

Upper Makefield Board of Supervisors

April 18, 2023 Meeting Minutes

The April 18, 2023 public meeting of the Upper Makefield Township Board of Supervisors was called to order by Chair Tom Cino at 7:33 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 Assistant Township Manager Judy Caporiccio, Township Solicitor Mary Eberle, Esq., Township Engineer Larry Young, P.E., 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:

- Saturday, April 22 is a Drug Takeback Event at the Upper Makefield Police Department. Drop off unused medication from 10-2 that day, or any weekday during business hours at a collection box located in the Police Building lobby.
- Street sweeping of Township roads and developments is scheduled for the week of April 24, weather permitting. Please assist by removing trash cans, recycling bins and vehicles from the roadside.
- The Upper Makefield Fire Company Carnival will be held in the Crossing April 25 - 29 from 6-10 nightly. Check the fire company website at umfc.org for details.
- The Township eNews has received a statewide award from PSATS, the Pennsylvania State Association of Township Supervisors. If you are not registered to receive our eNews, please sign up on the Township website, UpperMakefield.org.
- The Township is in receipt of a Sketch Plan for the property located at the corner of Taylorsville Road and General Washington Memorial Blvd., the site of the former Sunoco gas station. This plan will be presented at the Planning Commission meeting next week on April 26. Residents interested in hearing this presentation are encouraged to attend the Planning Commission meeting, which will be held at the Township building at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, April 26.

Mr. Thomas announced that his April 1st trash pick-up event was successful, and he thanked the River Knoll volunteers and Township staff for their assistance. He noted that he intends to work with the EAC to make this an annual event.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Michael Spiro, 1151 Eagle Road, shared continued concerns about a property at 725 Eagle Road, which borders one of his properties. He questioned No Parking signage along Eagle Road, referenced a police visit to his property to demonstrate to them the oppressive odor from the neighboring property, and he cited PA Department of Agriculture and Bucks County Health Department actions on his neighbor's property. Ms. Eberle reiterated that the Township is following proper procedures to enforce Township ordinances and explained that residents can explore options that are not available to municipalities.

Matthew Brittenberg, 1241 River Road, expressed concerns regarding traffic issues on River Road, specifically speeding cars and motorcycles, noise, drag racing, and safety concerns for the significant bicycle traffic. He requested increased police enforcement.

Anne Covey, River Road, shared her negative ambulance experiences since 2011. She noted a recent 911 call placed on April 6, which she said took 17-20 minutes for the vehicle to arrive. Mr. Cino clarified that the delayed response was a result of an error at the County 911 Center when the address was incorrectly relayed for dispatch, which the County confirmed in a letter to the Township. Ms. Covey questioned the current EMS plan and expressed her opinion that a full-time ambulance is needed in Upper Makefield, as it was before St. Mary's discontinued their service. She encouraged a meeting with the resident interested in starting a community ambulance service. Mr. Cino and Mr. Thomas each expressed that the Township entered into an agreement with the best available option and continues to work with the provider.

Katie Morris, River Road, shared the same negative ambulance experience as Ms. Covey and questioned the Board's efforts to provide 24/7 ALS emergency response for the Township.

Jim Fox, Buckland Valley, inquired about the Township's process to replace emergency services when St. Mary's ended their service.

Dr. Ford, a physician for 42 years, relayed his professional experiences with the serious staffing shortages both locally and nationally that are affecting all medical services, including EMS, and he noted the significant financial losses medical facilities are experiencing as a result. Dr. Ford also stated that the Township explored available EMS options, entered into an agreement with the best available option, and is amenable to exploring all viable options.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES AND BILLS PAYABLE

A motion was made by Mr. Weldon and seconded by Ms. Taylor to approve the March 21, 2023 meeting minutes. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

A motion was made by Mr. Thomas and seconded by Ms. Taylor to approve the April 4, 2023 Bills Payable List in the amount of \$177,576.05. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

A motion was made by Mr. Thomas and seconded by Ms. Taylor to approve the April 18, 2023 Bills Payable List in the amount of \$282,491.45. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

PLANNING & ZONING ISSUES

Resolution No. 2023-04-18 – Bovenizer Planning Module, Buckmanville Road

Ms. Burmester provided an overview of the Bovenizer Planning Module for the installation of a new on-lot sewage disposal system to serve a single-family dwelling, garage, pool and pool house being constructed on Lot 3. Discussion followed and a motion was made by Mr. Thomas and seconded by Dr. Ford to approve Resolution No. 2023-04-18. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Chalofsky Zoning Hearing Board Application

Gavin Laboski, Esq., represented the applicant and provided an overview of the Chalofsky Zoning Hearing Board Application requesting a variance for disturbance of floodplain soils for construction of an in-ground swimming pool, decking, equipment, walkways, and cabana. Discussion followed and a motion was made by Mr. Thomas and seconded by Mr. Weldon to take a neutral position on the application. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

EAC Update

Ms. Burmester provided a status update of the EAC's plan for the LandStudies proposal. Residents who live on Jericho Creek will be sent a letter inviting them to attend an upcoming EAC meeting to

discuss two floodplain restoration projects included in the LandStudies proposal and to engage residential participation in the restoration efforts. Kathryn Benson, Chair of the EAC, was present to answer questions.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

No Parking Ordinance Amendment

Ms. Eberle provided an overview of the ordinance prohibiting parking on the section of Eagle Road between Stoopville Road and Wrightstown Road. Discussion followed and a motion was made by Mr. Thomas and seconded by Ms. Taylor to authorize advertisement of the No Parking Ordinance Amendment. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

ASSISTANT MANAGER'S REPORT

Financial Advisory Committee Business Survey

Ms. Caporiccio provided background on the multi-committee project assigned by the Board to develop recommendations for improvements in the Village of Washington Crossing in preparation for the semi-quincentennial celebrating the 250th anniversary of our country. As part of their review, the Financial Advisory Committee developed a draft survey. Their intention is to mail it to the businesses in the Crossing to obtain their input. Following discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Weldon and seconded by Dr. Ford to approve distribution of the survey to Washington Crossing businesses. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Police Officer

Ms. Caporiccio stated that at the last meeting, a part-time officer was promoted to a full-time position and Chief Schmidt was authorized to continue the selection process to hire another part-time officer. Chief Schmidt recommended Colin Murphy for the part-time police officer position. A motion was made by Dr. Ford and seconded by Mr. Thomas to hire Colin Murphy for the position of part-time police officer. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

ENGINEER'S REPORT

Award of Bid – 2023 Road Paving Project

Mr. Young provided a summary of the bid results and recommended awarding the 2023 Road Paving Project and Alternate 1 to the lowest responsible bidder, Bray Brothers, Inc. of Fallsington, PA. Alternate 2 was not recommended due to the high cost, which was related to equipment mobilization for the small area of paving. Following discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Weldon and seconded by Ms. Taylor to award the 2023 Road Paving Project and Alternate 1 to Bray Brothers, Inc. in the amount of \$662,620.00. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Hampton Moore Site Work Construction Escrow Release No. 1

Mr. Young provided an overview of the project and recommended approval of the Hampton Moore Site Work Construction Escrow Release No. 1. Following discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Thomas and seconded by Ms. Taylor to approve the Hampton Moore Site Work Construction Letter of Credit Escrow Release No. 1 in the amount of \$424,770.20. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

BOARD AND COMMISSION REPORTS

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

- Environmental Advisory Council – February 14, 2023 and March 14, 2023
- Park & Recreation Board – February 13, 2023
- Planning Commission – February 22, 2023
- Traffic Advisory Committee – October 26, 2022

- Financial Advisory Committee – January 19, 2023

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

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

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

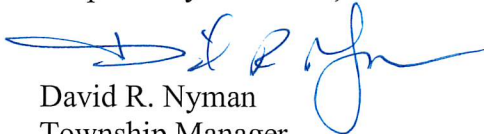
PUBLIC COMMENT

Dr. Ford noted the large number of trees downed by recent windy conditions, and reminded residents of the Township's Tree Fund to help defray the cost of tree replacements which will help with stormwater management and flooding concerns.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Mr. Thomas and seconded by Mr. Weldon to adjourn the meeting at 9:01 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



David R. Nyman
Township Manager

Approved: