

**MINUTES OF MEETING
MONTGOMERY TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
JULY 10, 2023**

1. Call to Order: The July 10, 2023 action meeting of the Montgomery Township Board of Supervisors was held at the Montgomery Township Municipal Building, 1001 Stump Road, Montgomeryville, PA. Chair Candyce Fluehr Chimera called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

IN ATTENDANCE:

Chair Candyce Fluehr Chimera
Supervisor Beth A. Staab
Supervisor Audrey R. Ware
Township Solicitor Sean Kilkenny, Esq.
Township Manager Carolyn McCreary

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:

Police Chief J. Scott Bendig
Fire Chief Bill Wiegman
Director of Finance Brian Shapiro
Director of Public Works Greg Reiff
Asst. Director of Planning Marianne McConnell
Director of Comm Ctr. & Recreation Floyd Shaffer
Director of Information Technology Rich Grier
Recording Secretary Deborah A. Rivas

ABSENT:

Supervisor Tanya C. Bamford
Supervisor Annette M. Long

2. & 3. Pledge of Allegiance and Announcements: Following the Pledge of Allegiance, Ms. Chimera announced that National Night Out will be held this year on Tuesday, August 1, 2023, from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at the William F. Maule Park at Windlestrae. The Junior Firefighter Academy will be held on August 17th from 9:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at Spring Valley Park. This event is for ages 11-15. Cadets must register and space is limited. Registration information can be found at montcrc.com.

4. Public Comment: Ms. Chimera called for public comment from the audience and there was none.

5. Consent Agenda:

MOTION: Upon motion by Ms. Chimera, seconded by Ms. Staab, and unanimously carried, the minutes of the June 12, 2023 Board meeting, the ratification of bills paid through July 5, 2023, and the payment of bills list dated July 10, 2023, were approved as submitted.

Recognition:

6. Retirement of Bruce Shoupe, Director of Planning and Zoning: The Board recognized Bruce Shoupe on his retirement as the Director of Planning and Zoning. Mr. Shoupe will officially retire on July 12, 2023. He was hired on October 16, 2006 and oversaw the operations of the department, steering a number of significant land development projects in the Township.

MOTION: Upon motion by Ms. Chimera, seconded by Ms. Staab, and unanimously carried, the Board approved Resolution 2023-11, commending Bruce Shoupe on his

retirement and thanking him for his 16 years of service and dedication to Montgomery Township.

7. Retirement of Police Canine Odin: Chief Bendig announced that earlier this year, Canine Odin retired after eight years of service to the Montgomery Township Police Department. Odin entered service in 2016, serving as a dual-purpose canine, specializing in both patrol work and drug detection. During his career, Canine Odin and his handler, Officer Dan Rose, responded to over 550 calls for service. This team also competed yearly in the United States Police Canine Association Police field trials and served with distinction as a unit for Montgomery County SWAT-Central Region.

MOTION: Upon motion by Ms. Chimera, seconded by Ms. Ware, and unanimously carried, the Board recognized Canine Odin for his eight years of service to the Police Department and the citizens of Montgomery Township.

8. Partnership TMA 30th Anniversary – Jacqui Baxter-Collins, Executive Director for the Partnership TMA of Montgomery County, stated that the Partnership TMA is the local transportation management association for the region and this year they are celebrating their 30th anniversary. As a local non-profit agency based here in the Township, they have enjoyed a long collaboration with Montgomery Township, which was one of the first members, having joined in 1994. Ms. McCreary currently serves as a member of their Board of Directors and Ms. Baxter-Collins serves on the Township's Business Development Partnership. Ms. Baxter-Collins thanked the Board for their ongoing support of the partnership and presented a plaque recognizing the Township's membership for the past 29 years.

9. Parks and Recreation Professionals Day: Ms. McCreary announced that Montgomery Township is proud of its beautiful parks and its recreational opportunities for our residents, visitors, and guests. The hard work that goes into providing these amenities which enhance our community can often go unnoticed. We are fortunate to have a group of dedicated employees working diligently to bring recreational activities for all ages including those held at the Community and Recreation Center, Kids University, and Autumn Festival.

MOTION: Upon motion by Ms. Chimera, seconded by Ms. Ware, and unanimously carried, the Board approved Resolution 2023-12, proclaiming July 21, 2023, as Pennsylvania Park and Recreation Professionals Day.

Presentation:

10. Parks and Recreation Board – Future Parks Projects: Park Board members Jeremy Dombrowski, Lynne Reamer, and Moira Giordano presented their recommendations for a future capital park project. The Park Board is proposing to utilize the vacant Windlestrae House which is in the William F. Maule Park section of Windlestrae Park. The group is interested in using the building for art, music, cultural and educational programs, as an extension of the programming that occurs at the Community and Recreation Center. In addition, the exterior of the house could

be used for nature awareness programs and education on the many different species of plants and animals that are native to the park. It was acknowledged that the house needs significant work and the Park Board asked for the Board's approval to have a feasibility study done to determine what would be needed to make the house usable. The Board was favorable to the project. Ms. McCreary said that the Township could obtain a proposal to do a feasibility study and based on the cost and availability of funds, with Board approval, it could be done this year, or the study would be budgeted for next year.

Public Safety:

11. Painting of the Exterior of Battalion 1 and 2 Firehouses: Chief Wiegman reported that the cost for the painting of the exteriors of Battalion 1 and 2 was allocated in the 2023 Capital Investment Plan. Three quotes were obtained from local painting companies and the lowest quote was from Quaker City Painting in the amount of \$8,007.50. The painting of the firehouses will occur over the summer of 2023.

MOTION: Upon motion by Ms. Chimera, seconded by Ms. Staab, and unanimously carried, the Board authorized the painting of the exterior of the Battalion 1 and Battalion 2 firehouses for \$8,007.50 per the quote provided by Quaker City Painting.

12. Sidewalk and Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacon Installation on Stump Road: Ms. McCreary reported that as part of the Township's continuing efforts to promote walkability, staff has identified a gap along Stump Road and is seeking the Board's consensus to include this in the Capital Investment Plan. The project would involve installing a sidewalk on Stump Road beginning across from the Village Shopping Center to ultimately connect to the Community and Recreation Center. The proposal also includes the installation of a rectangular rapid flashing beacon (RRFB) at the crosswalk in front of the shopping center. Ms. McCreary stated that if the Board was in favor of the project, staff and consultants will determine a cost estimate and investigate grant opportunities. The board consensus was in favor of pursuing the project for next year.

Planning:

13. Review of Zoning Hearing Board Applications: Ms. McConnell identified the pending hearings before the August 2, 2023 Zoning Hearing Board. Application 23070001 is for Edwin & Daria Leshner at 100 Auburn Circle for a variance to install a six-foot solid fence in a desired location just inside the property line where a minimum of 15 feet is required. Application #23070002 – is for Tony and Anh Moawad at 102 Potters Way for a variance to install a bilco door 9 feet from the side property line where a minimum of 15 feet is required.

Board consensus was not to enter an appearance for the applications, allowing the Zoning Hearing Board to render decisions based on the testimony presented.

Administration and Finance:

14a. Ratification of Real Estate Tax Appeal Settlement – 544 Dekalb Pike: Mr. Shapiro reported that in 2020, the owners of the property at 544 Dekalb Pike filed an assessment appeal. The assessed value of the property is \$7,457,590. The proposed settlement negotiated between the School District and the Taxpayer resulted in the Township issuing a refund of \$7,586.49 (\$1,747.02 for tax year 2021, \$2,919.52 for tax year 2022, and \$2,919.95 for tax year 2023).

MOTION: Upon motion by Ms. Chimera, seconded by Ms. Ware, and unanimously carried, the Board approved the stipulated settlement for 544 Dekalb Pike, and authorize the Township Solicitor to execute the document on behalf of the Township.

14b. Ratification of Real Estate Tax Appeal Settlement – 1200 Welsh Road: Mr. Shapiro reported that the North Penn School District filed an appeal against the property owners of 1200 Welsh Road, owned by Brotherhood LP, which is a McDonald's restaurant. The assessed value of the property is \$555,790. Based upon the applicable Common Level Ratio, the assessed value would become \$831,720.00, increasing the assessed value. Based on the proposed settlement, the property owner would owe the Township \$1,374.14 (\$687.07 for tax year 2022 and \$687.07 for tax year 2023).

MOTION: Upon motion by Ms. Chimera, seconded by Ms. Staab, and unanimously carried, the Board approved the stipulated settlement for 1200 Welsh Road, and authorize the Township Solicitor to execute the document on behalf of the Township.

15. Award of Bids for Municibid Online Surplus Asset Sale: Mr. Shapiro reported that the bids for the authorized sale of Township surplus assets through the online auction Municibid have been completed and tabulated. The Township will receive \$9,900.00 for the sale of surplus assets.

MOTION: Upon motion by Ms. Chimera, seconded by Ms. Staab and unanimously carried, the Board authorized the sale of the 2016 Ford Explorer Police Interceptor Utility vehicle to Christian Porras for \$7,100 and the sale of the 2014 Dodge Charger Pursuit to Anthony Malin for \$2,800.00.

Public Works:

15. Award of Contract for the Richardson Road Culvert Replacement: Mr. Reiff reported that bids were received and opened utilizing PennBid on June 19, 2023. Gilmore and Associates, the Township Engineer reviewed the six (6) bids ranging from \$285,247.92 to \$369,642.00 and recommended the award of the bid to Fedele Contractors, the lowest responsible bidder with a bid of \$285,247.92. Under public comment, Christine Tumpak of 100 County Line Road, inquired if there was a start date for this project. Mr. Reiff stated that once the contractor is notified of the award for the project, staff and consultants will meet to discuss the project timeline.

MOTION: Upon motion by Ms. Chimera, seconded by Ms. Staab, and unanimously carried, the Board awarded the contract for the Richardson Road Culvert Replacement to Fedele Contractors, Inc. the lowest responsible bidder, in the amount of \$285,247.92 per the recommendation of Gilmore & Associates, Township Engineer.

Old Business: None.

New Business: Ms. Staab announced that the Bharatiya Temple will be hosting an Indian Festival with over 4,000 attendees expected. There is a two-day event during the festival on Saturday and Sunday, September 23 and 24 and Ms. Staab would like the Township to have a table at the festival. Volunteers and employees could volunteer to staff the table over the two-day event. Ms. Staab will obtain more information.

14. Adjournment: Upon motion by Ms. Chimera and seconded by Ms. Staab, the meeting was adjourned at 7:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Deborah A. Rivas, Recording Secretary