

**Upper Makefield Township Board of Supervisors
December 1, 2010 Meeting Minutes**

The December 1, 2010 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, Treasurer John Silvers, Member Dan Rattigan and Member Mary Ryan. Also in attendance were Township Manager Stephanie Teoli, Township Solicitor John Rice, Esq. and Township Engineer Larry Young, P.E.

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 had been an Executive Session on Monday, November 29th at 6:00 p.m. to discuss personnel matters. No action was taken.

PUBLIC COMMENT (NON-AGENDA) ITEMS:

Ellen Lane-Novitz commented that the lights at Brownsburg Park seemed to be on all the time.

Bill Goldman questions the recall procedure for members of the Board of Supervisors.

Guy Polhemus, Washington Crossing, provided commented that citizens could express their opposition to the Board of Supervisors by reducing the board from five members to three members.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES AND BILLS PAYABLE:

A motion was made by Ms. Ryan and was seconded by Mr. Cino to approve the November 17, 2010 minutes. Motion carried on a 4-0 vote with Mr. Silvers abstaining.

Ms. Teoli directed attention to the bills list for December 1, 2010. A motion was made by Mr. Silvers and was seconded by Mr. Cino to approve the December 1, 2010 Bills Payable list in the amount of \$284,574.31. Motion carried on a unanimous vote.

ENGINEER'S REPORT:

Engineer's Report

The Engineer's Report was entered into the record with no comment.

OLD BUSINESS:

Resolution No. 2010-12-1-01 – Adoption of 2011 Budget

Resolution No. 2010-12-1-02 – Tax Levy

Mr. Baldwin initiated discussion of the 2011 Budget by commenting on the ongoing public debate of the proposed budget. He urged those present to act with respect as they participate in the democratic process. He emphasized that the township staff serves the public with the utmost respect and that the proposed budget is not the budget of the staff but the budget of the township.

Ms. Ryan noted that these are hard times. She put forth the proposal to institute a pay freeze for all non-union employees and the elimination of the co-pay reimbursement account.

Mr. Cino agreed to Ms. Ryan's recommendation and further urged the Board to consider a hiring freeze as well. He noted that all new township hires would have a new benefits package with reduced healthcare benefits and a defined contribution pension benefit.

Mr. Rattigan agreed with his colleagues and suggested that the Board consider a budget with no tax increase. He advocated moving the Cable Fund into the General Fund in 2011. He recognized the public for their strong participation.

Mr. Silvers applauded the residents for the active role that they took in the process and urged them to remain active.

After some discussion, there was general agreement by the Board on the following: no tax increase, transfer of the Cable Fund to the General Fund, establishment of a new benefit plan for new hires, a pay freeze and elimination of the co-pay reimbursement account for non-union employees, agreement to work with unions to reduce costs, and agreement to begin to reduce costs immediately in 2011.

Mr. Baldwin called for motions to consider approval of the budget prior to opening the floor to public comment.

A motion was made by Mr. Rattigan and was seconded by Ms. Ryan to approve Resolution No. 2010-12-1-01.

A motion was made by Mr. Rattigan and was seconded by Mr. Silvers to approve Resolution No. 2010-12-1-02.

Mr. Baldwin then opened the floor to public comment.

Carol Ann Sasso, Jericho Mountain Road, congratulated the Board on their decision to not raise taxes. She provided further comment on the budget process.

Victor Ameye, Lookout Lane, recommended specific reductions in the budget.

Barbara Breeden, Bankers Drive, thanked the Board for their decision and provided recommendations for further cuts to the budget.

Ernest Sasso, Jericho Mountain Road, commended the Board for hearing the people. He further commented that the board should seek to push further with budget cuts.

Guy Polhemus, Dolington Road, applauded Board for taking a first step. He provided comparison data from Trydefferin, Lower Merion and Hilltown Townships and urged the Board to consider conducting

a municipal performance audit.

Larry Breeden, Bankers Drive, thanked the Board for rolling back the proposal to increase taxes. He provided further comment, criticizing the Township Manager and the Open Space Program.

Ronnie LeNasa, Davis Drive, requested that the Township put open space purchase proposals on the internet for review by the residents.

Wilma Deutsch, River Road, thanked the Board for the elimination of the tax increase, but urged further budget cuts.

Ellen Lane-Novitz, Dunkin Drive, asked specific questions regarding budgeted business luncheons and dinners.

Diana Kelly, Jericho Run, urged the Board to utilize the resources within the community. She further commented that she is opposed to any outsourcing of township services.

Pam Malagerie, Wrightstown Road, thanked the Board for listening and then made specific comments regarding police overtime and township employee wages.

Cliff Kraus, Meadowview Drive, provided an observation that the residents felt that the Board was not listening. He urged further budget reductions.

Earl Stalker, Brownsburg Road, thanked the Board for their effort. He argued that zero is not enough anymore in light of the current economic conditions and urged for further cuts. He apologized for the personal attacks made by some residents.

Steven Deutsch, River Road, provided comment on the need to fit with the current economic times. He urged transparency.

Joe Linus, Byler Drive, thanked the Board for listening. He encouraged the Township to use the year to look for additional areas to cut the budget. He recommended a restructuring of the organization and consideration of outsourcing of public works.

Tom Kegelman, Traditions, urged the Board to benchmark with private industry on salary and healthcare benefits.

Bob Van Wagner, General Washington Memorial Blvd., noted his opposition to the Open Space program and argued that the Board should consider selling back some of the development rights to reduce the debt burden on the Township.

Pat Carrozza, Traditions, questioned the Township's overtime policies.

John Titterton, Bunker Hill Drive, urged the Board to move forward with tenacity and courage in

continuing to reduce the budget.

Paul Dey, Taylor Way, provided comment that it is imperative that residents keep active in the budget process.

Cathleen Pasco, Washington Crossing, expressed disappointment that Board did not arrive at the decision to hold the line on taxes prior to the resident outcry.

Resolution No. 2010-12-1-01 – Adoption of 2011 Budget

Resolution No. 2010-12-1-02 – Tax Levy

Mr. Baldwin called the question on the two motions that were on the floor.

Both motions carried on unanimous votes.

NEW BUSINESS:

Mr. Silvers announced his resignation from the Board of Supervisors, effective December 15, 2010, for personal reasons. Mr. Silvers was thanked for his service to the community.

ADJOURNMENT:

A motion was made by Mr. Rattigan and was seconded by Ms. Ryan to adjourn the meeting at 9:51 p.m. Motion carried.

Approved: December 15, 2010