

UPPER MERION TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
WORKSHOP MEETING
OCTOBER 10, 2019

The Board of Supervisors of Upper Merion Township met for a Workshop Meeting on Thursday, October 10, 2019, in the Township Building. The meeting was called to order at 7:45 p.m., followed by a pledge of allegiance.

ROLL CALL:

Supervisors present were: Carole Kenney, Bill Jenaway, Greg Philips and Tina Garzillo. Also present were: Anthony Hamaday, Township Manager; Joe McGrory, Township Solicitor; Thomas Nolan, Chief of Police. Absent: Greg Waks.

CHAIRPERSON'S COMMENTS:

Mrs. Kenney stated that an executive session was held prior to this meeting to discuss legal and real estate matters.

DISCUSSIONS:

FIRE INSPECTION ORDINANCE

Chief Nolan stated this is a result of a Fire Prevention Strategic Plan that was put together by Chief Rubin and a meeting from February with a number of members of the Fire and Rescue Services. Currently there is a Rental Inspection Program that inspects vacant apartments at changeover and this will be in addition to that plan and it will do Fire Prevention Inspection in commercial buildings, common areas in apartment buildings, hotels, restaurants and the mall. It is similar to the Rental Inspection of Apartments but it is more on the International Fire Code. There will be a fee assessed based on the square footage of the location. The proposal is to do this inspection annually with the main goal to make the community safer. The plan right now is to modify Ordinance 132, a rental inspection ordinance, and add the Fire Prevention Ordinance into that and have the Fee Schedule as part of the ordinance as well. The Fee Schedule is based off models in the area. The License Fee would be \$25.00, 1 to 500 square foot would be \$75.00, moving up to various sizes with up to over 100,000 square foot would be \$2000.00. In order to accomplish this, a submission for the 2020 Budget to add two Fire Inspectors. The inspectors will not be fire fighters but will be civilian Fire Inspectors so this way they can efficiently focus on the inspections. A question arose who would be handling fire investigations and Mr. Nolan responded, the Fire Marshals would be handling those case along with the assistance of detectives that have arsenal investigation

training. It was also noted Upper Merion Township is one of a few communities that does not already preform this inspection.

K9 EXPANSION PROGRAM

Currently, there is one K9 Officer, canine Anna and the handler is Officer Glenn Muntzer. Anna is certified as a tracking dog and an explosive detection dog. Back in August, the Police Department was asked along with Radnor Police Department to assist at the Sheraton Hotel. There was a caravan coming up from Florida, a Dream Ride Experience, which helps raise money for the Special Olympics. The Police Department assisted with getting the caravan off of the Turnpike and into the location. Unbeknownst to the Police Department, as a thank you to us, they gifted the department a canine dog and all of it's supplies. The canine dog came from a kennel in Connecticut and so they are keeping the dog until the expansion of the program was discussed. There was always a plan to have two canines as there once was before. The kennel has now offered to give the canine that was originally looked at to bring on board, before the gifted canine, to the Police Department in exchange for a donation to their foundation in the amount of \$5,000.00, instead of paying the regular amount of upwards \$15,000.00. The canines will be trained in tracking, searching of explosives and persons.

Board Action:

It was moved by Mr. Jenaway, seconded by Mr. Philips, all voting "Aye" to authorize the Chief of Police to move forward in developing a plan for the expansion of the K9 Program to three canine dogs. None opposed. Motion approved 4-0.

EMERGENCY OPERATIONS PLAN

A resolution for the Board of Supervisors to sign responsibility of the Municipal Emergency Operation Plan to the Emergency Management Coordinator and to also state that it is reviewed and updated as necessary but at least bi-annually by the Emergency Management Coordinator, who will coordinate with all parties, public or private, and assign responsibilities in the Emergency Operations Plan. It is the same Township Emergency Coordinator, Lieutenant Brazunas, as last year, but it is updating that with the County.

STERLING ACT AMENDMENTS

This is regarding the EIT impending legislation in the House. The Montgomery County Association of Township Officials has municipalities to support legislation to change the Sterling Act to allow 1% of the pay to the city to come to municipality that will qualify to receive, if that municipality has an Earned Income Tax. If the Board is agreeable to sending the resolution to the House and

stating support to these changes, the resolution would be amended to support it since the Township does not have an Earned Income Tax. By doing so, will not hinder future revenue on our behalf if for some reason this Board or any future Board would entertain EIT. Mr. Hamaday noted this item will be on the next Consent Agenda for consideration.

TOWNSHIP RENEWABLE ENERGY COMMITMENT – MULTI-MUNICIPAL ENERGY CONSULTANT RFP

Mr. Hamaday gave an update that as part of the Renewable Energy, the Board committed to working with municipalities in the Montgomery County Consortium to develop an RFP for an Energy Consultant to devise a specific specialized plan to show us how to get to that point. Municipalities have been meeting to create this RFP. It is currently on hold due to some complications that arose. Funds will be requested in case it ramps back up some time next year. It was noted that funds do have to be committed to pay to develop the RFP, bidding and the consultant.

CITIZEN BOARD APPOINTMENTS

Mrs. Kenney stated there is a possibility of appointing two people to Citizen Advisory Boards. The first candidate is Kelly Eagan, to go on the Economic and Community Development Committee. The second candidate is Ben Ire, for the Community Center Complex Advisory Board (as a student representative. It was also noted that Mr. Waks had also approved both candidates.

Board Action:

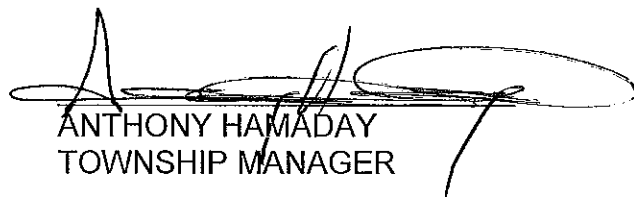
It was moved by Mr. Philips, seconded by Mrs. Garzillo, all voting "Aye" to authorize the Kelly Eagan to Economic and Community Development Committee and Ben Ire to Community Center Complex Advisory Board. None opposed. Motion approved 4-0.

ADJOURNMENT:

Board Action:

It was moved by Mr. Philips, seconded by Mr. Jenaway, all voting "Aye" to adjourn the meeting. None opposed. Adjournment occurred.

mm
Minutes Approved:
Minutes Entered:


ANTHONY HAMADAY
TOWNSHIP MANAGER

