

UPPER MERION TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
BUSINESS MEETING
NOVEMBER 14, 2019

The Board of Supervisors of Upper Merion Township met for a Business Meeting on Thursday, November 14, 2019, 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, Carole Kenney, and Tina Garzillo. Also present were: Anthony Hamaday, Township Manager; Joe McGrory, Township Solicitor; Tom Beach, Township Engineer. Absent: Bill Jenaway and Greg Philips.

MEETING MINUTES:

It was moved by Mrs. Kenny, seconded by Mrs. Garzillo, all voting "Aye" to approve the following meeting minutes: October 10, 2019 Zoning, October 10, 2019 Workshop, October 17, 2019 Business and October 24, 2019 Budget Workshop as submitted. None opposed. Motion approved 3-0.

CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS:

Mr. Waks stated that at the end of this meeting there will be an executive session to discuss a legal matter.

NEW BUSINESS

PRESENTATION BY FRANKLIN & MARSHALL RE: CITIZEN'S SURVEY

Mr. Berwood Yost, Director of the Center for Opinion Research and Florida Institute for Public Policy at Franklin & Marshall College, presented information regarding the community survey that was conducted this past July. The main purpose of the study as determined by a working group here, was to understand citizen satisfaction with services provided by the Township and to think about the need for additional services that might be necessary as a result of those findings and also access changes since a survey Franklin & Marshall conducted in Upper Merion back in 2007. Mr. Yost briefly went over the survey process. It was noted, despite demographic changes over the years, the numbers have not really changed in comparison to the other years the survey was done. Citizens of Upper Merion Township think this is a terrific place to live. Residents also feel mostly positive about the about the economic, recreational and employment opportunities in the Township. The numbers have dropped significantly since prior surveys in regards to access to affordable housing. About half the Township residents say they frequently or sometimes get Township information through the web page, Township new letter, and social media pages. Only one in seven residents say that crime is a fairly serious problem but there has not been any significant change in how residents perceive crime since the survey was conducted in 2002. Another thing that is important to note is that half of residents say that the police do an excellent job of dealing with crime. These numbers presented suggest that crime is not a major concern for the community and that many residents feel good about the services the police offer. It was also noted that if there is a concern in regards to crime residents have, it is property crime. Traffic is a concern and that is also unchanged since the previous surveys. If there is a concern in the Township, there are a few more people saying that drugs are a problem compared to 2002 and 2007 and is perhaps something to think about. A few things that were introduced this year were concerns about poverty, undocumented citizens, racial and ethnic unity really do not appear to be major problems for most Township residents. Most Upper

Merion Township residents have read a Township publication, visited a park, used a library within the past 12 months. Township publication readership has increased quite a bit since 2007. There have been declines in the amount of people who have visited parks, the library and who have watched the Board of Supervisors meeting. In regards to allocation of tax dollars, satisfaction is pretty good with most of the residents seem satisfied with the way the Township allocates its tax dollars. If there is a place the residents would want more tax dollars to be spent at it would be with roads and traffic management as the top tier issues and perhaps parks, sidewalks and stormwater management as a second tier set of issues.

Board Comment:

Mr. Waks thanked the Media and Communication Advisory Board for their work on the Township survey. He also stated based on the survey results, most people are happy here and one thing he found shocking was that almost every number is in the margin of error of numbers from previous years either positive or negative which says a lot about consistency. It also pointed out areas in which department heads along with the Board are going to have to take a look at. Mr. Waks asked Mr. Hamaday if the survey has been placed online yet and it was responded it has.

Mrs. Kenney noted that fewer people go physically to the library but there are more people accessing services from the library online. Mr. Yost responded that in the future perhaps questions should be altered to capture all different uses to better represent the services the Township provides.

Mrs. Garzillo stated satisfaction with the survey results. She also noted two things that stood out to her, medium income that dropped and the issue with affordable housing and their connection. Mr. Yost stated that this pattern is being seen throughout south eastern Pennsylvania and is a common trend. Mrs. Garzillo asked how many surveys Franklin & Marshall has done in surrounding municipalities to compares the Township to and Mr. Yost stated surveys are performed in all of Pennsylvania but he could provide comparisons to similar communities but given the consistency and finding he does not believe much has changed. Mrs. Garzillo also noted a few comments in regards to the library and parks and recreation.

CONSENT AGENDA RE:

1. Joint Request for Certification re: Upper Merion Township Professional Firefighters Association
2. Rambler Shuttle Service Contract – Approve One Year Extension with Transnet
3. Resolution 2019-44 re: PECO Green Region Grant Application for the Moore Irwin House Arboretum
4. Amendment to Lockheed Martin Service Contract with UMPD – Year 2 Option
5. Memorandum of Understanding with the King of Prussia Mall for UMPD coverage for the year 2020
6. PennDOT Highway Occupancy Permit Application – Crow Creek Trail Crossing on Keebler Road
7. Budget Transfer re: PW Garage Offices – HVAC Replacement Unit - \$9,000.00
8. Authorization for the Solicitor to sign Settlement Stipulation re: 216 Mall Boulevard, SNH Medical Office Properties Trust
9. Resolution 2019-43 re: Relocation of Glasgow Sanitary Sewer Line

Board Action:

It was moved by Mrs. Garzillo, seconded by Mrs. Kenney, all voting "Aye" to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. None opposed. Motion approved 3-0.

POSTING OF 2020 BUDGET

Mr. Hamaday thanked the Board of Supervisors as well as members of the Township staff for their effort in creating the 2020 Budget. The budget itself is our mechanism to deliver cost effective services and programs to our constituents and residents. The budget to be presented shows the commitment the Board has to not only provide the day to day service but also a commitment to the future. Mr. Hamaday gave a brief review of the budget process. The budget meetings started back in October with department heads. Two budget workshops with the Board of Supervisors were held on October 24, 2019 and November 7, 2019. Mr. Hamaday will present the 2020 Budget and it will be posted and on December 5, 2019 the Board will be in the position to have a public hearing and adopt the 2020 Budget.

2020 Operating Budget is balanced, it contemplates a property tax increase. The budget reflects a total overall increase of about 9.1% or a little over \$3.8 million over the 2019 Adopted Budget. Some of the drivers in the operating budget are economic impacts, staffing, Township growth and planning for the future that the Board is doing. The 2020 Sewer Budget is balanced and proposed no annual rate increase. The 2020 Operating Revenue is \$46,570,498.00 one of the things seen are minor increases are based off economic drivers such as programs. The budget proposes to raise real estate taxes on average for about \$48.90. The taxes that are being raised are for operating purposes for Public Safety, Fire & EMS and police services. Mr. Hamaday reviewed the budget expenses as follows: a 2% increase in Fire & EMS services; Code Enforcement is down but operating expenses are carrying the department; Public Works is bigger than before because we are doing a lot more; The Sewer Budget is a little over \$8 million and for the public to better understand, there are a couple of sewer divisions and there are no projected increases in sewer rates this year.

The 2020 Capital Budget is what keeps the Township providing innovative services and is \$4,611,940.00 and the breakdown is as follows: General Government is \$887,592.00 and this is for the General Administration, Information Technology, Park & Recreation, Library, and Codes Enforcement; Public Works is \$380,356.00; Sewer is \$2 million and reflects the Board's commitment to making sure the sewer plants are operating in a capacity that we need; Public Safety is \$1,343,992.00 and this includes Police, Fire & EMS. In regards to Public Works and the survey, there will be an upgrade of 25 signals and a lot of these will be on some of our higher travelled corridors and about \$135,000.00. A mini excavator will be purchased for Public Works and will add an additional dump truck and this will allow to reduce our reliance on some contractor services especially for snow plowing and salting. Some of the big drivers for Parks & Recreation are to finish the connection of the trail to Valley Forge Park, finish up improvements to existing parks. A few things in regards to security will be done at the Community Center. A new fire engine, and a new ambulance will be purchased for Fire & EMS. Cardiac monitors along bunker gear and firefighter safety and protection will also be purchased. Marked and unmarked vehicles along with mobile data terminals in the cars for the Police Department will be purchased. Upgrades of \$1.5 million will be done to the sewer facilities. Sewer line upgrades and repairs in the amount of \$475,000.00 worth.

Liquid fuels which are the funds that we get from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania basically the gas prices that are paid at the pump. Some of that money comes back to the municipality and we get about \$870,677.00 from the state and that will be used for both resurfacing and purchasing winter salt and brine as well as doing the street inventory program. Partnerships with utilities to benefit neighborhoods is something we will look into as well.

Board Comments:

Mr. Waks thanked Mr. Hamaday for his thorough presentation and for explaining the main driver for the tax increase. He also noted the Township has a significant operational expense and this will always be significant driver throughout the years. Mr. Waks also noted this is the first tax increase in 9 years which was the longest stretch of no tax increase in Upper Merion Township history but it is a modest \$4.00 increase a month especially when considering the services that are being provided.

Mrs. Kenney also noted there has not been a tax increase in 9 years and there was not one because there was no need to. She also noted that since the gold course litigation settled, that opened the way to all the development seen today the Village of Valley Forge. The expansion of Public Safety that is under Chief Nolan was also reviewed which come at a cost. Mrs. Kenney thanked everyone involved in creating this budget.

Mrs. Garzillo thanked the department heads for putting together a really solid budget for this year. She also mentioned the Board tries to keep it reasonable and manageable for resident's budgets. Mrs. Garzillo expressed how proud she is of the presented budget noting it will serve the public well.

Mr. Hamaday noted that a conservative effort was made not to include potential grant revenue because sometimes grant revenues flows over two budget cycles or two budget years but there are a lot of opportunities that we can identify for equipment for projects.

Board Action:

It was moved by Mrs. Kenney, seconded by Mrs. Garzillo, all voting "Aye" to Post the 2020 Budget as presented and the vote for the 2020 Budget will occur at the December Business Meeting. None opposed. Motion approved 3-0.

PUBLIC HEARING RE: AMEND HEALTH CARE COMPENSATION INCLUSION ORDINANCE

Mr. McGrory opened the hearing and introduced the following exhibits into the record: Board Exhibit 1 is the Ordinance itself; Board Exhibit 2 is the Legal Notice for tonight's hearing; Board Exhibit 3 is the Proof of Publication showing that it was advertised in the Times Herald on November 7, 2019; Board Exhibit 4 is the Proof of Submission of the attested Ordinance to the Montgomery County Law Library dated November 7, 2019. This is an ordinance that makes medical health insurance available to members of the Board of Supervisors. It does not cover current members, it only applies to future terms. If it is passed tonight, it will apply to the Supervisor sworn in on January and so forth. It will not apply to the current terms that the current Board members are sitting in. The terms of the program are that a member of the Board of Supervisors can get insurance under the same terms and conditions as an employee in the Township. Mrs. Kenney asked for clarification that the state allows for this to happen and Mr. McGrory stated that second class townships specifically permit the Board to do what is

being contemplated tonight. With no further comments, Mr. McGrory closed the hearing and reconvened into the public meeting portion of the agenda and stated this ordinance is now in the position for the Board's consideration.

Public Comment:

Mrs. Lisa Rolette resident on Brownlee Road, asked for clarification and expressed her concerns for the budgeting of this provision and Mr. Hamaday responded there are sufficient funds for every position there is whether it is currently vacant or proposed.

Mr. Andrew McBride resident on South Henderson Road, expressed his concerns with the health insurance provision being proposed for part time Supervisor positions and not part time Township positions and Mr. Waks stated this is more so to incentivize these time-consuming Board positions and secure high-quality candidates.

Board Action:

It was moved by Mrs. Kenney, seconded by Mrs. Garzillo, all voting "Aye" to approve the Ordinance as presented. None opposed. Motion approved 3-0.

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE & PAYROLL:

Board Action:

It was moved by Mrs. Garzillo, seconded by Mrs. Kenney, all voting "Aye" to approve the Accounts Payable and Payroll. None opposed. Motion approved 3-0.

ADDITIONAL BUSINESS:

Farmer's Market

Mrs. Garzillo announced the regular season for the Farmer's Market will be for two more weeks and the last day of the market is on November 23, 2019 and will also be the Annual Chili Cook Off. The first Winter Market will be held on December 7, 2019 which is also the day of the Holiday Village being held here at the Township Building from 12 p.m. to 3 p.m.

Annual Gingerbread House

Mrs. Garzillo stated people can bring their gingerbread houses at the Township Building on December 6, 2019 or the day of so the display can be set up.

Holiday Tree Lighting Ceremony

Mrs. Garzillo a Holiday Tree Lighting Ceremony will be occurring at the Holiday Village. Mrs. Garzillo wished everyone a safe and Happy Thanksgiving.

Veteran's Day

Mrs. Kenney acknowledged Veteran's Day and thanked Mr. Philips for his service and everyone who serves or has served.

UMT Foundation

Mr. Waks announced there is a ceramic mug that anyone can buy from the Township Building or various Township events. The cost of the mug is \$35.00 and proceeds to which benefits the Upper Merion Township Foundation.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business to come before the Board, it was moved by Mrs. Kenney, seconded by Mrs. Garzillo, all voting "Aye" to adjourn the meeting. None opposed. Motion approved 3-0. Adjournment occurred.



ANTHONY HAMADAY
TOWNSHIP MANAGER

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Minutes Approved:

Minutes Entered: