

Upper Makefield Township Board of Supervisors

March 3, 2020 Meeting Minutes

The March 3, 2020 public meeting of the Upper Makefield Township Board of Supervisors was called to order by Chair Tom Cino at 7:30 p.m. In attendance were the following members of the Board of Supervisors: Chair Tom Cino, Vice Chair Diana Nolan, Treasurer Tim Thomas, Member Ed Ford and Member Karin Traina. Also in attendance were Township Manager David R. Nyman, Assistant Township Manager Judy Caporiccio, Township Solicitor Mary Eberle, Esq., Township Engineer Larry Young, P.E., Planning & Zoning Director Dave Kuhns and Chief Mark Schmidt.

There were also members of the public present.

CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Cino made the following announcements:

- The Board acknowledged an accident that occurred February 19th on Rte. 532 in the Dolington Village area involving a school bus and a car causing injuries to some children and the driver of the car. The children were transported to the hospital, treated and are healing at home while the driver of the vehicle's injuries were more serious and his current condition is unknown. The Township wished everyone involved a speedy and complete recovery. While the police investigation is not yet complete, it was confirmed that the accident was not caused by any conditions related to the intersection itself.

Mr. Cino said that this intersection is part of a larger federally funded PennDOT project known as the Stoopville Road Traffic Calming Project. We will be providing an overview and status of that Project on tonight's agenda and any comments regarding Stoopville Road and Rte. 532 will be permitted during that portion of the agenda.

- A reminder to residents that new voting machines will be in use for the April 28th Primary. Please check the Board of Elections website at BucksCounty.org for information, instructional videos and a schedule of upcoming voter training sessions on the new machines.
- An executive session will be held after tonight's meeting for litigation matters.

Ms. Nolan reminded residents that the 2020 Census will begin in the next few weeks, and she shared the importance of being counted.

Mr. Thomas thanked the Police Department and the Fire Department for their response to the accident involving the school bus.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

SPECIAL ITEMS

Swearing-In Ceremony – Officer Eric Farra

Officer Eric Farra was sworn in by The Honorable Mike Petrucci.

Upper Makefield Fire Company – Laurie Hosie, President – Tim Brewer Chief

Laurie Hosie, President of Upper Makefield Fire Company and Fire Chief Tim Brewer provided an overview of the 2019 Annual Report and highlighted fire company activities, events and shared concerns regarding the decrease in their volunteer base. Members of the executive committee were also in attendance.

Mr. Cino thanked the Fire Company for their commitment of personal time to the residents of Upper Makefield.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES AND BILLS PAYABLE

A motion was made by Ms. Traina and seconded by Ms. Nolan to approve the February 18, 2020 meeting minutes. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

A motion was made by Mr. Thomas and seconded by Dr. Ford to approve the March 3, 2020 Bills Payable List in the amount of \$130,757.55. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

MANAGER'S REPORT

Stoopville Road/Traffic Calming Project – Phase 2 Update

Mr. Nyman provided an update of the Stoopville Road/Traffic Calming Project, Phase 2. He noted a recent PennDOT assessment of Dolington Road/Rt. 532 indicated that 10,000 vehicles/day travel this section of roadway, and Township records indicate an average of one accident/year, though not all at the intersection. In response to resident requests, Mr. Nyman said that PennDOT approved and UMT installed signage for *Hidden Driveway, School Bus Stop Ahead, Left & Right Turn Side Road* and *25 mph Advisory Speed*. The Township also pruned vegetation to improve sight distances. Electronic *Your Speed* signage has also been requested and approved by PennDOT, which would be purchased/installed by the Township.

Mr. Young then provided a presentation outlining the history of PennDOT's Stoopville Road Traffic Calming Project, which began as Phase I in 2007 and recently completed Preliminary Engineering phase for Phase II. He provided timelines, costs and status. Mr. Young stated that PennDOT provided an opportunity for public input during the preliminary phase from all four townships involved (Upper Makefield, Wrightstown, Newtown and Lower Makefield).

Ms. Traina asked about the timeline for completion of the project. Mr. Young indicated that it would be at least two more years, with easement acquisition taking the most time to complete.

Marjorie Cottrell, 803 Washington Crossing Road, shared public safety concerns citing a lack of speed limit enforcement and motorists ignoring posted signage. She stated that she began a petition, which has over 800 signatures, requesting that the Township do more to increase the roadway safety in the Dolington area of Rte. 532. She also stated that her contact at PennDOT had no knowledge of a proposed three way stop sign to control the intersection of Dolington Road and Rte. 532 and encouraged communication between the entities involved. Mr. Young explained that Ms. Cottrell's contact does not work in the PennDOT department which would oversee TIP (Transportation Improvement Program) projects, and therefore may not be aware of all project details.

Mr. Cino recommended that Ms. Cottrell submit questions to the Township Manager, who will then direct them to the appropriate individuals and departments.

Mr. Thomas asked if the petition signatures were all Upper Makefield residents, and Ms. Cottrell indicated that they were mostly from Bucks County residents.

Tina Fascetti, 829 Washington Crossing Road, also expressed safety concerns and stated that there are many unreported accidents in this area. She encouraged accelerating the process.

David Moscovitz, 910 Old Dolington Road, stated that his child was on the school bus and urged immediate improvements for improved safety for the interim until Phase II is completed.

James Galvin, 787 Washington Crossing Road, thanked the Township for their response to resolve the road flooding concern he raised at the last meeting. He then indicated that he was unaware of a proposal to place three way stop signs at Dolington Road and Rte. 532 and is opposed that idea. He recommended increased police presence to change the culture and deter speeding and traffic violations. He asked if there would be another opportunity for public input. Mr. Young stated that he will ask the PennDOT Project Manager during the kickoff meeting for Final Design.

Ms. Nolan asked if the Township could request that PennDOT perform another study to obtain more current data since the information was obtained in 2011.

Dr. Ford expressed concerns regarding his observance of non-adherence to traffic signals everywhere and questioned the effectiveness of a three way stop sign, possibly resulting in more severe accidents and traffic backups.

Ms. Eberle emphasized that this is a state highway and that although the Township can work with and urge PennDOT, the Township cannot make unilateral decisions regarding a state road project and PennDOT processes.

Mr. Nyman stated that local police departments are not permitted to use radar, and he encouraged residents to contact their state representatives regarding legislation if they would like changes in the law.

Mr. Cino thanked the residents for sharing their concerns and encouraged them to communicate with the supervisors or Township Manager.

Bucks County Health Department

Mr. Nyman provided an overview of a letter received from the Bucks County Health Department requesting the Township's participation in their West Nile Virus Program. Following discussion, a motion was made by Ms. Nolan and seconded by Ms. Traina to reauthorize participation in Bucks County Health Department West Nile Program. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Ms. Nolan inquired about the Coronavirus, and Mr. Nyman stated that the Bucks County Health Department has protocols in place.

Resolution No. 2020-03-03-01 – Records Disposition

This item was tabled until the next meeting due to a resident request for more information.

PLANNING & ZONING ISSUES

Geopedior (Brownsburg Estates), 386 Brownsburg Road East, Planning Module

Mr. Kuhns outlined the proposed Planning Module. Ms. Nolan recommended inclusion of the directions concerning placement and protection of the turtle population during construction. A motion was made by Ms. Nolan and seconded by Dr. Ford to approve the Geopedior (Brownsburg Estates) Planning Module including the turtle protection provisions. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

There was no Solicitor's Report.

ENGINEER'S REPORT

There was no Engineer's Report.

APPOINTMENTS

Building Code Board of Appeals

A motion was made by Ms. Nolan and seconded by Mr. Thomas to appoint Bret Jackson to the Building Code Appeals Board for a term which expires December 31, 2022. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.

Environmental Advisory Commission

A motion was made by Dr. Ford and seconded by Mr. Thomas to appoint Kathryn Benson to the Environmental Advisory Commission to fill a vacancy for a term which expires 12-31-2022. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.

Planning Commission

A motion was made by Mr. Thomas and seconded by Dr. Ford to appoint Harry Barfoot to the Planning Commission to fill a vacancy for a term which expires 12-31-2021. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.

Investment Committee

A motion was made by Ms. Traina and seconded by Mr. Thomas to appoint Ben Weldon to the Investment Committee to fill a vacancy for a term which expires 12-31-2021. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.

Financial Advisory Committee

A motion was made by Mr. Thomas and seconded by Ms. Traina to appoint Carolyn Shaw Dorph to the Financial Advisory Committee to fill a vacancy for a term which expires 12-31-20. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.

A motion was made by Ms. Nolan and seconded by Dr. Ford to appoint Jason Yager to the Financial Advisory Committee to fill a vacancy for a term which expires 12-31-20. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Ms. Nolan and seconded by Mr. Thomas to adjourn the meeting at 8:55 p.m. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Respectfully submitted,



David R. Nyman

Township Manager

Approved: April 21, 2020