

## Upper Makefield Board of Supervisors March 5, 2024 Meeting Minutes

The March 5, 2024 public meeting of the Upper Makefield Township Board of Supervisors was called to order by Chair Yvette Taylor at 7:30 p.m. In attendance were the following members of the Board of Supervisors: Chair Yvette Taylor, Treasurer Braun Taylor, Member Tom Cino and Member Tim Thomas. Also in attendance were Township Manager David R. Nyman, Assistant Township Manager Judy Caporiccio, Township Solicitor Will Oetinger, Esq., Township Engineer Jacob Rigg, P.E., and Chief Schmidt. Vice Chair Ben Weldon participated by telephone.

### **CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Ms. Taylor led in the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance which was followed by a moment of silence.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Ms. Taylor made the following announcements:

- An Executive Session was held prior to this evening's meeting for legal counsel and to discuss potential land acquisition.
- Supervisor Weldon participated by telephone.
- Within the next few weeks, the Township's new Verizon Channel will be 2121 as we move to HD.
- The Delaware River Joint Toll Bridge Commission (DRJTBC) issued a public notice last week concerning potential replacement of the Washington Crossing Bridge. Copies of the press release were available. Ms. Taylor noted that the Commission's release stated that a multi-year environmental review process would occur prior to design or construction and that document analysis and public comment would be part of this process. She also noted other potential impacts on quality of life and on historic parks on both sides of the river. Ms. Taylor encouraged public input by attendance at a public meeting of the Board of Supervisors or by emailing comments to [info@uppermakefield.org](mailto:info@uppermakefield.org).

Mr. Thomas noted that the Township was not given any advanced notification of the DRJBC plans regarding the Washington Crossing bridge prior to the news release. He also announced a Trash Pickup Day in Upper Makefield on Saturday, March 23 from 9-11 a.m. Residents interested in participating, should email [tthomas@uppermakefield.org](mailto:tthomas@uppermakefield.org) to ensure enough supplies. Participants should bring their own gloves and wear boots.

Mr. Cino also shared that the Board understands the potential risks to the community and impacts on the historic nature of the community of a bridge project and noted that this is a Delaware River Joint Toll Bridge Commission project not a Township project.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Pat Fiedler, 1298 Taylorsville Road expressed concerns regarding the DRJBC proposal. He was involved in the Streetscape project in the Village and worries about the impact of increased traffic on all of those improvements and noted the possibility of a myriad of unintended consequences on the community and historic area.

Joe Linus, Traditions, also expressed concerns regarding the DRJBC proposal including increased traffic and speeds that would irreversibly change the character of the village, a place with significant historic importance. He suggested that if the bridge needs to be replaced, a pedestrian bridge should be considered. He further noted that when the Scudders Falls bridge was recently built, it was to alleviate the need for any bridge concerns up River. He encouraged swift response.

Ron Melk, Traditions, expressed concerns that a modern bridge would cause the Village to become developed in a manner similar to Mount Vernon. He listed eight current river crossings within an 18.5 mile span between Center Bridge and Morrisville, and noted the importance of preserving the history on both sides of the river.

Ron Smolow, 56 Betts Drive, expressed concern about the lack of notice to the Township or community by the DRJTBC concerning a potential bridge project, encouraged involvement of the community and local representatives, and suggested finding a balance to make improvements while preserving the community and history.

Mr. Taylor thanked all for their public comment noting that the Board appreciates their feedback and will need the help of the entire community, urging them to reach out to their State and County elected officials and attend the next DRJBC public meeting March 25<sup>th</sup>.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES AND BILLS PAYABLE**

A motion was made by Mr. Cino and seconded by Mr. Thomas to approve the February 20, 2024 meeting minutes. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

A motion was made by Mr. Thomas and seconded by Mr. Cino to approve the March 5, 2024 Bills Payable List in the amount of \$192,381.43. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

### **PLANNING & ZONING ISSUES**

There were no Planning and Zoning issues.

### **SOLICITOR'S REPORT**

#### **JMZO Ordinance No. 2024-01 – LI/O-LI Newtown Commons Overlay Zoning District**

Mr. Oetinger provided an overview of JMZO Ordinance No. 2024-01, which creates an overlay district in Newtown Township in the LI and O-LI Zoning Districts. Discussion followed and a motion was made by Mr. Cino and seconded by Mr. Taylor to support the amendment to JMZO Ordinance No. 2024-01 - LI/O-LI Newtown Commons Overlay Zoning District. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

#### **JMZO Ordinance No. 2022-04 – Expansion of Non-Conforming Structures**

Mr. Oetinger provided an overview of JMZO Ordinance No. 2022-04, which revises regulations that allow for expansion of non-conforming structures along non-conforming yards, specifically to allow only principal structures to be extended and allow for heights of structures to match requirements for the applicable zoning district. Following discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Cino and seconded by Mr. Thomas to support the amendments to JMZO Ordinance No. 2022-04. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

#### **JMZO Ordinance – Off Premises Sign**

Mr. Oetinger provided an overview of the JMZO Ordinance related to Off Premises Sign, which slightly modifies the definition of billboard signs and adds more technical requirements for their placement and use. Discussion followed and a motion was made by Mr. Cino and seconded by Mr. Thomas to approve the amendments to JMZO Ordinance regarding Off Premises Signs. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

### **MANAGER'S REPORT**

#### **Bucks County Health Department West Nile Program**

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 Mr. Cino and seconded by Mr. Thomas to authorize participation in the 2024

Bucks County Health Department West Nile Virus Program. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

**Wolfinger Subdivision Site Work Construction Escrow (Cash) Release No. 1**

Mr. Nyman provided an overview of the Wolfinger Site Work Construction Escrow (cash) Release Request and recommended approval. Discussion followed, and a motion was made by Mr. Cino and seconded by Mr. Taylor to approve the Wolfinger Subdivision Site Work Construction Escrow (cash) Release No. 1 in the amount of \$125,350.96. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.

**2007 Ford F550 Dump Truck**

Mr. Nyman reported on the bid for the sale of the 2007 Ford F550 Dump Truck, which was listed for sale on Municibid. A motion was made by Mr. Thomas and seconded by Mr. Cino to accept the bid for the sale of the 2007 Ford F550 Dump Truck to Jim Burkey for the purchase price of \$12,100.00. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.

**2024 Stone/Asphalt Bid**

Mr. Nyman provided an overview of the 2024 Stone and Asphalt Bid. Following discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Taylor and seconded by Mr. Cino to award the 2024 Stone/Asphalt Bid to Plumstead Materials, Eureka Stone Quarry, Miller Materials and M&W Precast & Construction Supply as outlined in the Matt Gorman memo dated March 1, 2024. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

**ENGINEERS REPORT**

There was no Engineer's Report.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was no public comment.

**ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made by Mr. Cino and seconded by Mr. Weldon to adjourn the meeting at 8:13 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Judy Caporiccio*

Judy Caporiccio

Assistant Township Manager

Approved: March 19, 2024