

**MINUTES OF MEETING  
MONTGOMERY TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
FEBRUARY 28, 2022**

**WORKSESSION – 6:30 p.m.**

**Introduction of Volunteer Committee Applicants**

**In attendance:** Chair Tanya Bamford, Vice Chair Candyce Fluehr Chimera, Supervisor Annette M. Long, Supervisor Beth A. Staab, Supervisor Audrey R. Ware, Township Manager, Carolyn McCreary and Recording Secretary Deborah Rivas.

The Board met individually with residents and business owners who applied to volunteer on various Township Committees and Boards. The residents introduced themselves and provided a brief summary of their background and their interest in the committee and/or board that they volunteered to serve on. The following applicants were in attendance: Claire Bruno, Kimberly Gallo, Anushk Gupta, John Jastrzembksi, Joyce Malageri, Lisa Martin, David Reick, Jr., Alicia Sasso and Joy Zwicker.

**ACTION MEETING**

**1. Call to Order:** The February 28, 2022 public meeting of the Montgomery Township Board of Supervisors was held at the Montgomery Township Municipal Building, 1001 Stump Road, Montgomeryville, PA. Chairwoman Tanya C. Bamford called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

Chair Tanya C. Bamford  
Vice Chair Candyce Fluehr Chimera  
Supervisor Annette M. Long  
Supervisor Beth A. Staab  
Supervisor Audrey R. Ware  
Township Manager, Carolyn McCreary  
Township Solicitor, Sean Kilkenny, Esq.

**ALSO, IN ATTENDANCE:**

Police Chief, J. Scott Bendig  
Director of Fire Services, William Wiegman  
Director of Finance, Brian Shapiro  
Director of Administration & HR, Ann Shade  
Director of Rec. & Community Ctr., Floyd Shaffer  
Director of Information Technology, Rich Grier  
Director of Public Works, Greg Reiff  
Public Information Coordinator, Derek Muller  
Deputy Zoning Officer Marianne McConnell  
Recording Secretary, Deborah A. Rivas

**2. Pledge of Allegiance:** Following the Pledge of Allegiance, Ms. Bamford acknowledged the passing of former Township Supervisor and longtime volunteer Richard Roller and the Citizens of Ukraine with a moment of silence.

**3. Announcements:** Ms. Bamford provided the following announcements:

- Township facilities will be receiving new LED outdoor signs, installed at the Township Administration Building, the Community and Recreation Center, Fire Battalion 1 and Fire

Battalion 2 stations. These signs will play a major role in public information, community engagement, and emergency notifications for drivers in Montgomery Township.

- Registration for the Kids University Summer Program begins online on March 17 at 10:00 a.m. This program is for ages 6-12 and offers diverse activities, trips, and guest presentations for the residents of Montgomery Township and beyond.

#### **4. Consent Agenda:**

**MOTION: Upon motion by Ms. Chimera, seconded by Ms. Long and unanimously carried, the minutes of the February 14, 2022 meeting and the Payment of Bills for February 28, 2022 were approved as presented.**

**5. Presentation:** Members of the Montgomery Township Police Department Canine Unit and members of the Montgomery County Sheriff's Bomb Squad Unit presented Officer Joe McGuigan with recognition plaques honoring the recent passing of his partner, Canine Cody.

**6. Recognition – Women's History Month (Resolution 2022-12):** Ms. Bamford announced that the Board was proud to recognize the month of March as Women's History Month in Montgomery Township by official resolution.

**MOTION: Upon motion by Ms. Bamford, seconded by Ms. Chimera and unanimously carried, the Board adopted Resolution No. 2022-12 recognizing March as Women's History Month.**

#### **Public Hearing:**

**7. Conditional Use: Caliber Car Wash, Bethlehem Pike –** Ms. McCreary reported that the applicant is the equitable owner of the 46,914 square foot property located at 739 Bethlehem Pike. The applicant proposes to demolish the existing building and construct a new 3,680 square foot one-story car wash with associated drive aisles, parking, and double-lane stacking. Ms. Bamford opened the public hearing at 7:18 p.m. Notes of testimony were taken by Court Reporter Paula Meszaro. Mr. Kilkenney introduced the exhibits into the record. Matthew McHugh, Esquire, represented the applicant, Caliber Car Wash. Witnesses included Lindsay Brehlinger, P.E. of Bohler Engineering, Matthew Hammond, P.E. of Traffic Planning and Design, and Dan Brown, Director of Development for Caliper Car Wash. Mr. McHugh outlined the project and summarized the conditions required by the Township. Mr. Kilkenney addressed the conditions including the contingency plan for car stacking concerns and overflow of traffic onto Bethlehem Pike and Horsham Road; the requirement to have three or more staff members onsite at all times; and an easement agreement entered into a form satisfactory to the Township Solicitor for providing access driveways onto Bethlehem Pike and Horsham Road as currently configured. In addition, the Board requested documentation of the historic relevance of the current site to the satisfaction of the Township Engineer. The public hearing was closed at 7:52 p.m.

**MOTION: Upon motion by Ms. Bamford, seconded by Ms. Chimera and unanimously carried, the Board approved with conditions, the Caliber Capital, LLC Conditional Use Application C-76.**

**Public Comment** – There was no public comment from the audience.

**8. Board Positions for Zoning Hearing Board Applications:** Ms. McCreary presented one application to be considered by the Zoning Hearing Board at their March meeting. The application is for 161 Canterbury Lane for a variance to construct a 4ft x 10ft front porch with roof 46 feet from the front property line where a minimum of 50 feet is required. The Board declined to intervene on this application.

**Administration and Finance:**

**9. Revision to Investment Policy for Police Pension Fund:** Mr. Shapiro reported that the Police Pension Committee met to review recommended changes to the Investment Policy Statement (IPS) with the Township's investment advisor, AndCo. The recommendation is to change the index used for comparison for the Fidelity Mid Cap Index Fund (FSMDX). The investment policy currently uses the S&P Mid Cap 400 index. The recommended index would be the Russell Mid Cap. AndCo is recommending this change because the Fidelity Mid Cap Index Fund (FSMDX) that is in the portfolio uses the Russell Mid Cap index as its benchmark.

**MOTION: Upon motion by Ms. Bamford, seconded by Ms. Chimera and unanimously carried, the Board adopted the Investment Policy for the Montgomery Township Police Pension Fund.**

**Public Safety:**

**10. Fire Department Purchase of SUV:** Chief Wiegman presented the quote for an additional SUV for the Fire Department's Command Staff. The department will be hiring a career Assistant Fire Chief/Deputy Fire Marshal/Deputy Emergency Management Coordinator in 2022. The department budgeted this purchase in the Capital Budget for 2022.

**MOTION: Upon motion by Ms. Chimera, seconded by Ms. Long and unanimously carried, the Board approved the purchase and upfit of a new 2021 Police Interceptor Utility vehicle from Fred Beans of Doylestown for the Department of Fire Services in the amount of \$54,269.97.**

**11. Gym Equipment Purchase for Battalion 1:** Chief Wiegman reported that the department intends to offer the membership the ability to engage in physical fitness training with new equipment at Battalion 1. The department budgeted \$20,000 (DFS-\$10,000 & FDMT-\$10,000) for the purchase of new workout equipment. Three bids were solicited for this purchase.

**MOTION: Upon motion by Ms. Bamford, seconded by Ms. Chimera and unanimously carried, the Board approved the purchase of new workout equipment for Battalion 1 firehouse in the amount of \$9,341.25 (DFS) from Johnson Fitness and Wellness, LLC.**

**Parks and Recreation:**

**12. Authorize Bids for Dog Park and Bocce Courts:** Ms. McCreary reported that the proposed projects which have been approved in the Capital Budget and recommended by the Park and Recreation Board were ready to be advertised for bids. The first project is the installation of two bocce courts, one at Friendship Park and the other at the Community and Recreation Center. These courts were intended to be for casual use by residents. Recently a resident contacted the Township to request that the two courts be combined into one court at the Community and Recreation Center to be used for playing leagues with amenities to include a building with bathrooms, a snack bar, a scoreboard and seating. Discussion followed. The consensus of the Board was to keep the concept as originally designed for casual play by residents at the two separate courts and to re-evaluate the use at a later time.

The proposed dog park design has three areas, a small dog area, a large dog area and rotation areas. The estimated cost is \$212,744.25. Discussion followed regarding the possibility of adding a member only option with a pass to access, along with required records of vaccination and temperament testing of dogs. These options were not previously discussed and would require additional research and staffing to accommodate. After considering the implications of adding these features, it was agreed to continue with the project as originally proposed at this time.

**MOTION: Upon motion by Ms. Bamford, seconded by Ms. Chimera and unanimously carried, the Board authorized the advertisement of the bids for the construction of the dog park and bocce courts.**

**13. Spring/Summer 2022 Programs and Fee Schedule:** Angelina Capozzi, Community and Recreation Center Program Supervisor, presented the roster of Spring/Summer 2022 Recreation/Fitness Programs and the recommended fee schedules for the various activities.

**MOTION: Upon motion by Ms. Long, seconded by Ms. Chimera and unanimously carried, the Board approved the 2022 Spring/Summer Recreation Program and Fee Schedule as submitted.**

**Public Works:**

**14. Authorize Bid for Curb Work for 2022 Road Project:**

**MOTION: Upon motion by Ms. Bamford, seconded by Ms. Long and unanimously carried, the Board authorized the advertisement of the bid for Curb and Curb Ramp Work for the 2022 Road Project utilizing PennBid.**

**Old Business:**

**15. Update on Committee Bylaws:** Ms. McCreary provided an update on the amended Committee Bylaws. The bylaws were amended so that committees could determine their own meeting days and frequency. In addition, a section was added about posting on social media, as well as using any type of logo or representation of the Township without permission. With in person committee meetings resuming in March, it is anticipated that the bylaws will be distributed to the committees for review and acknowledgement by each member. Any new members appointed this evening, will be provided a copy of the bylaws and acknowledgement form. Ms. Bamford inquired if any provisions were made for any committee members who refuse to sign that they have received, acknowledge and commit to adhering to the bylaws as outlined. Ms. McCreary indicated that staff would reach out to all members who have not signed acknowledgement forms to determine if there was an omission or oversight. If a member refuses to sign an acknowledgement, then it would be brought to the Board's attention. Mr. Kilkenny responded that a conversation should be held with any individuals refusing to sign and as this is part of the Township's policy, it may lead to the consideration of removal from a committee.

In addition, a question of free speech was brought up and Ms. McCreary explained that the bylaws are stating that you cannot make a statement officially on behalf of the Township. You can speak your mind, but you cannot make it sound like you are doing it as part of an official Township proclamation, whether it be by Committee or an employee stating they are doing it on behalf of their department. Mr. Kilkenny suggested that his office provide a primer on the Sunshine Law, things that you can and cannot do as a committee/board member. It could be a virtual presentation and less than 30 minutes so that it would be easier for volunteers to attend. Staff will work on selecting dates for this presentation to volunteer committee members.

**16. Appointment of Volunteer Committee Members:** Ms. McCreary reported that earlier this evening, the Board had the pleasure of meeting a number of residents who were interested in filling vacancies on several committees/boards. The consensus of everyone was that they were grateful that these people stepped up and they were pleased to make the appointments.

**MOTION: Upon motion by Ms. Bamford, seconded by Ms. Chimera and unanimously carried, the Board appointed the following residents to committees and boards of the Township:**

<b>Jacqui Baxter-Rollins</b>	<b>Business Development Partnership</b>	<b>Term expires 01/01/2023</b>
<b>Claire Bruno</b>	<b>Senior Committee</b>	<b>Term expires 01/01/2023</b>
<b>Kimberly Gallo</b>	<b>Autumn Festival Committee</b>	<b>Term expires 01/01/2023</b>
<b>Anushk Gupta</b>	<b>Ready for 100 Committee</b>	<b>Term expires 01/01/2023</b>
<b>John Jastzembski</b>	<b>Senior Committee</b>	<b>Term expires 01/01/2023</b>

Joyce Malageri	Senior Committee	Term expires 01/01/2023
Lisa Martin	Autumn Festival Committee	Term expires 01/01/2023
David Reick, Jr.	Senior Committee	Term expires 01/01/2023
Donald Riley, Jr.	Senior Committee	Term expires 01/01/2023
Alicia Sasso	Autumn Festival Committee	Term expires 01/01/2023
Joy Zwicker	Business Development Partnership	Term expires 01/01/2023
Joy Zwicker	Senior Committee	Term expires 01/01/2023

**In addition, the Board agreed to waive the residency requirement of Lisa Martin to serve on the Autumn Festival Committee.**

**17. Role of the Open Space Committee:** Ms. McCreary reported that the Open Space Committee last met in January 2020 for a reorganization meeting. At that meeting they welcomed Beth Staab as the Board liaison and discussed an update on the Korean War Memorial construction and the Powerline Trail Connector Phase 1 project. There is an Open Space Plan that was created in 2006. Since that time, there has been no activity either on acquiring any property or getting conservation easements on any property. There is a list of approximately 20 properties that were identified in the plan. It was suggested that the committee take a look at the list and make a determination to see if there are any remaining properties that they would prioritize. Discussion followed and it was agreed to have the committee meet.

**18. Ready for 100 Planning and Status:** Ms. McCreary stated that when the Board established the Ready for 100 Ad Hoc Committee it was to have seven residents. There are currently four members which is enough for a quorum. Ms. McCreary suggested that Ms. Staab reach out to the Sierra Club to research the toolkit that they provide. In addition, Ms. McCreary suggested that each member could be assigned the task of researching the website of one of the early implementers and report back so that a framework could be created for the committee. Ms. McCreary addressed her concern regarding the provision in the resolution which states that an energy transition plan would be drafted by May of 2022, which is not going to happen. It was suggested that the Board consider adopting a resolution revising the original one, to remove the date. The energy audit for the Township building and community center was completed and will be reviewed in the next week or two. A few dates and times will be suggested for the committee to hold its first meeting.

#### **New Business:**

**19. Department Reports:** There were no questions for the Department Heads regarding their reports for the month of January. Chief Bendig reported that the Police Department's mental health calls for service have increased 118% from the previous year. The department continues to be forward-thinking in dealing with these types of incidents, adopting several initiatives to assist those in the community struggling with mental health issues. In August of 2020, the department joined a program called the Abington HUB. The HUB is a program whereby multiple departments meet with different professionals from mental health, homelessness, victim services and family services to present cases and work through them to see if these individuals

attached to professional services can try to mitigate some of those issues and concerns. Chief Bendig was pleased to say that the North Penn area finally agreed that there was a need for this type of program here and has started the North Penn HUB. In 2021, the Bridge Program was started which is a partnership with access services in Montgomery County where twice a month Access Services will come in and sit down with members of the command staff and go over different cases where referrals have been made to Access Services for mental health treatment. The goal is to provide services on the front end before individuals start to spiral out of control when the problems get worse and involve criminal behavior. The department has also participated in the One Mind Campaign. Members of the department have attended a mental health training symposium, participated in crisis intervention and advanced crisis intervention training through the Montgomery County Mental Health Emergency Services. The department has had 22 LETI referrals, which is the highest LETI referral department in the County since the department started participating in that program.

**20. Committee Liaison Reports:** Ms. Bamford reported that the Sewer Authority biobot study is showing that the COVID cases in the Township are way down. Ms. Ware reported that the Senior Committee welcomed new residents to their meeting to talk about the committee and its goals.

**21. Adjournment:** Upon motion by Ms. Chimera and seconded by Ms. Long, the meeting was adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Deborah A. Rivas, Recording Secretary