



Upper Uwchlan Township
Board of Supervisors Workshop
August 11, 2020
4:00 p.m.
Minutes
Approved

LOCATION: This was a virtual meeting, held via Zoom video/audio conferencing, in order to minimize public exposure to COVID-19 and maintain social distancing. The meeting's Public Notice instructed those interested in participating in the meeting to email or call the Township Manager for the link and password to join in the meeting.

Attendees:

Sandy D'Amico, Chair
Jamie Goncharoff, Vice-Chair
Jenn Baxter, Member

Tony Scheivert, Township Manager
Shanna Lodge, Assistant Township Manager
Gwen Jonik, Township Secretary
John DeMarco, Police Chief
Jill Bukata, Township Treasurer
Rhys Lloyd, Township Building Inspector

Sandy D'Amico called the Workshop to order at 4:03 p.m., led the Pledge of Allegiance and offered a moment of silence. No one planned to record the meeting. Seven citizens attended.

Sunoco Pipeline Inadvertent Release (IR) at Marsh Creek

Tony Scheivert reported that there was an inadvertent release (IR) August 10 at the Sunoco pipeline drilling site near Marsh Creek Lake. PaDEP identified the IR of drilling mud and is overseeing the containment and cleanup. We don't know the exact amount of the spill and await DEP's press release with greater detail. DEP is the lead governmental agency and DCNR, PA Fish and Boat and local state officials are involved. Drilling operations have stopped at this location and are on hold. James Wassel, Park Manager advises the Park is open, swimming isn't permitted at any time, the release was in a cove. DEP hasn't advised that water quality has been affected. A news crew and protesters plan to be at the Park tomorrow. Mr. Wassel advises they're trying to keep the lines of communication open to the public, but they also need staff to be focused on the investigation; they'll update their electronic message board at the entrance to the Park.

Building Code Official - Appointment

Tony Scheivert advised that following Al Gaspari's retirement July 1, the Township has to appoint a Building Code Official within 30 days. Rhys Lloyd, a township employee for over 12 years is certified to be a Building Code Official. After brief discussion, Jenn Baxter moved, seconded by Sandy D'Amico, to appoint Rhys Lloyd as the Township's Building Code Official and will advise the State of the appointment. The Motion carried unanimously.

Outsourcing Real Estate Tax Collection

Jill Bukata advised that with elected tax collector, Ben LaGarde, moving out of the township in March, we've been researching other methods and agencies for real estate tax collection. Mr. LaGarde has been assisting as a consultant until we make a transition. We've looked at Keystone Collections and the County Treasurer's Office. The County Office is less expensive and clients are very satisfied with their services. The County Office charges much less for tax certifications as well. It is Jill Bukata's recommendation that the Township execute an

Agreement appointing the Chester County Treasurer's Office as Deputy Real Estate Tax Collector for calendar year 2021. Sandy D'Amico asked if residents will notice any difference in the process or procedures. Ms. Bukata advised there shouldn't be any difference other than where to mail payments. The Board will consider the Agreement/Appointment at the August 17 meeting.

Township Manager's Report

Tony Scheivert highlighted the following projects:

The Park & Rec Board has discussed use of the funds received from TC Energy for the temporary construction easement in Hickory Park. They are proposing resurfacing of the basketball and tennis courts.

We continue to work through the punch-list items for the township building renovation and expansion.

Hurricane Isaias, August 4, did damage trees and a few homes throughout the township. The Police and Public Works reported numerous calls for service and did a great job responding.

Jamie Goncharoff asked if the township received all monies due from TC Energy. Shanna Lodge reported we received the initial and post-term funds. She'll confirm those figures to the Board of Supervisors.

Jamie Goncharoff questioned the flooding on Route 100 under the turnpike overpass. Chief DeMarco advised that occurs when there's a significant amount of rain (extraordinary rain event) as the turnpike and Route 100 drain right there.

Open Session

Tony Scheivert provided an update regarding overnight noise from the FedEx facility; over the last few weeks, Township staff have been out to listen at various hours and nights; a citation has been sent to the courts regarding violation of the noise ordinance. Jamie Goncharoff made a suggestion that if neighbors provide the township with any evidence of the activity, it could be forwarded to our Solicitor. Jenn Baxter asked the timeframe for the violation to be resolved. Chief DeMarco noted it could take several months as their corporate headquarters are out of state.

Shanna Lodge advised that Park & Rec has planned a drive-up movie night August 19, weather permitting, at Hickory Park. Within 4 hours all spots were reserved even though the movie, "Monsters Inc." hadn't yet been mentioned.

Gwen Jonik asked if the Joint Boards & Commissions Workshop, scheduled for September 8, should be held virtually or pushed to October and potentially held in-person. The schoolhouse cannot accommodate more than 15 people appropriately distanced and the Board favored holding it in September via Zoom.

Adjournment

There being no further business to be brought before the Board, Sandy D'Amico adjourned the Workshop at 4:59 PM, thanking all in attendance.

Respectfully submitted,

Gwen A. Jonik
Township Secretary