

**Upper Makefield Board of Supervisors**  
**May 2, 2023 Meeting Minutes**

The May 2, 2023 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 Ed Ford, Treasurer Tim Thomas and Member Ben Weldon. Also in attendance were Township Manager David R. Nyman, Assistant Township Manager Judy Caporiccio, Township Solicitor William Oetinger, Esq. Planning & Zoning Director Denise Burmester and Chief Mark Schmidt.

**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 County's next Household Hazardous Waste Collection event is May 13 at the Upper Bucks Area Vocational Technical School in Bedminster Township. Details are available at [BucksCounty.gov](http://BucksCounty.gov)
- The next Board of Supervisors meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, May 17 due to the Primary Election

**SPECIAL ITEMS**

**Resolution No. 2023-05-02-01 – Commending Girl Scout Gold Award Recipient Alexis M. Muller**

Mr. Cino introduced resident Alexis M. Muller and presented her with the resolution acknowledging her achievement in attaining the Girl Scout Gold Award. A motion was made by Mr. Thomas and seconded by Dr. Ford to approve Resolution No. 2023-05-02-01. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

**Resolution No. 2023-05-02-02 – Commending Girl Scout Gold Award Recipient Kate Thomson**

Mr. Cino introduced resident Kate Thomson and presented her with the resolution acknowledging her achievement in attaining the Girl Scout Gold Award. A motion was made by Mr. Weldon and seconded by Dr. Ford to approve Resolution No. 2023-05-02-02. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was no public comment on non-agenda items.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES AND BILLS PAYABLE**

A motion was made by Mr. Thomas and seconded by Dr. Ford to approve the April 18, 2023 meeting minutes. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

A motion was made by Mr. Weldon and seconded by Mr. Thomas to approve the May 2, 2023 Bills Payable List in the amount of \$219,639.79. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

**PLANNING & ZONING ISSUES**

**Matejka Certificate of Appropriateness – Matejka, 795 Washington Crossing Road**

Ms. Burmester provided an overview of the request to replace the existing cedar siding with Hardie fiber-cement horizontal siding, noting that the request was reviewed and recommended for approval by the HARB. Following discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Weldon and seconded by Dr. Ford to approve the Matejka Certificate of Appropriateness for 795 Washington Crossing Road. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.

**SOLICITOR'S REPORT**

There was no Solicitor's Report.

## **MANAGER'S REPORT**

### **Emergency Services Update**

Mr. Nyman provided a review of the Township's process to obtain an Emergency Services provider after St. Mary's Hospital notified the Township in November 2022 that they were no longer going to provide ambulance service as of March 1, 2023. The process began immediately to solicit proposals and review of six proposals received. None of the proposals provided for 24/7 ambulance service due to a nationwide shortage of ambulance workers. Ultimately Newtown EMS was contracted with for one year with the agreement to provide 24/7 coverage with a certified emergency responder unit or ambulance stationed at the Upper Makefield Fire Company. To date they have been able to provide ALS response at a 90% level of service.

Dr. Ford expressed his disappointment regarding the manner in which the Newtown EMS was misrepresented during public comment at the last meeting. He reiterated the extreme staffing challenges faced by all healthcare workers today, and he referenced a specific incident that resulted from an error at County Dispatch for which Newtown Ambulance was not responsible. He thanked the Township staff for their efforts, and he thanked Newtown EMS for their commitment to the Township.

Priscilla Linden, 50 Dillon Way, praised the efforts of Newtown EMS, noting their positive actions in two specific incidents in the Traditions development.

Anne Covey, 1594 River Road, recounted her unsatisfactory history with Newtown Township EMS services from 2008 to present. She said her desire is to return to a full-time ambulance stationed in the Township and that she has no preference on the provider.

Katy Morris, 1594 River Road, also recounted her family's unsatisfactory history with Newtown Township EMS services from 2008 to present, and she expressed her dissatisfaction with a responder vehicle stationed at the fire house rather than a full-time ambulance.

Tom Cino stressed that the Board wants the best service available for the community, and that the Board and staff are continuing to work to provide a full-time ambulance solution. He clarified that there is 24/7 emergency response in the Township, either a responder vehicle and/or an ambulance. Mr. Cino encouraged residents to contact the Board or Township staff with questions.

Evan Resnikoff, Newtown EMS Chief of Operations, provided clarification on response vehicles, paramedic training, EMS staffing, and the current Newtown EMS operation. He provided statistics noting that the ALS service time Newtown EMS has provided is equivalent to that provided by St. Mary's in 2022, and he stated that they continue to work with the Township and residents toward the common goal of providing more of a fully staffed ambulance.

Mr. Thomas thanked Newtown EMS for their service.

Mr. Oetinger cautioned the Board not to turn public comment into an exchange of disputes between parties, noting that it is the Township's goal to continue to improve all services.

Anne Covey, River Road, restated that her goal is to reduce response times, always have more than one responder on a call, and that her concerns are not personal toward Newtown EMS.

**Public Works Equipment  
Tractor/Road Bank Mower**

Mr. Nyman provided an overview of Public Works Superintendent Matt Gorman's recommendation to adjust the capital equipment replacement schedule by delaying the 2024 replacements as the equipment is still in good condition and to replacing the 2014 road bank mower at this time due to excessive repair costs. Discussion followed, and a motion was made by Dr. Ford and seconded by Mr. Weldon to approve the purchase of a John Deere 5100E Cab Utility tractor and arm in the amount of \$114,000. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

**Modular Ramps Proposal**

Mr. Nyman reviewed ramp replacement proposals for Modular 1 and Modular 2 and recommended approval of the Amramp Accessibility proposals dated April 19, 2023. Discussion followed and a motion was made by Mr. Weldon and seconded by Dr. Ford to approve the Amramp Accessibility proposals dated April 19, 2023 for a purchase price of \$7,600 for Modular 1 and a purchase price of \$8,500 for Modular 2. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

**ENGINEER'S REPORT**

There was no Engineer's Report.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was no public comment.

**ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made by Mr. Weldon and seconded by Dr. Ford to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



David R. Nyman  
Township Manager  
Approved: May 17, 2023