

UPPER MERION TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
BUSINESS MEETING
FEBRUARY 8, 2024

The Board of Supervisors of Upper Merion Township met for a Business Meeting on Thursday, February 8, 2024, in Freedom Hall, in the Township Building in King of Prussia. The meeting was called to order at 7:12 p.m., followed by a pledge to the flag.

ROLL CALL:

Supervisors present were: Greg Philips, Bill Jenaway, Tina Garzillo, Carole Kenney and Greg Waks. Also, present was Anthony Hamaday, Township Manager; Amanda Lafty, Assistant Township Manager; John Walko, Esq., Solicitor's Office; and Leanna Colubriale, RVE Township Engineer. Absent was Jarrett Lash, Township Planner.

Meeting Minutes: November 9, 2023 – Business Meeting
December 7, 2023 – Business Meeting
January 2, 2024 – Re-Org Meeting
January 11, 2024 – Business Meeting

Board Actions:

It was moved by Supervisor Kenney, seconded by Vice-chair Jenaway, all voting "Aye" to approve the minutes as presented. None opposed. Motion passed 5-0.

CHAIRPERSON'S COMMENTS:

Chairperson Garzillo announced there was an Executive Session prior to tonight's meeting to discuss legal matters and land acquisition.

CITIZEN BOARD VACANCIES:

Chairperson Garzillo gave an update on current vacancies on the Upper Merion Citizen Boards.

CC Advisory Board	- 1 Vacancy
CC Advisory Board Student Member	- 1 Vacancy
ECDC Student Member	- 1 Vacancy
Farmers Market Student Member	- 1 Vacancy
Human Relations Commission	- 1 (Alternates)
Media Advisory Board	- 1 Vacancy
Media Advisory Board Student Member	- 1 Vacancy
Property Maintenance UCC Board	- 1 Vacancy (Alternate)
Public Safety Board Student Member	- 1 Vacancy
Upper Merion Foundation Sub-Committee	- 1 Vacancy

- Upper Merion Historical Commission - 1 Vacancies
UM Historical Comm. Student Member - 1 Vacancy
Zoning Hearing Board - 1 Vacancy (Alternate)

NEW BUSINESS:

A. FIRE DEPARTMENT PROMOTIONS:

Chief James Johnson was present to state that tonight two new Fire Captains will be sworn in by District Judge James Gallagher. It was noted that after receiving a notification from FEMA Safer Grant, the Township was able to hire twelve (12) additional firefighters giving them the need to promote two current firefighters to the rank of Captain to serve the newly formed fire platoons.

Chief Johnson introduced Kevin Kerwin. He noted that Kevin has 7 years experience in Emergency Services and joined Upper Merion Township in December of 2021. He is certified at a Fire Officer two level and served as Acting Captain numerous times. Last year with the support of UM Fire & EMS he put himself through the Good Fellowship Paramedic Program and became certified as a nationally registered paramedic.

Next, Chief Johnson asked Justin Fusaro to come forward. He stated that Justin has 10 years experience in Emergency Services and joined Upper Merion Township in October of 2022. He is certified at a Fire Officer one level and also served as Acting Captain numerous times. He explained that Justin always makes an effort to improve and sharpen his fire skills by watching tactical videos to prepare and respond to any emergency.

Both gentlemen were sworn in to the rank of Captain by Judge Gallagher.

B. PROCLAMATION – CELEBRATING BLACK HISTORY MONTH:

Supervisor Kenney read the Proclamation for Black History Month. Chairperson Garzillo read the activities and events that Upper Merion Library will be having during the month of February in honor of Black History Month.

C. PRESENTATION BY THE BOARD OF COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE:

Board of Community Assistance (BCA) representative, Mrs. Lydia Dan Sardinas, delivered the presentation on the 2024 BCA Grant Program.

The BCA was established in 2013 with a partnership between Upper Merion Township and Valley Forge Casino Resort to give back to the community. The purpose of the BCA is to provide financial assistance in the form of grants to non-profit and/or 501 (c) organizations serving residents of Upper Merion Township. The BCA also provides post-secondary scholarships to high school juniors and seniors who reside in Upper Merion Township. The BCA makes recommendations to the Board of Supervisors to provide grants to non-profit and 501(c) organizations which directly benefit the Upper Merion community and its residents.

The BCA is comprised of five members: three representing the Upper Merion Township community and two members representing The Valley Forge Casino Resort, the sponsor which funds this grant program. Additionally, staff liaison Ms. Gerri Vattimo is the program coordinator and Supervisor Greg Waks is the Board of Supervisors liaison.

In 2024, the BCA is expanding the Scholarship Program to include high school juniors in addition to seniors. All High School Juniors and Seniors residing in Upper Merion Township (attending any high school) and planning to go to college or for other post-secondary education are encouraged to apply for a BCA College Scholarship.

Also, the BCA has implemented an Early Review Period for students during which students may ask the Board to review their application and proposal for a community service project prior to the application deadline. The Early Review Period opened on November 20th and closed on March 11th. The Applications deadline is Monday April 1, 2024.

As follow up to the presentation, Supervisor Waks underscored that prospective applicants need to include accurate cost estimates for their proposed projects. He also invited any organizations planning to apply for a BCA grant to attend the Drop-In Meeting that will be held at the Township Building's Valley Forge Room on Monday March 11th from 5:30PM to 7:00PM. BCA members will be on hand to answer any questions or review applications.

Announcement for this year's BCA award recipients, both grants and scholarships, will be on May 9, 2024 at 7:00 pm during the Board of Supervisors' Business Meeting.

D. CONSENT AGENDA:

1. Financial Escrow Security Release No. 3 – Two Lot Subdivision, 230 Arden Road - Approval of Escrow Release No. 3 in the amount of \$23,347.26 for the completion of required site improvements to date as part of the Land Development project as recommended by the Township Engineer.
2. Permission to Advertise Public Hearing – Transfer of Liquor License to Lazy Dog Colorado OPS, LLC located at 160 N. Gulph Road, #211, King of Prussia, PA 19406.
3. Resolution 2024-8 – Disposition of Township Vehicles to J.J. Kane Auctions of Plymouth Meeting for an estimated sale value of \$38,300.00.
4. First Avenue Linear Park, Phase 3: Approval of Payment Application 1 in the amount of \$6,187.50 to Hobbs & Company of Boothwyn, Pennsylvania for contract work completed to date, as recommended by Ground Reconsidered, project engineer.
5. Authorization to advertise proposed ordinance - electric vehicle charging station regulations. Authorization to advertise a proposed ordinance amending the Township Subdivision & Land Development and Zoning Ordinance to provide new definitions and regulations for electric vehicle charging stations at the March Business meeting.
6. Citizen Board Appointment of Paul Kubler to the Economic & Community Development Committee.

Board Action:

It was moved by Vice-chair Jenaway, seconded by Supervisor Philips, all voting "Aye" to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. None opposed. Motion approved 5-0.

Public Comments: None

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE & PAYROLL:

Board Action:

It was moved by Supervisor Waks, seconded by Supervisor Kenney, all voting "Aye" to approve the Accounts Payables for invoices processed from January 11, 2024 to January 31, 2024 and Payrolls dated January 5th and 19th of 2024 for a total of \$3,966,338.37. None opposed. Motion approved 5-0.

ADDITIONAL BUSINESS: None

Board Comments: None

Public Comments: None

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business to come before the Board, it was moved by Supervisor Philips, seconded by Supervisor Kenney, all voting "Aye" to adjourn the meeting at 7:55 pm. None opposed. Motion approved 5-0.



ANTHONY HAMADAY
TOWNSHIP MANAGER

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Minutes Approved:

Minutes Entered: