



TOWNSHIP OF UPPER UWCHLAN
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING

August 21, 2023

7:00 p.m.

Approved

Attending:

Board of Supervisors

Sandra M. D'Amico, Chair
Jennifer F. Baxter, Vice-Chair
Andrew P. Durkin, Member

Township Administration

Tony Scheivert, Township Manager
Gwen Jonik, Township Secretary
Jill Bukata, Township Treasurer
Anthony Campbell, Zoning Officer
Mike Esterlis, Director of Public Works
Tom Jones, Police Chief
Dave Leh, P.E., Township Engineer

Kristin Camp, Esq., Township Solicitor

LOCATION: Township Building, 140 Pottstown Pike, Chester Springs, PA 19425

Mrs. D'Amico called the evening to order at 7:02 p.m., led the Pledge of Allegiance and offered a moment of silence. No one planned to record the meeting. There were 4 citizens in attendance.

Approval of Minutes

Mrs. Baxter moved, seconded by Mr. Durkin, to approve as presented the minutes of the Board of Supervisors July 11, 2023 Workshop and July 17, 2023 Meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Payments

Mrs. Baxter moved, seconded by Mr. Durkin, to approve payments to all vendors listed August 17, 2023. The motion carried unanimously.

Treasurer's Report

Jill Bukata reported the Township's financial position remains strong; year-to-date revenues are at 67.5% of the budget; year-to-date expenses are at 57.3%.

Supervisor's Report

Police Liaison Meeting. Mrs. D'Amico reported she met with Corporal Pozza and Officer Hess and they discussed equipment needs, field training programs, replacing vehicles.

Mrs. D'Amico announced: 1) an Executive Session was held earlier this evening regarding personnel, and 2) the following calendar: August 30, 2023 7:00 p.m. Zoning Hearing ~ Applicant P.J. Reilly/301 Park Road; September 4, 2023 Office Closed ~ Labor Day; September 12, 2023 4:00 p.m. Joint Boards & Commissions Workshop; September 18, 2023 7:00 p.m. Board of Supervisors Meeting; yard waste collection dates: August 23, 30; September 13, 20, and 27.

Administration Reports

Township Engineer's Report

Dave Leh reported that the Enclave at Chester Springs (Byers Station Parcel 5C Lot 2A) is substantially complete; paving was completed last week. Revised plans for 164 Byers Road / QBD Ventures are being reviewed by consultants.

Building and Codes Department Report

Anthony Campbell reported that 77 building permits were issued last month, totaling \$127,390.14 in permit fees; the Department completed 140 scheduled inspections; there were 16 resales, and 5 new homes settled; fire safety inspections have resumed; 7 zoning complaints were handled.

Police Chief's Report

Chief Jones reported there were 1,087 calls last month; 8 criminal arrests; 2 Officers attended a 2-week Philadelphia Police Motorcycle Training certification course. Both graduated and are certified riders; 460 lbs. of drugs were collected in the Take-Back Box; the Department now has a full-time traffic safety unit with Officer Steve Jones; the safety tip of the month is that when a traffic light is out or malfunctioning, treat it as an all-way stop sign; with school starting this month, watch out for buses and extra traffic.

Public Works Department

Mike Esterlis reported that milling and paving will begin August 28; 151 work orders were received and completed; roadside tree trimming is underway; we assisted Uwchlan Township with roads that washed out in recent storms.

Land Development

Enclave at Chester Springs Site Improvements Escrow Release #4 - \$455,362.50. Dave Leh advised they've reviewed Toll's escrow release request and recommend the release of \$455,362.50. There will then be \$254,724.16 remaining in escrow.

Mrs. Baxter moved, seconded by Mr. Durkin, to approve the release of \$455,362.50. Mr. Scheivert asked Anthony Campbell if there have been any complaints from Enclave residents. There have been none. The motion to release \$455,362.50 to Toll carried unanimously.

ADMINISTRATION

2024 Pension Plan Minimum Municipal Obligation (MMO). Jill Bukata explained that each year, the Actuaries advise us what our MMO is to fund the pension plans. For calendar year 2024, the obligations would be: Uniformed Employee Pension \$393,158; Non-Uniformed Employee Pension \$97,629; and Non-Uniformed Employee Defined Contribution Plan \$50,000.

Mrs. Baxter moved, seconded by Mr. Durkin, to approve the 2024 Pension Plan MMOs: Uniformed Employee Plan \$393,158; Non-Uniformed Employee Plan \$97,629; and Non-Uniformed Employee Defined Contribution Plan \$50,000. The motion carried unanimously

Alternative Energy System Ordinance Amendment. Tony Scheivert noted the Environmental Advisory Council reviewed the amendments and support its approval. The one comment is that some Homeowners Associations (HOAs) don't allow solar panels, however it is our understanding that the State is considering legislation that will remove that prohibition.

Wertz Farm Subdivision Surveying Proposal. Tony Scheivert advised the Township has been working with the Turnpike in regard to preservation of the house (an historic resource) on the Wertz farm, located on Little Conestoga Road. The Turnpike is considering subdividing the property into 3 lots and they asked if we'd assist by paying for the surveying. The Turnpike already had Navarro & Wright draft the Subdivision – 1 lot (house, barn and 5 acres) for potential Township purchase, a lot for Sunoco and the Turnpike retains the third lot for their widening project. There are 2 small tributaries to Marsh Creek Lake that run through the parcel – in which the State Park might be interested. The Board is asked to approve expending \$6,800 for surveying and \$2,000 for placing monuments, totaling \$8,800. Mrs. Baxter moved, seconded by Mr. Durkin, to accept the Navarro & Wright's proposal and expend the \$8,800. The motion carried unanimously.

Marsh Creek State Park Parking Restrictions. Tony Scheivert noted that Marsh Creek State Park had to close several times this summer as it was at capacity. There is no parking allowed on Park Road. Some people park at Hickory Park and walk the trail; however, people are parking on other side roads where they shouldn't. The Township would like to adopt an ordinance providing the legal right to enforce the 'no parking' signs, except for the residents in Heron Hill, Heather Hill, etc. Under consideration is providing those residents with 'permits', and if they're having an event, they acquire more from the Police Dept. Permanent signs to enforce the 'no parking' areas via ordinance would be Park Road, Heron Hill, Watercroft Circle.

Discussion included: since the parking issue stems from the State Park, the State should assist in the solution – contact State Representatives for assistance; once the new Park Office is built, perhaps parking could be added where the current Office is located; the State could provide a shuttle from parking in Eagle Village to the Park; Hickory Park should be signed and enforceable too; approach the State regarding Police overtime, or extra officers; Park Rangers can't enforce laws outside the Park; could the State hire private companies to help with the crowds in the Park; Marsh Creek Water Sports has their 'office' next to Carmine's – they might have ideas; perhaps Windsor Church could run a shuttle bus, raising funds for the church.

Marsh Creek Stormwater Project Update. Tony Scheivert provided an update on the retrofitting of the stormwater basins in Heather Hill. The contract was awarded but the contractor's schedule has been too full to start on time. The project is supposed to be completed by October according to the Grant and they can't start until after that. We have requested an extension to June 2024 and the contractor agreed to complete it by then. Our consultant for the project, T&M, has some unexpected costs due to these circumstances which are not covered by the Grant.

Open Session

No comments were offered.

Adjournment

There being no further business to be brought before the Board, Mrs. D'Amico adjourned the Meeting at 7:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Gwen A. Jonik
Township Secretary