

UPPER MERION TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
WORKSHOP MEETING
FEBRUARY 4, 2019

The Board of Supervisors of Upper Merion Township met for a Workshop Meeting on Monday, February 4, 2019, in the Township Building. The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m., followed by a pledge of allegiance.

ROLL CALL:

Supervisors present were: Greg Waks, Carole Kenney, and Tina Garzillo. Also present were: Sally Slook, Acting Township Manager; John Walko, Township Solicitor; Robert Loeper, Township Planner; Mark Zardoga, Township Code Enforcement Director; Todd Lachenmayer, Public Works Superintendent; Laura Arnhold, Township Library Director. Absent: Bill Jenaway, Greg Philips.

CHAIRPERSON'S COMMENTS:

Chairperson Waks stated an executive session was held prior this workshop meeting to discuss personnel and an executive session was held January 29, 2019 to discuss a legal matter.

DISCUSSIONS:

DRAFT OF COMMUNITY SURVEY PREPARED BY MEDIA BOARD

Ms. Allison Pimm, Chief Public Information Officer stated that the survey has been updated with relevant questions and is ready for the Board of Supervisors to review for further questions or comments. Mr. Waks noted that the survey is not a political survey but a survey about government services. In addition Mr. Waks stated that due to the recession, the community survey has not been done since 2007. A discussion ensued regarding how resident contact information is collected and the process of participation. Mr. Waks mentioned this matter is ready to be put on the agenda for the February Board of Supervisors Meeting.

From the Public:

Mr. Napolitan made a few suggestions regarding other questions to include in the survey.

DISCUSSION OF TOWNSHIP TAKING OWNERSHIP OF NEW BUS SHELTERS ON FIRST AVENUE

Chris Basler, Director of Capital Projects and Planning for the King of Prussia District, stated that the King of Prussia District partnered with Upper Merion Township on a grant last March as part of the Linear Park and in that same application, additional funding for storm water and bus shelter improvements along First Avenue were requested. Mr. Basler stated that it has now been determined that we have all the funding we need for the storm water improvements for the Linear Park phase one but we are still needing to utilize the Montco 2040 grant for the bus shelters. There are six bus shelters along First Avenue that will be removed and replaced with five shelters. One of the two stops at Arkema will be removed. Mr. Basler stated that currently the bus shelters in Upper Merion are owned by Clear Channel and they pay a fee to Upper Merion Township. The proposal is for the Township to take ownership of these five shelters and the agreement in essence would stay the same. Clear Channel would still pay money to the Township and would also maintain the properties. Ms. Slook noted it would cost the Township \$220 per year for insurance for the five shelters. In addition, the King of Prussia District will maintain the new trash cans that will be placed by each shelter as part of the Linear Park. Mr. Basler also mentioned that solar panels would be the main source to light up the shelters. Ms. Slook mentioned this matter will be on the business part of the agenda.

AT&T SMALL CELL PROPSAL

Samantha Berman from Jacobs presented their proposal of small cells being installed on existing traffic signals. Ms. Berman stated that the design for the cells would be modified to blend in with the traffic signals. It was also noted that an interference study confirmed that this equipment will in no way interfere with the preemption system.

A resident asked if there were any safety concerns regarding nearby gas poles. Ms. Berman responded and stated that with all calculation taken into consideration, it doesn't pose any safety risks.

REVISING ORDINANCE TO REQUIRE UTILITY COMPANIES TO PERFORM CURB TO CURB REPAIRS ON TOWNSHIP ROADS

Supervisor Kenney stated that a resident brought to her attention a news article regarding Falls Township adopting an ordinance that require utility companies to perform curb to curb repairs on township roads. Ms. Kenney asked Mr. Walko to go over Falls Township Ordinance and what our current ordinance is. Mr. Walko stated that the ordinance Falls Township adopted is exactly the same as what our current ordinance requires which is the PennDOT standard. In both ordinances, "curb to curb" is not required unless openings were made on both traffic lanes. Rather, the ordinances require overlays of the traffic lanes

where the openings were made. Mr. Walko further stated that the ordinance does require a smooth joint with proper elevation and cross section between the lanes after the paving of the opened lane, so if the standards are followed, there should not be uneven lane or other imperfections resulting from the opening. It was noted that if curb to curb paving was desired that could mean tearing up paving that is already in good condition. A discussion ensued regarding the time frame given to complete paving in Falls Township as opposed to Upper Merion Township. Mr. Walko stated that Falls Township did not have a previous ordinance regarding this matter. Ms. Kenney noted that the article headline that was presented to her regarding Falls Township Ordinance was misleading.

DISCUSS ORDINANCE AND RESOLUTION RE: RESIDENTIAL HOUSING AND INSPECTION PROGRAM

Chief Nolan stated that in 2017 the Township started a rental inspection program and at that time a third party was contracted to do the inspections. Since then, it has been evaluated and the proposal is to do inspections during change overs and not of occupied units. Chief Nolan also noted that inspections would also include common areas of these rental units. In addition, the other change is that the fire fighters will be a part of the code inspection process. In the past certificates were given but now it will be the property owner's obligation to submit rental rolls, verify changes, and to notify the Township of any vacancies. Furthermore, making this change will cause less intrusion with the exception of emergencies that would mandate an inspection. It was also noted that there is a list of what is inspected and that is what the accompanying resolution encapsulates. A discussion regarding the process of the inspection ensued.

Public comments:

A resident, Michael Napolitan, expressed his frustration with the public not being able to review drafted minutes. Ms. Slook responded by stating that under law, draft minutes cannot be released until they are approved.

ADJOURNMENT:

Board Action:

It was moved by Mrs. Garzillo, seconded by Ms. Kenney, all voting "Aye" to adjourn the meeting. None opposed. Adjournment occurred.



SALLY SLOOK
ACTING TOWNSHIP MANAGER

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Minutes Approved:

Minutes Entered: