

UPPER MERION TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
BUSINESS MEETING
OCTOBER 17, 2019

The Board of Supervisors of Upper Merion Township met for a Business Meeting on Thursday, October 19, 2019, in Freedom Hall, in the Township Building in King of Prussia. The meeting was called to order at 7:48 p.m., followed by a pledge to the flag.

ROLL CALL:

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

MEETING MINUTES:

It was moved by Mrs. Garzillo, seconded by Mrs. Kenney, all voting "Aye" to approve the following meeting minutes: September 5, 2019 Zoning, September 5, 2019 Workshop and September 19, 2019 Business as submitted. None opposed. Motion approved 4-0.

CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS:

Mr. Waks stated that an executive session was held prior to this meeting to discuss legal and personnel matters.

NEW BUSINESS

SHADE TREE AND BEAUTIFICATION AWARDS

Mrs. Garzillo along with Susan Ridgeway, and members of the Shade Tree Beautification Committee were on hand to present the 2019 Shade Tree Beautification Awards.

To start the ceremony a video was played showing the various winner's properties. The video was shot and produced by Jeff Vernisky, Township Employee.

The following won for Residential Front Yards:

Santino (Dino) DiSanto – 245 Holstein Road
Jen, Tony, Anyanna, Nola and TJ Elberti – 327 Valley View Road
Marybeth & Stephen Guminski – 332 Anthony Road
Jim MacDonald – 520 Darmouth Drive
Zandra L. Maffett – 720 Champlain Drive
Jim & Tracey Paradis – 230 Colmar Drive
Angelo & Gemma Romaniello – 719 Suellen Drive
Brian and Debra Sloman – 520 Weadley Road
Diane Welsh, Richard Welsh – 281 Winthrop Lane

Residential Back Yards:

Linda Beck – 678 Henderson Road
Ruth Koznarsky – 761 Bunker Hill

Distinguished Tree:

Diane G. Stewart – 823 Mancill Mill Road (American Chestnut)

Commercial:

Peter Karakelian – Valley Forge Car Wash, 175 N. Henderson Road

Mr. Waks thanked the Shae Tree Commission for all the work that goes into the award ceremony each year and Mrs. Garzillo for serving as liaison to the commission. He also thanked the winners for not only elevating their property but the entire neighborhood.

PROCLAMATION RE: FIRE PREVENTION MONTH

Mr. Waks stated that October is Fire Prevention Month and proceeded to read a proclamation stating such. At the conclusion of reading the proclamation, Mr. Waks called on Chief Dennis Rubin to come to the podium to accept the proclamation and take a photograph. Chief Rubin asked for Melissa Guziewicz, Chief Dennis Orangers and Chief James Gallagher to step forward. The state runs a particular program with fire departments that come up with the best fire prevention and safety program. Chief Rubin noted that our community regularly wins this award. He mentioned that this year 1200 plus smoke alarms were installed in the community and the leader behind that was Melissa Guziewicz and Chief Recupido designed and developed a plan to go out into the community on Saturdays to knock on and do installations. Over three Saturdays, 1200 plus smoke detectors were installed and now families in this Township are protected by a fairly simple device that most likely would save their life and this is because of Ms. Guziewicz, Chief Orangers and Chief Gallagher. The State Fire Commissioner convenes a group each year to take a look at fire prevention educational awards and once again on a regular basis, a three of our fire companies far exceed anywhere else in the Commonwealth in terms of receiving this award. The number one community that received this award for this year was Swedesburg which is represented by Ms. Guziewicz. There were two second place winners, Swedeland represented by Chief Dennis Orangers and the other was King of Prussia represented by Chief Gallagher. Chief Rubin thanked all three of the fire companies.

PRESENTATION OF GUTKOWSKI TOWNSHIP FIREFIGHTERS OF THE YEAR AWARD TO ROBERT SMULL

Chief Dennis Rubin addressed the audience stating the Gutkowski Township Firefighter of the Year Award was instituted in 1966, the Bernard S. Gutkowski, Sr. Firefighter of the Year Award is presented by the Upper Merion Township Supervisors to a member of Upper Merion Township's Volunteer Fire Company for outstanding volunteer service. This year the recipient of the Gutkowski Firefighter of the Year Award is Robert Smull. Mr. Smull has been a firefighter for over 23 years. He joined the Norton and Fairmount Fire Companies in 1996 and then became member of the King of Prussia Fire Company in July of 2006. He now serves as their Deputy Fire Chief and is also an active member of the King of Prussia Volunteer Fire Company September 11th Memorial Committee, September 11th Run Committee, and helps with numerous fire prevention events as well as several other programs ran by King of Prussia. It is with great pleasure to recognize Robert Smull as the recipient of the Bernard S. Gutkowski, Sr. Firefighter of the Year Award for 2019.

PRESENTATION OF THE MARY BACCHI EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES RESPONDER OF THE YEAR AWARD TO KAREN GARRISON

Chief Dennis Rubin addressed the audience stating the Mary Bacchi Emergency Medical Services Responder of the Year Award is presented by the Upper Merion Board of Supervisors to a member of Upper Merion Township Volunteer Fire or EMS Company for outstanding emergency medical service. The recipient is chosen by their peers. This year the recipient of the award is Karen Garrison. Ms. Garrison has been a volunteer emergency medical technician in Upper Merion for almost 10 years. She began her career with

Lafayette Ambulance and Rescue Squad and is a very active member with Upper Merion Township Fire and Emergency Medical Services. Throughout the years, Ms. Garrison has worked numerous emergency calls, taking care of the citizens and visitors of this Township. She also supports a multitude of community-based programs. Her passion is to educate young women in the Girl Scouts to consider working an emergency medical field. Ms. Garrison has three wonderful children, and they have been involved in many facets of her public safety life by attending community days, helping at the squad open house buildings, fire prevention events, and getting the ambulances all shined up for parades. It is with great pleasure to recognize Brian Geiger as the recipient of the Mary Bacchi Emergency Medical Services Responder of the Year Award for 2019.

PRESENTATION RE: UPPER MERION FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICE AWARDS

Chief Dennis Rubin along with the three other fire chiefs announced the list of 2019 Fire & Rescue Service Awards. Chief Rubin stated these volunteer members are the core of the safety as it relates to fire protection emergency medical rescue and as well as hazardous materials. The ones acknowledged tonight were in five-year blocks. Chief Rubin along with the Board of Supervisor thanked the men and women honored tonight.

SANITARY SEWER SYSTEM RFP

Mr. Waks stated, Upper Merion Township, like many other municipalities in the region over the last year or so has been looking into the potential sale of the sewer system. The first bid came from Aqua PA in the amount of \$94 million. The second bid that came in from PA American was a little over \$110 million. Mr. Philips gave some comments, mentioning that selling to a private contractor rates would go up which is to be expected because the Board of Supervisors have done a very good job in regards to taxes and sewer rental rates to keep costs low. For this reason, Mr. Philips stated he would be voting to reject the RFPs. Mrs. Kenney and Mrs. Garzillo also expressed her disapproval of the sanitary sewer sale noting it is a valuable asset the Township has and one which the Township takes very good care of.

Public Comment:

Mr. Mike Napolitan from 360 Garrison Way, expressed his concerns and asked how much was paid to the consultant and Mr. Philips stated the deal with PFM was that they would not get paid unless there was a sale and Mr. McGrory stated PFM was paid a fee of \$7,500.00 to evaluate the system and give an estimate to it's worth.

Board Action:

It was moved by Mr. Philips, seconded by Mrs. Kenney, all voting "Aye" to reject all BIDs to sell the Sanitary Sewer System as presented. None opposed. Motion approved 4-0.

CONSENT AGENDA RE:

1. Resolution 2019-39 re: Adopt a Municipal Emergency Operations Plan
2. Resolution 2019-40 re: Support for an Amendment to the Sterling Act of 1932
3. Budget Transfer re: Trout Run Plant – NPDES Permit Requirement - \$15,000.00
4. Resolution 2019-41 re: Relocation of Sanitary Sewer Line (GSK)
5. Resolution 2019-42 re: Keystone Communities Program Grant Application – Community Garden Initiative

6. Approval of an Amended Perpetual Easement Agreement with Montgomery County for 5.27 acres along Hansen Access Road for the construction of a portion of the Chester Valley Trail Extension

Board Action:

It was moved by Mr. Philips, seconded by Mrs. Garzillo, all voting "Aye" to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. None opposed. Motion approved 4-0.

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE & PAYROLL:

Board Action:

It was moved by Mrs. Kenney, seconded by Mr. Philips, all voting "Aye" to approve the Accounts Payable and Payroll. None opposed. Motion approved 4-0.

ADDITIONAL BUSINESS:

Farmer's Market

Mrs. Garzillo announced some saved the dates Oct 26th is the Halloween Spooktacular and Barktober Fest. Mrs. Garzillo also mentioned the Farmer's Market has received \$3750.00 through donations and thanked the generous sponsors for supporting the Farmer's Market.

Shade Tree

Mrs. Garzillo stated Shade Tree will be hosting another tree planting event on October 26, 2019 at Heuser Park. The plan is to plant approximately 100 trees and Mrs. Garzillo encouraged the public to participate. She also stated the Forrester Jacob Schultz will be planting 1,300 additional trees starting on November 11, 2019 with the goal of getting Heuser Park reforested as quickly as possible.

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 8:54 p.m.


ANTHONY HAMADAY
TOWNSHIP MANAGER

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Minutes Approved:
Minutes Entered: