

Upper Makefield Board of Supervisors November 19, 2024 Meeting Minutes

The November 19, 2024 public meeting of the Upper Makefield Township Board of Supervisors was called to order by Chair Yvette Taylor at 7:30 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 Amanda Fuller, P.E., Planning & Zoning Director Denise Burmester and Chief 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:

- Bucks's County's burn ban remains in effect, which prohibits open fires, including yard waste.
- The Township is also under a drought watch. The Pennsylvania Drought Task Force is asking residents and businesses to voluntarily conserve water due to the extended dry conditions.
- An executive session was held prior to this evening's meeting for personnel matters.
- Township offices will be closed on November 28 and 29 for the Thanksgiving holiday.

Bridge Update:

- The next meeting of the Delaware River Joint Toll Bridge Commission is Monday, November 25 at 10:30 a.m. The Board encourages residents to attend, either virtually or in person, as they continue to do, to stay apprised of the status of the Washington Crossing Bridge Project and provide comment on the project.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Richard Decker, 36 Van Sant Road, shared his observations of the neighboring horse farm located at 43 VanSant Road and expressed concerns about compliance with the Stipulation of Settlement Agreement with the prior owner related to its operation. Mr. Oetinger and Ms. Burmester will review.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES AND BILLS PAYABLE

A motion was made by Mr. Cino and seconded by Mr. Weldon to approve the November 6, 2024 meeting minutes. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

A motion was made by Mr. Cino and seconded by Mr. Weldon to approve the November 19, 2024 Bills Payable List in the amount of \$362,939.14. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

PLANNING & ZONING ISSUES

Sands Certificate of Appropriateness – 783 Washington Crossing Road

Ms. Burmester provided an overview of the request to replace the roof, siding, and windows and add a transom above the porch doors. She noted that the request had been reviewed and recommended by the HARB. Following discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Cino and seconded by Mr. Weldon to approve the Sands Certificate of Appropriateness for 783 Washington Crossing Road. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

There was no Solicitor's Report.

MANAGER'S REPORT

Resolution No. 2024-11-19-01 – Adoption of 2025 Budget

Mr. Nyman provided highlights of the 2025 Budget and the budget process. He noted that the voter-approved Open Space Debt will be satisfied in 2024, and no tax increase is proposed for 2025. The Preliminary 2025 Budget has been advertised, made available for public inspection at the Township office and on the Township website, and has met the legal requirements to be considered for adoption. A motion was then made by Mr. Cino and seconded by Mr. Weldon to adopt Resolution No. 2024-11-19-01. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Resolution No. 2024-11-19-02 – Tax Levy

A motion was made by Mr. Cino and seconded by Mr. Weldon to approve Resolution No. 2024-11-19-02 establishing the 2025 Real Estate Tax Rate. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Supervisor Compensation Ordinance

Mr. Nyman provided an overview of a House Bill amending the Second-Class Township Code to increase the compensation of township supervisors. The Township is required to establish the increased compensation by amending our ordinance. Following discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Cino and seconded by Mr. Thomas to authorize the Township Solicitor to prepare a draft update of the supervisor compensation ordinance for Board review. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Finance Officer

A motion was made by Mr. Cino and seconded by Mr. Weldon to approve the hiring of Lisa Panzer for the position of Finance Officer. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

ENGINEER'S REPORT

Jericho Creek Stormwater Assessment Update

Ms. Fuller provided highlights of concept plans developed by Gilmore & Associates following review of the LandStudies report of areas listed below along Jericho Creek. She noted that a proposal will be prepared for Board consideration after all property owners have been contacted.

Kudra Property & London Court Homeowner's Association - TMP #47-009-025-002 & 47-009-019-001

- Stream restoration and stream bank stabilization of stream corridor recommended
- Soften slopes and install live stakes. Coordinate with debris removal project to reuse fallen trees and logs to help stabilize lower slopes.

Patel Property – TMP# 47-007-049

- Undeveloped portion could be utilized for constructed wetlands that are connected to stream corridor.
- Stream restoration to soften slopes of stream banks to reconnect to constructed wetland and install live stakes.
- Eligible for MS4 crediting.

Sycamore Farms Homeowners Association, North – TMP 47-004-107

- Stream restoration and stream bank stabilization is recommended with a focus on floodplain reconnection.

- Two options:
 - Soften slopes of stream banks to reconnect to floodplain and install live stakes; or
 - Remove substantial sediment to lower stream bed and reconstruct stream corridor with widened channel and wetland pockets which provides more flood control by increasing bank-to-bank area. This is an increased cost and increased disturbance requiring increased PADEP permitting.
 - Eligible for MS4 crediting.

Sycamore Farms Homeowners Association, South TMP#47-004-106

- Add bioretention basin or bioswale as additional stormwater management facility in open space area upstream of existing wet pond to manage flows upstream of the main channel of Jericho Creek in to reduce flow rates and provide infiltration.
- Eligible for MS4 credits for stream restoration.

Brownsburg Park Pavilion Roof Replacement

Following an overview of the project by Ms. Fuller, a motion was made by Mr. Cino and seconded by Mr. Weldon to award the bid for construction of the Brownsburg Park Pavilion Roof Replacement to COSTARS vendor Pro Com Roofing in the amount of \$140,150.00. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

BOARD AND COMMISSION REPORTS

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

- Environmental Advisory Council - October 8, 2024
- Historic Architectural Review Board - September 30, 2024

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

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

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

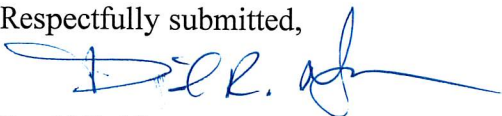
PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Mr. Cino and seconded by Mr. Weldon to adjourn the meeting at 8:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



David R. Nyman
Township Manager

Approved: December 3, 2024