

Upper Makefield Board of Supervisors December 19, 2023 Meeting Minutes

The December 19, 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, Member Yvette Taylor and Member Ben Weldon. Also in attendance were Assistant Township Manager Judy Caporiccio and Township Solicitor Mary Eberle, Esq.

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 71st Annual Crossing Re-enactment takes place at Washington Crossing Historic Park on Christmas Day. Events begin at noon with the Crossing occurring at 1:00 p.m.
- From Wednesday, December 27 through Friday, December 29, Wrightstown Road will be closed and detoured between Highland Road and Route 532 between the hours of 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. while PennDOT crews work to replace a pipe. Motorists are advised to allow extra travel time and seek alternate routes during this period.
- The Board of Supervisors 2024 Reorganization Meeting is on January 2, 2024 at 7:30 p.m. here at the Municipal Building.
- Township offices will be closed for the holidays on December 22, December 25 and January 1.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES AND BILLS PAYABLE

A motion was made by Mr. Thomas and seconded by Ms. Taylor to approve the December 5, 2023 meeting minutes. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

A motion was made by Mr. Weldon and seconded by Dr. Ford to approve the December 19, 2023 Bills Payable List in the amount of \$174,543.77. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

PLANNING & ZONING ISSUES

There were no Planning & Zoning issues.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

London Purchase Open Space Easement

Ms. Eberle provided background on the London Purchase/Pomerantz open space easement being donated to the Township explaining that the property owner would like to add the main tract to the current easement. The agreement memorializes and defines additional accessory dwelling units. Jeff Marshall and Ed Murphy, Esq., were present representing the Pomerantz's. Following discussion, a motion was made by Dr. Ford and seconded by Mr. Thomas to authorize execution of the conservation easement over the Pomerantz property subject to confirmation from the Solicitor that the easement contains language that would allow the insertion of a third-party holder/enforcement agent to be chosen unilaterally by the Township as it sees fit. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

ASSISTANT MANAGER'S REPORT

Fire Companies Service Agreement

Ms. Caporiccio provided an overview of the service agreement between the Township and the two fire companies servicing the Township, Upper Makefield Fire Company and Lingohocken Fire Company. The agreement formalizes the current practices relating to distribution of Township and State tax monies, support of retention programs, and encourages cooperation in planning, training and purchasing. The agreement is for a one-year term and will renew automatically for four additional one-year terms, unless terminated by written 90-day notice.

Discussion followed and a motion was made by Ms. Taylor and seconded by Mr. Weldon to approve the service agreement between the Township, Upper Makefield Fire Company and Lingohocken Fire Company subject to comments by the Township Solicitor. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Upper Makefield Fire Company Equipment Request

Ms. Caporiccio provided an overview of Upper Makefield Fire Company's request for equipment resulting from the July 15 flash flood event. Following discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Thomas and seconded by Dr. Ford to approve the following equipment requests from the Upper Makefield Fire Company:

- A military surplus cargo truck with high water rescue upgrades in the amount of \$134,750 from the Fire Fund
- A Utility All-Terrain Vehicle in the amount of \$50,817.01 from the Emergency Services Fund
- Lighting for the marine unit in the amount of \$7,800 from the Emergency Services Fund

Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Lingohocken Fire Company Equipment Request

Ms. Caporiccio provided an overview of the Lingohocken Fire Company request for \$25,450 from the Fire Fund to go toward the purchase of their new fire engine. This amount represents their percentage of the .75 mills of real estate tax from the Fire Fund. Following discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Weldon and seconded by Ms. Taylor to approve Lingohocken Fire Company's 2024 Service Agreement. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Finance Department

A motion was made by Mr. Weldon and seconded by Dr. Ford to accept the retirement of Finance Officer Sandra Wenitsky with regret, thanks and appreciation for her 30 years of dedicated service to the Township. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Finance Office Consultant Proposal

A motion was made by Dr. Ford and seconded by Mr. Thomas to accept the proposal of consultant Steven Wiesner to assist in the search for a new Finance Officer. 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:

- Investment Committee – August 17, 2023
- Traffic Advisory Committee – September 28, 2023
- Financial Advisory Committee – September 21, 2023

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

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

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Cino acknowledged that this was Dr. Ed Ford's last meeting as an elected supervisor. He was first elected as a supervisor in 1998, took a break from his elected position and began his second term as a supervisor in 2018. Mr. Cino noted Dr. Ford's volunteer assignments on the Zoning Hearing Board, Planning Commission and EAC before and between holding elected positions. He then recognized Dr. Ford's efforts toward open space preservation, riparian buffers and the Tree Fund Program, all of which contributed to the look of Upper Makefield Township today. Members of the Board thanked Dr. Ford for his service to the community.

Dr. Ford thanked the Board members and residents for their support, noting that the Board has always made good decisions because they put the residents ahead of any political agenda.

Bud Baldwin, Eagle Road, noted Dr. Ford's involvement in the creation of the Township's Open Space Program, his involvement in the first Jointure Comprehensive Plan and his dedication to the Tree Program in the Township.

Kathleen Pisauro, 5 Pine Heritage Drive, cited Dr. Ford's commitment to the Township Planning Commission, both as a member and as the Board liaison. She emphasized that his efforts were always toward what was best for the Township residents.

Harry Barfoot, 124 Beaumont Drive, reminded all of Dr. Ford's involvement in the Planning Commission and the Environmental Advisory Council and that he always expressed his appreciation for the boards and committee volunteers.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Dr. Ford and seconded by Mr. Cino to adjourn the meeting at 8:19 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



David R. Nyman
Township Manager

Approved: January 2, 2024