out of the norm she will bring it to their attention. Ms. Serfass said

currently it is in the final stages and there is not much more going on since they have all been remediated.

As Board Liaison to the EAC, Mr. Waks expressed appreciation for all their hard work. He noted the trail markers grant came from the Board of Community Assistance (BCA). Mr. Waks mentioned citizen boards are eligible to apply for grants from the BCA. He said the EAC was the first board to receive a BCA grant and the project was completed significantly under budget which may allow the EAC to put down additional trail markers elsewhere.

Mr. Jenaway wanted to make sure the notice about the cleanup day is placed in the E-Blast system and on UMGA-TV as well.

Mr. Kaasmann followed up on Mr. Philips' question last year regarding water conservation. He said he has some colleagues living in the California bay area California and from time to time he is updated on what their local governments are imposing on them and he has a running list of different options. He said a lot of the ideas are pretty drastic because of the dire situation out west, but it is something he has been keeping an eye on since Mr. Philips brought it up last year.

Mr. Philips stated a lot of the rain here on the east coast goes into the stormwater system and does not recharge the aquafer.

Ms. Moskowitz asked how the stormwater is directed into the aquafer. Mr. Philips responded the way our system is built now you cannot, but as with Carmax and Home Depot we are now using Best Management Practices. It is not just detention basins but planted areas. The meadows idea, rain gardens, porous pavement will all help minimize the runoff from the storms.

## LIBRARY BOARD

### ROLL CALL:

Supervisors present were: Greg Philips, Greg Waks, Bill Jenaway, Erika Spott, and Carole Kenney. Also present were: Dave Kraynik, Township Manager; Sally Slook, Assistant Township Manager; Karl Helicher, Library Director; Jeanne Kaufman, Head of Child Services; David Bristowe, Chairperson, Library Board of Directors; Janet Medrow; Sharon Duris, Katie Kohler; Jonathan Black; Sangeetha Srinivasan.

Mr. David Bristowe, Chairperson, offered introductory remarks and noted last year the library held over 750 programs which was an 18% increase over 2014. Of these 750 programs they were all attended by 28,000 township citizens (adults and children). Mr. Bristowe expressed appreciation for the leadership of Karl Helicher has provided over the past 37 years for the township.

Mr. Helicher stated since this is his last joint meeting he wanted to express appreciation for the support of the Board of Supervisors, especially Board Liaison, Carole Kenney, Township Manager, Dave Kraynik and Sally Slook, Assistant Township Manager and the Library Board.

Mr. Helicher mentioned a few recent library donations received from generous patrons.

Utilizing a PowerPoint, Jeanne Kauffman, Head of Children Services, provided an update on the Children's Department highlighting the programs offered in this department. It was noted the library's circulation of children's materials has increased by almost 27% since 2006. In addition the library provided 585 programs for children and families in 2015 serving more than 23,000 children and their parents.

Sangeetha Srinivasan, Program Director, discussed the various programming in the Library's extensive outreach including social media.

Ms. Kauffman recognized Mr. Helicher who has spearheaded the many changes and innovations during his 37-year tenure as Director.

Mr. Jenaway remarked on the amazing array of activities accomplished in the past year which remains a tremendous asset for the community.

As Board Liaison for the Library, Mrs. Kenney knows firsthand the hard work that is involved in planning and executing so many wonderful programs for children and adults. She recalled many fond memories she and her family enjoyed at the library as a long standing resident of the township.

Following up on a request made at the last joint meeting, Mrs. Medrow reported on the library fundraiser which was held this past year featuring indoor golf in the library.

## SHADE TREE AND BEAUTIFICATION COMMISSION

### ROLL CALL:

Supervisors present were: Greg Philips, Greg Waks, Bill Jenaway, Erika Spott, and Carole Kenney. Also present were: Dave Kraynik, Township Manager; Sally Slook, Assistant Township Manager; Jerome Ocker, Chairman; Bill Schutter, Parks Maintenance Superintendent; Bob Dempsey, Barbara Van Clief.

Ms. Barbara Van Clief reported on what has been done since the last joint meeting. In November 34 trees were planted in several different parks. These

trees were received through a Tree Vitalize grant the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society runs for the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources. The \$25 copay for these trees was received from a generous grant from BCA. Ms. Van Clief reported the trees are doing well and the commission is continuing to work to obtain more trees in the future. The Shade Tree Commission jointly with the Upper Merion Tree Tenders group has applied for a BCA grant to take care of trees as opposed to planting trees.

Mr. Jerome Ocker, Chairman, stated 12 bare root trees were distributed to residents this spring. He noted the commission was able to assist an eagle scout with his tree planting project at Sweet Briar Park by obtaining a black gum tree for him at no cost. Mr. Ocker said they have been trying to educate the public through various seminars. He said they have started a pruning club to take care of a lot of the smaller trees. Tree pruning will continue in June at Heuser Park. In addition, another work day will be scheduled to de-vine some of the river birch trees in Walker Park along the waterway.

Ms. Van Clief said a tree identification workshop was held in March and they hope to continue that type of activity. She said the Shade Tree Commission is also in the process of evaluating properties for the beautification awards.

Ms. Van Clief indicated the Shade Tree Commission also reviews development plans and make recommendations for species that will do well. They will also continue to work with the Environmental Advisory Council to increase stormwater management at the sites because green infrastructure is becoming more important in land development.

Mr. Ocker reported last year the inventory of all the ash trees in our parks was completed because of concern over the emerald ash borer. Recommendations have been made to the township to treat some of the larger ashes in Executive Terrance Park. The plan is to preserve the bigger trees with a trunk injection triage. This provides a two year protection period. Mr. Ocker said they are concerned about the newly planted trees along the new trail.

Ms. Van Clief said residents should be watching out for their own ash trees as well. Information on how to identify an ash tree can be found online.

Ms. Van Clief noted Bob Dempsey has been representing the Shade Tree Commission at the Park & Recreation Board meetings on the Master Plan.

Mr. Jenaway commented the Shade Tree Commission demonstrated their technical knowledge and a passion for what they do. He encouraged residents to look out for any ash trees on their property and remain alert to any signs of disease.

Ms. Van Clief said in many instances it will be 3 to 5 years before any

evidence appears on a tree. Sometimes the first evidence is the presence of woodpeckers. Ms. Van Clief pointed out once ash trees are compromised they become very brittle and are very likely to fall or have major branches fall which can be dangerous.

Mr. Jenaway commented how very important trees are in supporting the environment in a variety of ways.

Mrs. Spott had a question about a gypsy moth type insect. Mr. Ocker explained Mrs. Spott was referring to tent caterpillars which is a similar insect.

Mrs. Kenney asked about the tree inventory and if they found any surprises or unusual trees. Mr. Ocker responded the tree inventory is focusing on ash trees. They did start an overall inventory in all the parks which they still have to report on. Mr. Ocker said they did find some hazardous trees which is why they are trying to get the grant money to take care of some of those situations where whole trees need to be removed.

Ms. Van Clief said they did find a surprising number of ash trees.

Mrs. Kenney asked how many ash trees are on that portion of the trail. Mr. Van Clief responded she and Mr. Dempsey were assigned to inventory that section of the trail and gave up because it is a forest of ash trees.

Mrs. Kenney asked if some of the Shade Tree Commission's efforts will be directed to that specific area. Mr. Ocker responded not this year.

Mrs. Kenney asked if a BCA grant or more township money would help. Mr. Ocker responded the trees they are treating now are coming out of the township budget.

Mrs. Kenney suggested applying for more grants and any other sources in addition to being in the township budget each year because prevention is so much easier than losing a tree.

Mrs. Spott mentioned the goats that are planned at Bob White Park to do some de-vining. She emphasized this is an economically sound, environmentally friendly way of handling this problem.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business to come before the Board, it was moved by Mr. Philips, seconded by Mrs. Kenney, all voting "Aye" to adjourn the meeting. None opposed. Motion approved 4-0. Adjournment occurred at 9:22 p.m.

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DAVID G. KRAYNIK  
SECRETARY-TREASURER  
TOWNSHIP MANAGER

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Minutes Approved:

Minutes Entered: