

**MINUTES OF MEETING
MONTGOMERY TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
APRIL 25, 2024**

1. Call to Order: The April 25, 2024 action meeting of the Montgomery Township Board of Supervisors was held at the Montgomery Township Municipal Building, 1001 Stump Road, Montgomeryville, PA. Vice Chairwoman Audrey R. Ware called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

IN ATTENDANCE:

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

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:

Police Chief J. Scott Bendig
Fire Chief William Wiegman
Director of Finance Brian Shapiro
Director of Planning & Zoning Marianne McConnell
Director of Public Works Greg Reiff
Director of Rec & Community Ctr. Floyd Shaffer
Director of IT Richard Grier
Public Information Coordinator Derek Muller
Recording Secretary Deborah Rivas

ABSENT:

Chair Candyce Fluehr Chimera

2. & 3. Pledge of Allegiance and Announcements: Following the Pledge of Allegiance, Ms. Ware made the following announcements:

- The Township has received the Government Finance Officers Association's (GFOA) Award for Outstanding Achievement in Popular Annual Financial Reporting for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2022.
- Congratulations to Vicki Souder, our Silver Sneakers instructor at the Montgomery Township Community and Recreation Center, for winning the 2024 SilverSneakers Instructor of the Year award!
- Thank you to everyone who brought their electronics to our E-Recycling Event last Saturday. Together we recycled 16,886 pounds of electronic waste.
- Reminder of upcoming events: Saturday, April 27, 2024, 9am to Noon, Arbor Day Tree Giveaway in Honor of Roy Rodriguez and Friday, May 24, 2024, Stars, Stripes and Remembrance.

4. Recognition: Retirement of Officer Rob Johnson: Chief Bendig reported that on April 14, 2024, Officer Robert Johnson retired from the Montgomery Township Police Department after thirty-seven years of service to our community. Rob Johnson began his service in Montgomery Township on November 4, 1988, as a police dispatcher. On July 28, 1989, he was sworn in as an officer with the Police Department. He has served in various roles during his tenure, including officer-in-charge, field training officer, bicycle patrol officer, and DARE instructor. He will be most known for his work as the department's Community Policing liaison, coordinating a litany of events for the department, including the Junior Police Academy, Citizens Police Academy, National Night Out, and the annual Halloween Candy giveaway. His skillset and dedication will be sorely missed. State Representative Steve Malagari presented a Citation from the PA House of Representatives and a Citation from the PA State Senate for PA Senator Maria Collett. Towamencin Township Police Chief

Tim Troxel presented a plaque on behalf of the PAL Organization, stating that Officer Johnson was instrumental in moving the organization forward in the regional area.

MOTION: Upon motion by Ms. Ware, seconded by Ms. Long, and unanimously carried (4-0), the Board recognized Officer Rob Johnson's retirement and expressed their deep gratitude to him for his dedication and faithful service to the Montgomery Township Police Department and the Montgomery Township community.

5. Public Comment: There was no public comment.

6. Consent Agenda:

MOTION: Upon motion by Ms. Ware, seconded by Ms. Staab, and unanimously carried (4-0), the minutes of the April 8, 2024 Board meeting and the payment of bills totaling \$243,103.33 for April 25, 2024, were approved as submitted.

Planning and Zoning:

7. Public Hearing: Conditional Use Airport Square, LLC (Panera Bread Restaurant with Drive-Thru: Ms. Ware opened the public hearing at 7:25 p.m. by motion, seconded by Ms. Long. Notes of testimony were taken by Court Reporter Ed McKenna. Andrew Freimuth, Esquire, represented the applicant, RE Plus Airport Square, LLC c/o Wilder Companies, Ltd., who is proposing to construct a new Panera Bread restaurant with a drive-through on a pad site within the Airport Square Shopping Center located at 801 Bethlehem Pike. The applicants propose a 4,300-square-foot restaurant with a 556-square-foot outdoor patio area, drive-through, bypass lanes, and associated parking and landscaping. Expert witnesses were Ronald Klos, PE, and Paul Wodzanowski, VP of Operations for Panera Bread. Township Solicitor Sean Kilkenny, Esquire, introduced the Township exhibits into the record. Township staff, consultants, and the County have had the opportunity to review the details of the proposed plan, and the corresponding review letters are included as exhibits. Board members were pleased to see the sidewalk connections proposed in the site plan and suggested additional sidewalk considerations along Bethlehem Pike. The hearing closed at 8:00 p.m.

MOTION: Upon motion by Ms. Ware, seconded by Ms. Staab, and unanimously carried (4-0), the Board approved the Conditional Use Application to construct a new Panera Bread restaurant with drive-through on a pad site within the Airport Square Shopping Center located at 801 Bethlehem Pike according to the exhibits and conditions presented and agreed to at the hearing by the witnesses, and that the applicant comply with all applicable laws and ordinances of the state, local and federal government.

Items 8 and 9 have been rescheduled at the request of the applicants.

10. Waiver of Fees – Mary, Mother of the Redeemer Church:

MOTION: Upon motion by Ms. Ware, seconded by Ms. Long, and unanimously carried (4-0), the Board waived the fees associated with the permits for the Mary, Mother of the Redeemer Church annual summer festival.

11. Review of Zoning Hearing Board Application: Ms. McConnell identified the pending hearing application received for the May 1, 2024 Zoning Hearing Board meeting. Application 24040001 is for The Venue at Montgomery, Inc., 230 Montgomery Mall, 804 Bethlehem Pike for an expansion of the use variance granted pursuant to Section 230-94A of the Code of Montgomery Township to permit bartender dispensed client supplied alcoholic beverages. The applicants were previously granted a use variance to allow their proposed indoor recreation/amusement venue space.

The Board deliberated considerably on this application. Ms. Bamford and Ms. Staab supported the application. Ms. Ware and Ms. Long opted to remain neutral and allow the Zoning Hearing Board to decide based on the testimony presented.

With the Board split on their decision, the default course of action is to remain neutral and allow the Zoning Hearing Board to render a decision based on the testimony presented.

12. Arbor Day for Tree City USA Application:

MOTION: Upon motion by Ms. Bamford, seconded by Ms. Ware, and unanimously carried (4-0), the Board of Supervisors proclaimed Saturday, April 27, 2024, as Arbor Day in Montgomery Township.

Parks and Recreation:

13. Design of New Bark Park Sign: Mr. Reiff reported that the 2024 Budget included a sign for the new Montgomery Township Bark Park located at 1101 Knapp Road. Three proposed designs were provided by the Display & Sign Center. The Park Board made a recommendation for design "A." Discussion followed.

MOTION: Upon motion by Ms. Ware, seconded by Ms. Bamford, and unanimously carried (4-0), the Board approved design choice "A" for the new Montgomery Township Bark Park sign.

14. Authorize Advertisement of Bid for Gymnasium Floor Replacement: Mr. Shaffer reported that the Community and Recreation Center (CRC) is approaching its ninth year in operation. The Township contracted with D'Huy engineering to evaluate the building and develop a plan for future expenditures. The gymnasium floor has had issues since the building's opening. Staff propose to work with D'Huy Engineering to specify details of the replacement of the gym floor

and the drafting of a bid document. The project, included in the 2024 capital budget, is at an estimated cost of \$225,000.00.

MOTION: Upon motion by Ms. Bamford, seconded by Ms. Long and unanimously carried (4-0), the Board authorized the preparation and advertisement of the bid on PENNBID for the replacement of the gymnasium floor at the Community and Recreation Center.

Public Works:

15. Authorization of Advertisement of Traffic Signal Preemption Project – Horsham and County Line Roads: Mr. Reiff reported that upgrades to the traffic signal preemption systems, which would convert them from the current less reliable audible system to the more reliable optical system for the safety of emergency responders (Police, Fire, and Ambulance) and motoring public when responding to emergency calls, are being proposed. This multiphase/year project will begin with upgrading several intersections along the Route 463 (Horsham Road) corridor and the County Line Road corridor. Competitive bids will be solicited utilizing the PennBid website.

MOTION: Upon motion by Ms. Long, seconded by Ms. Staab and unanimously carried (4-0) the Board authorized the advertisement of the bid for the upgrades to the traffic signal preemption systems utilizing PennBid.

Administration and Finance:

16. Authorize Sale of Municipal Equipment by Online Auction:

MOTION: Upon motion by Ms. Ware, seconded by Ms. Long, and unanimously carried (4-0), the Board authorized the sale of the following equipment through the online auction company Municibid:

1. 10' foot snow plow
2. 202 Jacobsen HR 9016
3. 2003 Smithco Super Rake
4. 2005 Chevy Tahoe (VIN 1GNEK13V95J242484)
5. 2012 Kubota ZD 331
6. 2016 Kubota ZD 1211
7. 2017 Kubota ZD 1511
8. Assorted Motorola Radios
9. Oil Fluid System - 60 Gallon oil containment system with rack and pump
10. Microsoft Surface Pro i5-7300U @ 2.6GHz (qty. 2)
11. Microsoft Surface Pro i7-1065G7 @ 1.3GHz
12. Microsoft Surface Pro i5-1035G4 @1.1GHz
13. Dell Laptop Latitude E6420
14. Dell Laptop Latitude E6430
15. Dell Laptop Inspiron 7437
16. Dell Laptop precision 7510
17. Cisco 2960X, Network Switch (qty. 2)

New Business:

17. Department Reports - Monthly reports were submitted by each department for activity in March. Chief Shane Wheeler of the VMSC will be providing a report to the Board next month.

18. Committee Liaison Reports – No reports.

19. Adjournment: Upon motion by Ms. Ware and seconded by Ms. Bamford, the meeting was adjourned at 8:36 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Deborah A. Rivas, Recording Secretary