

Upper Makefield Township Board of Supervisors November 17, 2010 Meeting Minutes

The November 17, 2010 public meeting of the Upper Makefield Township Board of Supervisors was called to order by Chair Bud Baldwin at 7:30 p.m. In attendance were the following members of the Board of Supervisors: Chair Bud Baldwin, Vice Chair Tom Cino, Member Dan Rattigan and Member Mary Ryan. Member John Silvers was absent. Also in attendance were Township Manager Stephanie Teoli, Township Solicitor John Rice, Esq., Township Engineer Larry Young, P.E. and Director of Planning & Zoning Dave Kuhns and Chief Mark Schmidt.

There were also members of the public and representatives of the press present.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND MOMENT OF SILENCE:

Mr. Baldwin led in the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance which was followed by a moment of silence.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Mr. Baldwin announced that there was an Executive Session held prior to the meeting to discuss personnel matters.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Barbara Breeden, 3 Bankers Drive, provided comment and recommendations on the 2011 Proposed Budget. She recommended transfer of funds from the cable fund, park and recreation fund and fire fund to the general fund to address the shortfall. She also called for reductions in employee benefits, the mandate of a hiring freeze and the establishment of a citizen budget committee.

Vic Ameye, 2 Lookout Lane, commented that the proposed tax increase is not necessary. He pointed out areas where he recommended improvement to the budget document and asked for clarification on the implementation of a new inspection. He advocated transfer of the cable fund and riparian restoration grant fund to the general fund.

Ernest Sasso, 6 Jericho Mountain Road, expressed his opposition to the proposed tax increase and called for an overall reduction in taxes. He urged the board to negotiate concessions to its current police contract and employment agreement with its Township Manager. He further commented that there should be mandatory reductions in staff and benefits. He suggested that the Board establish a budget review commission.

Guy Polhemus, Washington Crossing Road, expressed his opposition to the proposed budget and tax increase. He requested that the Board conduct a forensic audit of all accounts.

Ellen Lane-Novitz, Dunkin Drive, called for additional expenditure cuts to the budget and suggested the elimination of the copay reimbursement benefit to township employees. She urged the board not to raise taxes.

Al Malagiere, 1500 Washington Crossing Road, expressed his disappointment in the Board and accused them of having a cavalier attitude toward the budget. He called for an outside audit of township accounts.

Diana Kelly, 21 Jericho Run, commented that she does not want to see layoffs in the police force because she believes a strong and visible police force is necessary. She further commented that

salaries and benefits should be frozen or slashed. She also called on the Board to use the resources in the community.

Bill Kennedy, Betts Place, announced that he was president of the Bucks County Coalition of Adult Communities, and commented that there has been no cost of living adjustment on social security for two years while township employees receive raises. He argued that that the biggest savings in expenditures will come from employee costs. He asked the Board to consider giving up their pay.

Peggy Kennedy, 2 Jericho Run, commented that fully-funded benefits are unheard of in the public sector and that pensions are a thing of the past. She commented on police department patronage of Cumberland Farms and her opinion that there are more officers than needed.

Jennifer Stefano, Commanders Drive, strongly encouraged the Board to sit down with Barbara Breedon. She urged those in the audience to continue in the grassroots movement and respectfully requested the Board to approve a budget with no taxes.

Michael Phillips, 36 Bailey Drive, commented that township employees should be required to participate in the cost of benefits. He also suggested the conversion of the township's pension plans from defined benefit to defined contribution.

Carol Stauffer, 429 Brownsburg Road, recognized the effort put forth by the Board, and urged them to control the budget. She commented that public employee benefit plans are not longer appropriate and that employee contributions must be put into place.

Dennis Heath, 1221 River Road, commented that there was a great deal of misinformation circulating in the room. He noted that the township is spending more than it has but that the police department is understaffed. He disagreed with the money spent on the new police building and the pavilion but argued that the deer management program shouldn't be cut. He argued that there should be multi-year forecasting in the budget document.

Mike Logan, 850 Highland Road, noted that the public sector is not in touch with reality and the proposed budget is unconscionable.

Joe Linus, 18 Biedler Drive, announced that he was president of the Traditions Homeowners Association and thanked the Board for their effort. He argued that the Board needs to cut employees and reduce benefits. He noted that he resented the statement in the budget document that identified an average assessment. He further commented that park user fees should be increased.

Tom Kegelman, 104 Dillon Way, commented that the amount of township employee benefits as a percent of base pay is not appropriate.

Bill Trainer, 19 Barton's Mill Drive, advocated for a Zero-based budgeting process. He noted the township should consider outsourcing its public works department. He further advocated for total reassessment of Bucks County and consideration of regionalizing services.

Akos Swierkiewicz, 87 McConkey Drive, expressed his opinion that even a one percent salary increase for township employees is outrageous. He implored the Board to consider no increase in taxes.

Larry Breeden, 3 Bankers Drive, asked the Board to consider at least ½ mil decrease from the proposed 3 mil increase.

Brian Rehn, 6 Spring Court, urged the Board to listen to the residents comments. He noted that federal employees no longer receive full pension benefits.

Paul Day, _____, asked the Board to cut the budget. He argued that Board cannot keep paying 100% of employee healthcare costs.

Dan Johanssen, 85 McConkey Drive, argued that capital costs should not be included in general/operating funds.

After general discussion by the Board of Supervisors, the Township Manager was directed to put together a document that would answer the questions that were raised by residents during the meeting.

A five minute recess was called at 9:55 p.m.

The meeting re-convened at 10:10 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES AND BILLS PAYABLE:

A motion was made by Ms. Ryan and was seconded by Mr. Cino to approve the November 3, 2010 minutes. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

A motion was made by Ms. Ryan and was seconded by Mr. Cino to approve the October 13, 2010 Budget Workshop minutes. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

A motion was made by Ms. Ryan and was seconded by Mr. Cino to approve the October 27, 2010 Budget Workshop minutes. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Ms. Teoli read into the record the bills for November 17, 2010. A motion was made by Mr. Rattigan and was seconded by Mr. Cino to approve the November 17, 2010 Bills Payable List in the amount of \$1,454,825.51. Motion carried on a unanimous vote.

PLANNING AND ZONING ISSUES:

Resolution No. 2010-11-17-01 – Athletic Fields Promotional Banners and Temporary Signs

Mr. Kuhns presented the resolution establishing rules and regulations for promotional banners and temporary signs at township parks. After discussion, a motion was made by Ms. Ryan and seconded

by Mr. Cino to approve Resolution No. 2010-11-17-01. Motion carried on a 3-1 vote with Mr. Rattigan voting no.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT:

Ordinance No. 294 – Municipal Sewage System

Mr. Rice introduced Ordinance No. 294 establishing requirements for connections to the Upper Makefield Township Municipal Sewage System and establishing new definitions and prohibitions on discharges into the municipal system. Mr. Baldwin opened the public hearing to consider approval of Ordinance No. 294. There were no comments from the Board of Supervisors and no comments from members of the public. Mr. Baldwin closed the public hearing. A motion was made by Ms. Ryan and seconded by Mr. Rattigan to approve Ordinance No. 294. Motion carried on unanimous vote.

Ordinance No. 295 – On lot Disposal Systems

Mr. Rice introduced Ordinance No. 295 establishing new requirements and procedures for on lot disposal systems within Upper Makefield Township. Mr. Baldwin opened the public hearing to consider approval of Ordinance No. 295. There were no comments from the Board of Supervisors and no comments from members of the public. Mr. Baldwin closed the public hearing. After discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Rattigan and was seconded by Ms. Ryan to approve Ordinance No. 295. Motion carried on unanimous vote.

MANAGER'S REPORT:

Township Cleaning Services Bid

Ms. Teoli provided an overview of the Township Cleaning Services Bid and recommended approval of a contract to the lowest responsible bidder. Following discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Cino and seconded by Ms. Ryan to award the 2011/12 Township Cleaning Services Base Bid to CleanNet of Philadelphia at a cost of \$12,208.52. Motion carried on unanimous vote.

Resolution No. 2010-11-17-02 – Pension Investment Policy

Ms. Teoli provided an overview of the resolution establishing a Statement of Investment Policy for the Township's Police Pension Plan and Non-Uniformed Employees Pension Plan. Following brief discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Cino and seconded by Ms. Ryan to approve Resolution No. 2010-11-17-02. Motion carried on unanimous vote.

ENGINEER'S REPORT:

Engineer's Report

Mr. Young reviewed highlights of the Engineer's Report.

BOARD AND COMMISSION REPORTS:

Mr. Baldwin announced that the following reports were included in the Board packets:

- Environmental Advisory Council – October 12, 2010
- Planning Commission – September 13, 2010

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

Planning and Zoning Department

Mr. Kuhns highlighted the monthly Planning and Zoning Department Report.

Police Department

Chief Mark Schmidt highlighted the Police Department Report.

Mr. Baldwin announced that the following reports were included in the Board packets:

- Fire Department Report
- Fire Marshal Report
- Public Works Department Report

OLD BUSINESS:

There was no old business.

NEW BUSINESS:

Ms. Ryan led discussion on a potential amendment to the Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance regarding tiered parking. A motion was then made by Ms. Ryan, seconded by Mr. Rattigan, to authorize the Solicitor to prepare and amend to the Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance, prohibiting tiered parking in the Washington Crossing Overlay District. Motion carried on a unanimous vote.

PUBLIC COMMENT AND MEDIA QUESTIONS:

There were no additional public comments or media questions.

ADJOURNMENT:

A motion was made by Mr. Cino and was seconded by Ms. Ryan to adjourn the meeting at 10:28 p.m. Motion carried on unanimous vote.

Approved: December 1, 2010