

UPPER MERION TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
SPECIAL MEETING
MARCH 19, 2020

The Board of Supervisors of Upper Merion Township met for a Special Meeting on Thursday, March 19, 2020, in Freedom Hall, in the Township Building in King of Prussia. The meeting was called to order at 12:02 p.m., followed by a pledge to the flag.

ROLL CALL:

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

CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS:

Mr. Jenaway stated the purpose of this Special Meeting is to take two resolutions under advisement and vote on those to continue and maintain the operations of Upper Merion Township. Following this meeting, the Board is going into executive session to consider personnel, litigation and emergency preparedness issues.

NEW BUSINESS

RESOLUTION 2020-14 COVID -19 EMERGENCY DECLARATION EXTENSION

Mr. Jenaway read the Covid-19 Emergency Declaration Extension and the March 12, 2020 Disaster Declaration was extended to coincide with the current and any amended emergency declaration issued by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Further, wherein the best interest of the Township, the Board of Supervisors directed the Emergency Management Coordinator, Director of Public Safety, and Township Manager to immediately institute any directive or order with respect to Covid-19 epidemic and to take any necessary action in accordance with any federal, state or local law to protect the health, safety and welfare of the residents of the Township.

Board Action:

It was moved by Mr. Philips, seconded by Mrs. Kenney, all voting "Aye" to approve Resolution 2020-14 as presented. Motion approved 5-0.

RESOLUTION 2020-15 ACT 511 BUSINESS PRIVILEGE TAX FILING DEADLINE EXTENSION

Mrs. Kenney read Resolution 2020-15, whereas the Board of Supervisors authorizes an extended due date for the filing and payment of tax due on all mercantile and business tax returns that would be required by April 15, 2020 by Chapter 149 Taxation, Article 4, Section 149-39B and 149-41, until June 1, 2020. Penalty for the late filing of the return and payment pursuant to Section 149-40, shall commence if said filing and payments are not paid by June 1, 2020.

Board Action:

It was moved by Mr. Waks, seconded by Mrs. Garzillo, all voting "Aye" to approve Resolution 2020-15 as presented. Motion approved 5-0.

ADDITIONAL BUSINESS:

Updates

Mr. Jenaway stated Upper Merion Township is doing everything possible to ensure the safety and welfare of the public within the laws of a Township of the second class. The Township cannot legally take actions like counties and states can do but there are resources to assist residents. Mr. Hamaday and Chief Nolan are communicating daily and engage department heads as is necessary. The actions taken today are driven by requirements to ensure operational continuity and to be in a position to obtain assets and funds as may be available to local municipalities. This is the reason for the Township's Emergency Declaration to coincide with state and county declarations.

The Public Safety team has been hard at work for over three weeks now, on Coronavirus challenges, performing prevention, mitigation, response and recovery efforts. It is guided by county and state protocols and are working very closely with those agencies. As of today, there are only two Covid-19 presumed positive cases in Upper Merion Township. Social distancing and self-quarantine remain critical to controlling the spread and managing the impacts of the situation.

The Township is currently working with the county regarding property tax payments. Unfortunately, the due date for property tax payments is driven by state law. Efforts are underway to obtain state relief on this issue. The Township will continue to monitor cash flow and reserves to assure municipal operational continuity.

Mr. Jenaway urged those negatively affected at work and in need of food, to monitor the Upper Merion Community Cupboard on Facebook and on their website for details of their availability and times.

The Board of Community Assistance Grant Application Process has been asked to extend the filing date to April 15, 2020.

The April 2, 2020 Board of Supervisors Workshop and Zoning Workshop meetings are cancelled. Please monitor the Township website for additional details.

Mr. Jenaway urged the public to closely monitor the new conferences of both Montgomery County and the State of Pennsylvania for updates and changes to the response of the Covid-19 situation.

The Township Building will remain closed to the public; however, department staff are continuing to provide services and are accessible via email or phone to meet needs.

Mr. Waks expressed gratitude to the volunteers in our community like our first responders who continue to serve as well as workers in our grocery stores.

Mr. Philips reminded the public that filing of federal taxes is still due on April 15, 2020 but the federal government has allowed an extension for payments until July 15, 2020. He also reminded the public that court hearings have been continued until April 3, 2020 with the exception of emergency petitions for Protection from Abuse, Emergency Shelter hearings for children or Preliminary Arraignments for criminal matters.

Mrs. Kenney expressed gratitude to healthcare workers in our Township. She also reminded the public that Giant store and Wegmans are providing senior citizens with special hours to access the stores.


Mrs. Garzillo expressed gratitude to businesses who are being wonderful

to our community by donating to the Cupboard. She also stated there are two staging areas that are being put together for future testing in Philadelphia and Phoenixville area.

Mr. Jenaway encouraged residents to shop local for their needs as these are the businesses that will be affected the most. Mr. Jenaway thanked the Upper Merion Township staff for accommodating the modified work hours. Mr. Jenaway also mentioned the Board does not plan to have any more former meetings unless necessary prior to the middle of April. In the event an emergency meeting must be held, it will be published in the Times Herald which is required and will be posted on the website.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business to come before the Board, it was moved by Mr. Philips, seconded by Mrs. Garzillo, all voting "Aye" to adjourn the meeting. None opposed. Motion approved 5-0. Adjournment occurred.



ANTHONY HAMADAY
TOWNSHIP MANAGER

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Minutes Approved:
Minutes Entered: