

**MINUTES OF MEETING
MONTGOMERY TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
OCTOBER 9, 2023**

1. Call to Order: The October 9, 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 7:01 p.m.

IN ATTENDANCE:

Chair Candyce Fluehr Chimera
Supervisor Tanya C. Bamford
Supervisor Annette M. Long
Supervisor Beth A. Staab
Supervisor Audrey R. Ware
Township Solicitor John Walko, 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
Director of Planning & Zoning, Marianne McConnell
Director of Information Technology, Rich Grier
Recording Secretary, Deborah Rivas

2. & 3. Pledge of Allegiance and Announcements: Following the Pledge of Allegiance, Ms. Chimera asked for a moment of silence in recognition of the unrest in the Middle East and the hope for peace.

Ms. Chimera announced that the Township's 21st annual Autumn Festival community event will be held on Saturday, October 14, 2023, from 12 p.m. to 5 p.m. with fireworks to follow at approximately 7 p.m. at the William F. Maule Park at Windlestrae

4. Public Comment: Ms. Chimera called for public comment. Bryan Eppinger of 106 Stump Road asked for help from the Township to enforce the laws regarding the neighbor at 108 Stump Road. Mr. Eppinger stated that the home was purchased a few years ago by an investor, and it is now leased to a landscaper, who is operating a full-scale landscaping business out of the home in an R2 District.

5. Announcement of Executive Session – Township Solicitor John Walko, Esquire, announced that the Board of Supervisors met in Executive Session at 6:30 p.m. in the Township building earlier this evening to discuss personnel matters. Mr. Walko stated that the topics discussed are legitimate subjects of an Executive Session under the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania's Sunshine Law.

6. Consent Agenda:

MOTION: Upon motion by Ms. Chimera, seconded by Ms. Long, and unanimously carried (5-0), the minutes of the September 26, 2023 Board meeting, the payment of bills for October 9, 2023, and an Escrow Release #2 for Higher Rock Residential Development were approved as submitted.

7. Presentation of Donations: Ms. Chimera presented a check in the amount of \$10,000 to the Montgomery County-Norristown Public Library. Karen DeAngelo, Executive Director and District

Administrator was present to accept the donation. Ms. Chimera also presented a check in the amount of \$10,000 to the North Wales Public Library. Jayne Blackledge, Director, was present to accept the donation.

Administration and Finance:

8. Municipal Contribution to Support EMS Services: Ms. McCreary reported that VMSC Chief Shane Wheeler had previously updated the Board on the operations of the VMSC as well as their initiatives. In 2022, the Board authorized a \$100,000 contribution for the VMSC as part of the 2023 budget. Staff is seeking the Board's consensus about the level of funding and source of funding for 2024. Discussion followed. The Board's consensus was to continue the \$100,000 contribution for the 2024 budget.

9. Ratification of Real Estate Tax Appeal Settlement – 125 Witchwood Drive: Mr. Shapiro reported that the taxpayer filed an appeal for the property at 125 Witchwood Drive for the 2023 tax year. The Board of Assessment Appeals issued a Notice of No Change in Assessment in October 2023. The Taxpayer filed an appeal to the Court of Common Pleas. The North Penn School District negotiated a settlement with the taxpayer, resulting in a decrease of the assessed value to \$1,058,500. For 2023, the assessed value will become \$5,742,000.00. Based on the proposed settlement, the Township will need to issue a refund of \$2,635.67 for tax year 2023.

MOTION: Upon motion by Ms. Chimera, seconded by Ms. Long, and unanimously carried (5-0), the Board approved the stipulated settlement for 125 Witchwood Drive and authorized the Township Solicitor to execute the document on behalf of the Township.

Public Safety:

10. Recognize Fire Prevention Week: Chief Wiegman reported that Fire Prevention Week has been recognized since 1922. In 1925, President Calvin Coolidge proclaimed Fire Prevention Week a national observance, making it the longest-running public health observance in our country. This year's theme is "Cooking safety starts with YOU! Pay attention to fire prevention." The Department of Fire Services and the F.D.M.T. will be engaging in various fire prevention activities throughout the month to bring the message of fire safety to our community. These events include school presentations, fire inspections, business staff training, and other activities.

MOTION: Upon motion by Ms. Chimera, seconded by Ms. Bamford and unanimously carried (5-0), the Board recognized Fire Prevention Week from October 8th to October 14th, 2023.

Public Works:

11. Rock Salt Purchase – 2023-2024 Montgomery County Consortium Contract – Mr. Reiff reported that the Township participates in the Montgomery County Consortium Cooperative Rock Salt Contract administered by the Borough of Hatfield. The bidding process has been completed

for the purchase of bulk rock salt for the 2023-2024 winter season and has awarded the contract to Morton Salt, Inc. at a price of \$64.84 per ton delivered.

MOTION: Upon motion by Ms. Chimera, seconded by Ms. Long and unanimously carried (5-0), the Board approved the Township's participation in the Montgomery County Consortium Cooperative Rock Salt Contract, awarded to Morton Salt, Inc. for the purchase of bulk rock salt at a price of \$64.84 per ton delivered.

12. Contract Award for Basketball Court Improvements at Fellowship Park - Mr. Reiff reported that Township Engineer Gilmore & Associates reviewed the three bids received for this project, ranging from \$109,819.00 to \$144,714.50 and is recommending award of the bid to TOPACOURT, LLC, the lowest responsible bidder with a bid of \$109,819.00.

MOTION: Upon motion by Ms. Chimera, seconded by Ms. Bamford and unanimously carried (5-0), the Board awarded the contract for the basketball court improvements at Fellowship Park to TOPACOURT, LLC, the lowest responsible bidder, in the amount of \$109,819.00 per the recommendation of Gilmore & Associates, Township Engineer.

Planning and Zoning:

13. Review of Zoning Hearing Board Applications – Ms. McConnell identified the pending hearings before the November 1, 2023 Zoning Hearing Board. Application 23100001 is for ESW America at 200 Progress Drive for relief to install a 7,000-gallon above-ground diesel fuel tank within the side yard of the property adjacent to 213/215 Keystone Drive. Application #23100002 – is for Mitzvah Circle Foundation at 435 Doylestown Road for Special Exception to permit the change in non-conforming use and Variances to permit signage for the organization.

Board consensus was to enter an appearance and send the Township Solicitor to oppose Application 23100001 for ESW America, and not to enter an appearance for the 23100002 application, allowing the Zoning Hearing Board to a render decision based on the testimony presented.

14. Adjournment: Upon motion by Ms. Chimera and seconded by Ms. Long, the meeting was adjourned at 7:34 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Deborah A. Rivas, Recording Secretary