

Upper Makefield Board of Supervisors October 15, 2024 Meeting Minutes

The October 15, 2024 public meeting of the Upper Makefield Township Board of Supervisors was called to order by Chair Yvette Taylor at 7:28 p.m. In attendance were the following members of the Board of Supervisors: Chair Yvette Taylor, Vice Chair Ben Weldon, Treasurer Braun Taylor, Member Tom Cino and Member Tim Thomas. Also in attendance were Township Manager David R. Nyman, Assistant Township Manager Judy Caporiccio, Township Solicitor Will Oetinger, Esq., Township Engineer Amanda Fuller, P.E., Planning & Zoning Director Denise Burmester and Chief Mark Schmidt.

CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Ms. Taylor led in the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance which was followed by a moment of silence.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ms. Taylor made the following announcements:

- An executive session was held prior to this evening's meeting for personnel matters.
- Residents interested in volunteering on a Township board or committee are invited to submit a Volunteer Board Application, which can be found on our website.
- The Upper Makefield Police Department will be participating in the 7th Annual Shop with a Cop event on December 7. If you are interested in donating to this program, please contact Sergeant Dan Jones. Information will also be available on the Township website.
- The final Household Hazardous Waste Collection Event for 2024 will be held on October 26 from 8:30 – 2:00 p.m. at Strayer Middle School in Quakertown. The next Board of Supervisors meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 6 due to Election Day.

Bridge Update:

- The Supervisors continue to monitor the Washington Crossing Bridge project and attend the monthly meetings of the Joint Toll Bridge Commission. Residents are encouraged to attend as well to voice opinions about the Washington Crossing Bridge Project. Their next meeting is Monday, October 28 at 10:30 a.m. and can be attended in person or virtually. Visit drtjbc.org for meeting information.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Revolutionary Run

Harry Barfoot, President of the Upper Makefield Business Association, provided an overview of UMBA's 2024 activities. He and members of the UMBA Executive Board presented the Township with a \$12,000 check from funds raised at the annual Revolutionary Run for use in the Township's Emergency Services Fund. He expressed their gratitude for the Township's support of their programs. Ms. Taylor thanked UMBA for their many contributions to the community and to the Township's Emergency Services Fund.

Lower Delaware Wild and Scenic River Designation

Robert McEwan, Lower Delaware Wild and Scenic River Expansion Project, provided an overview of his request that the Township consider approving an endorsement to designate Houghs Creek, Jericho Creek and Pidcock Creek, as well as the river segment that runs from the Washington Crossing Bridge to the Lower Makefield Township line, in the Lower Delaware Wild & Scenic River System. The goal of the designation is to combine with other watersheds to protect and preserve the Lower Delaware River.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Priscilla Linden, 50 Dillon Way, commented on the continuing destruction of political signs. Residents were encouraged to report incidences to the Police.

Ellyn Spiewak, 33 Hillyer Lane, expressed concerns about safety at the intersection of Stoopville and Creamery Roads and displayed pictures of several accidents. She requested a PennDOT study of the intersection and that, in the meantime, the current blinking red/yellow light be changed to blinking all red to mimic the light at the intersection at Stoopville and Eagle Roads. Mr. Nyman noted that the intersection is in Newtown Township, and the Township has relayed concerns to Newtown Township previously. He will contact them again with these concerns. Residents were also encouraged to contact Newtown Township.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES AND BILLS PAYABLE

A motion was made by Mr. Cino and seconded by Mr. Weldon to approve the October 1, 2024 Budget Workshop meeting minutes. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

A motion was made by Mr. Cino and seconded by Mr. Weldon to approve the October 1, 2024 meeting minutes. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

A motion was made by Mr. Cino and seconded by Mr. Weldon to approve the October 15, 2024 Bills Payable List in the amount of \$333,086.29. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

PLANNING & ZONING ISSUES

Riley Certificate of Appropriateness, 760 Washington Crossing Road

Ms. Burmester provided an overview of the request to replace a roof and gutters on an existing dwelling and add gutters to a garage, noting that the request was reviewed and recommended for appropriateness by the HARB. Following discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Cino and seconded by Mr. Weldon to approve the Riley Certificate of Appropriateness for 760 Washington Crossing Road. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Hammer Zoning Hearing Board Application, 2799 Windy Bush Road

Ms. Burmester provided an overview of the Hammer Zoning Hearing Board Application requesting variances for impervious surface, lot size and lot frontage. The applicant proposes to subdivide the existing lot into two lots, only one of which is located in Upper Makefield Township, for construction of a single-family dwelling, attached garage, barn, pool and driveway. Ed Murphy, Esq, and Justin Geonnotti, P.E., represented the applicant. They explained that Wrightstown Township recommended that the subdivision follow township borders, which created the need for variances. No concerns were expressed about the lot frontage or lot size variances. There was discussion regarding revisions to the plan to meet impervious surface requirements. A motion was then made by Mr. Cino and seconded by Mr. Thomas that the Board take a neutral position provided that the applicant amends the plan to be compliant with the impervious surface ratio as originally presented on its lot-size compliant plan. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Amend Jointure Ordinance No. 2024-01A – Amending LI/O-LI Newtown Commons Overlay District Zoning District

Mr. Oetinger provided an overview of Jointure Ordinance No. 2024-01A, establishing a Mixed Use Development Use and a Town Center Apartment Use in the Newtown Commons Overlay District. A motion was made by Mr. Cino and seconded by Mr. Weldon to adopt JMZO Ordinance 2024-01-A - LI/O-LI Newtown Commons Overlay District. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Daniels Zoning Hearing Board Application

Mr. Oetinger informed the Board that the Zoning Hearing Board requested further explanation of the Board's opposition to the Daniels Zoning Hearing Board application. A motion was made by Mr. Cino and seconded by Mr. Weldon to authorize the Solicitor to attend the Zoning Hearing Board meeting and represent the Board's position regarding the Daniels Zoning Hearing Board application. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.

MANAGER'S REPORT

Resolution No. 2024-10-15-01 – Right to Know Policy

Mr. Nyman provided an overview of Resolution No. 2024-10-15-01 establishing a Right to Know Law Policy. Following discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Cino and seconded by Mr. Weldon to approve Resolution No. 2024-10-15-01. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Police Department

A motion was made by Mr. Cino and seconded by Mr. Weldon to conditionally hire Eric M. Bauer as a full-time police officer pending successful completion of required tests and qualifications. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

2025 Fee Schedule

Mr. Nyman provided an overview of the 2025 Fee Schedule. A motion was made by Mr. Cino and seconded by Mr. Weldon to approve the 2025 Fee Schedule. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Presentation of 2025 Preliminary Budget

Mr. Nyman provided a presentation of the 2025 Preliminary Budget developed following two budget workshops held on September 17, 2024 and October 1, 2024. He explained that the Preliminary Budget will be available for public inspection on the Township website and at the Municipal Building after Board approval. Following the presentation, the Board expressed appreciation of staff efforts during the budget process and in developing this document. A motion was made by Mr. Cino and seconded by Mr. Thomas to authorize advertisement of the 2025 Preliminary Budget. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

ENGINEER'S REPORT

Resolution No. 2024-10-15-02 – PennDOT Multimodal Transportation Grant

Ms. Fuller provided an overview of Resolution No. 2024-10-15-02 formally requesting a PennDOT Multimodal Transportation Fund Grant for Streetscape improvements along Route 532. Discussion followed and a motion was made by Mr. Cino and seconded by Mr. Weldon to approve Resolution No. 2024-10-15-02. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Jericho Creek Stormwater Assessment

Ms. Fuller provided an overview of the proposal to review the LandStudies Report and provide recommendations for stormwater mitigation along Jericho Creek. Discussion followed and Mr. Cino recommended that residents be contacted to gauge interest before proceeding. A motion was made by Mr. Cino and seconded by Mr. Weldon to approve funding Task 1 and Task 2. Task 1 includes a site visit and evaluation of three areas identified in the Land Studies report dated February 14, 2023. The areas for evaluation are located at London Court Homeowners Association, Stoneybrook Road, and Sycamore Farm Homeowners Association for a not-to-exceed budget of \$1,200.00. Task 2 provides recommendations for potential stormwater mitigation projects for the above locations. Feasibility studies will be simultaneously conducted to meet MS4 sediment reduction requirements. Up to three concept plans will be prepared for potential mitigation projects for a not-to-exceed budget of \$11,500.00. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Task 3 includes further analysis of potential projects that will be brought forward after potential projects are further defined by Tasks 1 and 2.

BOARD AND COMMISSION REPORTS

Ms. Taylor announced that the following minutes were included in Board packets:

- Environmental Advisory Council – September 10, 2024
- Historical Architectural Review Board – June 12, 2024

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Ms. Taylor announced that the following department reports were provided:

- Planning & Zoning Department
- Finance Department
- Fire Departments
- Emergency Services
- Fire Marshal
- Police Department
- Public Works Department

PUBLIC COMMENT

Harry Barfoot, 124 Beaumont Drive, shared the potential for a riparian application for a property near the intersection of Pineville and Thompson Mill Roads.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Mr. Cino and seconded by Mr. Weldon to adjourn the meeting at 8:56 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Judy A. Caporiccio

Assistant Township Manager

Approved: November 6, 2024