

Upper Makefield Board of Supervisors February 21, 2023 Meeting Minutes

The February 21, 2023 public meeting of the Upper Makefield Township Board of Supervisors was called to order by Chair Tom Cino at 7:31 p.m. In attendance were the following members of the Board of Supervisors: Chair Tom Cino, Vice Chair Ed Ford, Treasurer Tim Thomas, Member Yvette Taylor and Member Ben Weldon. Also in attendance were Township Manager David R. Nyman, Assistant Township Manager Judy Caporiccio, Township Solicitor Will Oetinger, Esq., Township Engineer Larry Young, P.E., Chief Mark Schmidt and Planning & Zoning Director Denise Burmester.

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 stated that due to the number of audience members in attendance for the EMS service agenda item, that item would be moved up the agenda.

EMS Service

Mr. Nyman explained that St. Mary notified the Township that as of March 1, they will no longer provide EMS services due to costs and staffing issues and will therefore not be renewing their contract with the Township. He provided background on the process over the last several months to find another provider and said a proposal has been received from proven provider Newtown EMS, Inc. to provide EMS services in Upper Makefield 24 hours/day, 7 days/week for a one-year period at a cost of \$235,000.

Mr. Cino provided further clarification of the history and process noting that the Township's intention has been to find options to replace EMS service noting that the marketplace is different today due to costs and staffing difficulties. He emphasized the Township's commitment to providing the service to the community.

Evan Resnikoff, Newtown EMS Chief of Operations, provided an overview of the combination proposal, which is to locate a Responder vehicle at Station 71 in Upper Makefield, which will provide either BLS or ALS depending on which staff is present. At times when staffing permits and when large events are scheduled, an ambulance would be located in the Township. He explained the tiered approach to an emergency call would be that Bucks County would dispatch the Responder vehicle and an ambulance simultaneously, which is similar to neighboring New Hope Borough. He outlined the logistics, levels of pre-hospital providers and answered questions from the public and the Board.

Priscilla Linden, 50 Dillon Way, Washington Crossing, requested further clarification of the Responder/Ambulance scheduling.

Ron Melk, 86 McConkey Drive, asked general questions about response times, differences in responder categories and trauma protocol. Mr. Resnikoff shared County and local data.

Greg Dwornikowski, 10 Dunkin Drive, requested a comparison of the existing service to the proposed service. Mr. Resnikoff explained that there will be 24 hour/day, 7 days /week EMS dispatched from the fire house, which level of care is dependent on the staff on duty (paramedic, EMT, Advanced EMT).

Eugene Fazzie, 16 Jonathon Way, thanked Mr. Resnikoff for attending the meeting and answering questions. He inquired about ambulance response times, costs, and performance standards. Mr. Cino clarified that the Township is subsidizing the service but not the individual patient care.

Anne Covey, River Road, shared personal experience regarding response incidents over the years, and she expressed concern that only one person would respond initially. She encouraged continued investigation of options for an ultimate solution.

David Poa, Traditions, inquired about the contract with St. Mary's. Dr. Ford noted the financial and staffing struggles that many hospitals are experiencing.

Angela Giovine, 5 Orchard, thanked all for their service, shared personal experiences, and suggested consideration that the Township purchase its own ambulance and EMS service.

Bob Palmer, 44 Bailey Drive, thanked the squad for their efforts, asked about potential delays and mutual aide arrangements, and police training. Mr. Nyman noted that the Township is committed to police training as they are often first on scene and able to assist.

Eugene Fazzie, 16 Thompson Way, inquired about dispatch procedures for EMS, fire and police. Mr. Resnikoff noted that those procedures are established by Bucks County and the Township's Emergency Management Coordinator.

Anne Covey, River Road, commended the police response and training.

KC Schafer, 45 Canal Run West, expressed appreciation and inquired about the contract cost.

Mr. Thomas expressed thanks to St. Mary's for the years of service provided to the Township and appreciation for the input from residents.

A motion was made by Dr. Ford and seconded by Ms. Taylor to authorize the Township Manager to enter into an agreement with Newtown EMS, Inc. to provide emergency medical services to the Township under the terms and conditions provided by the Manager subject to review of the agreement by our solicitors. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.

SPECIAL ITEMS

Sunoco Pipeline Project Update

Joe Massaro, Project Manager for the Jacob's Creek (Sunoco pipeline replacement) Project, provided an update stating that the hydrotest and pullback were completed without incident. He noted that the hydrotest was performed after the new pipe was installed, the line was then inspected and is ready to be placed back in service when the tie-ins are completed. Mr. Massaro said the project is almost complete, the road repair will be completed when weather permits, and planting will be completed in the spring.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES AND BILLS PAYABLE

A motion was made by Ms. Taylor and seconded by Dr. Ford to approve the February 7, 2023 meeting minutes. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

A motion was made by Mr. Thomas and seconded by Mr. Weldon to approve the February 21, 2023 Bills Payable List in the amount of \$134,847.64. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Triumph Conditional Use, 439 Brownsburg Road West

Mr. Oetinger provided a summary of the Triumph Conditional Use Application to allow a riparian corridor crossing through Zone One and Zone Two of the Riparian Buffer Overlay Zone for widening

the existing driveway. He then read aloud the conditions from the Adjudication. A motion was made by Dr. Ford and seconded by Mr. Thomas to grant the conditional use with the following conditions:

1. Re-forestation 50 feet along both sides of the unnamed tributary
2. No-mow zone 50 feet on both sides of the unnamed tributary
3. Compliance with the Tri-State Engineers review letter of January 19, 2023
4. Compliance with all Township Codes and Ordinances
5. Subdivision and Land Development approval.

The motion carried by unanimous vote.

PLANNING & ZONING ISSUES

Triumph – 439 Brownsburg West

Preliminary/Final Minor Subdivision Plan

The Board considered the Preliminary/Final Minor Subdivision Plan tabled at the last meeting for a two-lot subdivision. There is an existing dwelling on one lot, proposed construction of a single-family dwelling on the second lot, and a shared driveway. The Planning Commission reviewed and recommended approval of the application with the conditions that the property owners sign a Stormwater Operations and Maintenance Agreement, there is a shared driveway easement for perpetuity, and compliance with the Township Engineers Review letter dated January 19, 2023.

Joe Washburn, Esq., represented the applicant. He noted that the applicant is willing to contribute a fee-in-lieu-of regarding the waivers requested.

It was agreed that the new homeowner will sign an agreement to acknowledge responsibility regarding the no-mow and wetlands transition requirements.

A motion was made by Mr. Weldon and seconded by Dr. Ford to approve Preliminary/Final Minor Subdivision Plan with the conditions that the property owners sign a Stormwater Operations and Maintenance Agreement, there is a shared driveway easement for perpetuity, compliance with the Township Engineers Review letter dated January 19, 2023, and agreement on a fee-in-lieu for \$15,000 minimum for the waivers granted. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Planning Module

The Board then considered the Planning Module for 439 Brownsburg West, which was tabled at the last meeting. Following discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Cino and seconded by Mr. Weldon to approve Planning Module for 439 Brownsburg West. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Stone Zoning Hearing Board Application – 463 Stoopville Road

Ms. Burmester provided an overview of the application requesting a variance from disturbance of floodplain soils for construction of a pool and patio. Robert McCubbin of Anthony Sylvan Pools responded to questions from the Board. A motion was made by Dr. Ford and seconded by Mr. Weldon to take a neutral position on this application. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.

MANAGER'S REPORT

2023/24 Township Ground Maintenance Bid

Mr. Nyman provided an overview of the Township Ground Maintenance Bid and recommended awarding the bid to the low bidder, Townscapes, Inc. of Philadelphia, PA in the amount of \$51,605.00. A motion was made by Mr. Weldon and seconded by Mr. Thomas to award the 2023/24 Township Ground Maintenance Bid to Townscapes, Inc. of Philadelphia PA in the amount of \$51,605.00. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.

Board and Commission Appointments

A motion was made by Ms. Taylor and seconded by Mr. Thomas to appoint J. Braun Taylor to the Park & Recreation Board for a term which term expires 12/31/27. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

A motion was made by Dr. Ford and seconded by Ms. Taylor to appoint Edward Hale to the Environmental Advisory Council for a term which expires 12/31/25. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

A motion was made by Mr. Thomas and seconded by Dr. Ford to appoint Alternate Jack Pidgeon as a Regular member of the Zoning Hearing Board for a term which expires 12/31/27. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

A motion was made by Dr. Ford and seconded by Mr. Weldon to appoint Gwyneth Linus as an Alternate to the Zoning Hearing Board for a term which expires 12/31/23. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

A motion was made by Ms. Taylor and seconded by Mr. Weldon to appoint Larry Dennehy to the Traffic Advisory Committee for a term which expires 12/31/24. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

A motion was made by Mr. Thomas and seconded by Mr. Weldon to appoint Robert Palmer to the Traffic Advisory Committee for a term which expires 12/31/24. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

A motion was made by Mr. Weldon and seconded by Dr. Ford to appoint Christopher Ryan to the Traffic Advisory Committee for a term which expires 12/31/25. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

ENGINEER'S REPORT

There was no Engineer's Report.

BOARD AND COMMISSION REPORTS

Mr. Cino announced that the following minutes were included in Board packets:

- Environmental Advisory Council – January 10, 2023
- Investment Advisory Committee – November 17, 2022
- Park & Recreation Board – January 9, 2023
- Planning Commission – December 14, 2022
- Financial Advisory Committee – October 20, 2022

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Mr. Cino announced that the following department reports were provided:

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

Priscilla Linden, 50 Dillon Way, asked where to find the referenced reports, and Ms. Caporiccio noted that approved minutes and department reports can be found on the Township website.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Mr. Weldon and seconded by Dr. Ford to adjourn the meeting at 9:09 p.m.
Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Respectfully submitted,



David R. Nyman
Township Manager

Approved: March 7, 2023