

**MINUTES OF MEETING
MONTGOMERY TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
APRIL 28, 2025**

1. Call to Order: The April 28, 2025 action meeting of the Montgomery Township Board of Supervisors was held at the Montgomery Township Municipal Building, 1001 Stump Road, Montgomeryville, PA. Chairwoman Audrey R. Ware-Jones called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

IN ATTENDANCE:

Chairwoman Audrey R. Ware-Jones
Vice-Chair Annette M. Long
Supervisor Tanya C. Bamford
Supervisor Candyce Fluehr Chimera
Supervisor Beth A. Staab
Township Solicitor John Walko, Esq.
Carolyn McCreary, Township Manager

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:

Police Chief William Peoples
Fire Chief William Wiegman
Director of Planning & Zoning Marianne McConnell
Public Works Director Greg Reiff
Director of IT Richard Grier
Recording Secretary Deborah A. Rivas

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

- There will be a free community event on May 3 from 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the Jaisohn Community Wellness Plaza located at 1180 Welsh Road, North Wales, PA, celebrating Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) Heritage Month. The event includes a resource fair featuring vendors from the region's health and human services sectors; health screenings, including checks for blood pressure, diabetes, and cholesterol; cultural performances from local AAPI groups; food and family-friendly games; and children's activities.
- Heroes Next Door – The YouTube Channel, Heroes Next Door, recently highlighted our police and fire departments. The programs take an inside look at our first responders and how they operate on a daily basis. Visit their YouTube channel or click on the link from Friday's E-News newsletter.

4. Public Comment: Ms. Ware-Jones called for public comment and there was none.

5. Consent Agenda:

MOTION: Upon motion by Ms. Ware-Jones, seconded by Ms. Chimera, and unanimously carried (5-0), the minutes of the April 14, 2025 Board meeting and the Payment of Bills for April 28, 2025, in the amount of \$444,052.28 were approved as submitted.

Presentation:

6. VMSC EMS Operations Update: Chief Shane Wheeler updated the Board on the VMSC operations. Chief Wheeler outlined the top five call types, with Sick Person and Falls in the top two. Chief Wheeler stated that there is a significant need to decrease the number of falls happening to seniors in the community. Chief Wheeler also announced some new initiatives, including cutting-edge equipment, advanced treatment protocols, and the ability to have blood on board a special vehicle. The VMSC is also helping Chester County get its EMS up and running in light of the recent hospital closures. Chief Wheeler thanked the Board of Supervisors for their generous support.

Planning and Zoning:

7. Arbor Day Proclamation:

MOTION: Upon motion by Ms. Ware-Jones, seconded by Ms. Chimera, and unanimously carried (5-0), the Board proclaimed Saturday, April 26, 2025 as Arbor Day in Montgomery Township; and urged all citizens to support efforts to protect our trees and woodlands, and further urged all citizens to plant trees to gladden the heart and promote the well-being of this and future generations.

Public Works:

8. Award Bid for North Wales Road/Harbob Lane Traffic Signal Project:

MOTION: Upon motion by Ms. Ware-Jones, seconded by Ms. Long, and unanimously carried (5-0), the Board awarded the contract for the Traffic Signal Modernization at the intersection of North Wales Road and Harbob Lane to Armour & Sons Electric, Inc., the lowest responsible bidder, in the amount of \$629,470.55 per the recommendation of Gilmore & Associates, Township Engineer.

9. Purchase of Removable Woodchipper Box:

MOTION: Upon motion by Ms. Ware-Jones, seconded by Ms. Long, and unanimously carried (5-0), the Board approved the purchase of one (1) Removable Woodchipper Box from Craftweld Fabrication Co., Inc., at a total cost of \$8,240.00 per their quote dated April 8, 2025.

10. Purchase of Replacement Peterbilt Six-Wheel Dump Truck:

MOTION: Upon motion by Ms. Ware-Jones, seconded by Ms. Chimera, and unanimously carried (5-0), the Board awarded the contract for the purchase of one (1) Peterbilt Dump Truck to G.L. Sayre, Inc., an authorized vendor under the Co-Stars Cooperative Purchase Program, at a total cost of \$158,601.00 per their quote dated January 10, 2025.

MOTION: Upon motion by Ms. Ware-Jones, seconded by Ms. Long, and unanimously carried (5-0), the Board awarded the contract for the purchase and installation of one (1) dump body and salt spreader to J&J Truck Bodies & Trailers, an authorized vendor under the Co-Stars Cooperative Purchase Program, at a total cost of \$97,360.00 per their quote dated March 10, 2025.

MOTION: Upon motion by Ms. Ware-Jones, seconded by Ms. Staab, and unanimously carried (5-0), the Board awarded the contract for the purchase of one (1) snowplow to DeJana Truck and Utility Equipment, an authorized vendor under the Co-Stars Cooperative Purchase Program, at a total cost of \$31,814.00 per their quote dated March 5, 2025.

Administration and Finance:

11. Authorize Advertisement of Police Pension Plan Ordinance Amendment: Ms. McCreary reported that while reviewing the Police Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA) with the plan actuary, it was discovered that a change to the Police Pension Plan had not been incorporated into the plan document. To do so, the Board of Supervisors must make the change with an ordinance amendment. This will ensure that the plan document mirrors the CBA. The changes eliminate the service increment for officers hired after January 1, 2021, and add an early retirement benefit for those officers with twenty or more years of service who terminate their employment before their normal retirement date. Normal retirement under Act 600 is age 50 with 25 years of service.

MOTION: Upon motion by Ms. Ware-Jones, seconded by Ms. Long and unanimously carried (5-0), the Board authorized the advertisement of the proposed ordinance amendment to eliminate the service increment for new hires after 01/01/21 and add an early retirement benefit.

12. Amendment to ARPA Funds Allocation: Ms. McCreary reported that in 2021 and 2022, the Township received \$2,742,894.57 in ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) monies. In 2022, the Treasury released a Final Rule regarding how municipalities that received \$10 million or less in ARPA funding can utilize the replacement of lost public sector revenue provisions. The Final Rule allows recipients to select between a standard amount of revenue loss or complete a full revenue loss calculation. Recipients who select the standard allowance may use that amount for government services. In the 2021 and 2022 reporting filing, the Township preserved its right to choose these provisions and specifically cited stormwater projects. In light of the above, the Township does not have to specifically identify projects and can choose to utilize these funds as permitted in the Final Rule. Ms. McCreary recommends that the Board remove the stormwater reference and allow the Township to utilize the lost public sector revenue provision.

MOTION: Upon motion by Ms. Ware-Jones, seconded by Ms. Bamford and unanimously carried (5-0), the Board adopted the lost public sector revenue provision for the use of the American Rescue Plan Act funds as permitted by the U.S. Treasury Department.

Information Technology:

13. Authorization to Purchase MONTCRC Access Control/CCTV: Mr. Grier reported that \$100,000 was included in the 2025 budget for Recreation Center security upgrades. A quote from CM3 Building Solutions (Costars #040-E25-284), dated April 23, 2025, totals \$108,000 and covers comprehensive access control and video surveillance improvements. The upgrades include migrating the existing security systems to the Avigilon Cloud platform, replacing outdated access control hardware with multi-technology readers, and installing new 4K and multi-sensor Avigilon cameras throughout the facility. The project will also include programming, training, and a system-wide cutover.

MOTION: Upon motion by Ms. Ware-Jones, seconded by Ms. Chimera, and unanimously carried (5-0), the Board awarded the contract for the Recreation Center Security Upgrade to CM3 Building Solutions under the Co-Stars Cooperative Purchase Program at a total cost of \$108,000, per their proposal.

New Business:

14. Department Reports: Monthly reports were submitted by each department for activity in the month of March. Chief Wiegman provided an update on fire services. As mentioned, the fire company continues struggling to recruit and maintain volunteers. Chief Wiegman has been working to craft a plan to create a 24/7 career staff, supplemented by volunteers. The plan would include 24-hour shifts, with four platoons of 6 firefighters. This would require the hiring of 19 new firefighters. This summer, the Township has hired an intern to assist fire and human resources in laying out a plan for hiring paid firefighters. Battalion One will require renovations to modify the bunk rooms and office spaces. Currently, the station is not in compliance with NFPA, due to the proximity of bunks and office space to the engine bay, although they have taken steps to mitigate carcinogens in the air. Chief Wiegman is preparing a feasibility study for the fire station. Mr. Bamford stated that she understands the need to add additional firefighters, but 19 full-time employees is a big jump, as well as renovating facilities. Ms. Bamford inquired about costs, and Chief Wiegman stated that they are currently being reviewed and should be available in June.

15. Manager's Report: Ms. McCreary reported that the second annual Staff Professional Development Day was held on Thursday, April 24, 2025. The theme was Talkin' Bout My Generation: *How We Get Along and Get the Work Done*. There were excellent guest speakers, and a panel of employees representing all five generations in our workforce who answered questions about their personal experiences based on generational moments.

The Community and Recreation Center gym floor is now completed, and the gym has reopened.

The Penn Medicine work site continues, as drilling for the geothermal well system has begun, and crews will be on-site daily to meet permit requirements and complete inspections. The installation of the water loop around the property is now underway. North Wales Water Authority and a third-party firm, Pennoni, are both on-site each day to ensure the work is done properly and safely. Pennoni is also performing compaction testing during backfilling. Additionally, in response to residents' concerns about speeding on Dekalb Pike, the Highway Safety Unit will have a directed speed enforcement detail in this area. Officer Jenkins has requested PennDOT to conduct a speed study since this is a state road.

In response to the discussion concerning the traffic calming measures on Grays Lane, and after discussions with staff, it was recommended to keep the installation of the chicanes in place for a minimum of six months, allowing the public time to adjust to it and for our Highway Safety Unit and Traffic Engineers to monitor the speed in the area to determine the effectiveness of this traffic calming measure. Engage an independent traffic engineer to analyze the entirety of Grays Lane to determine if any additional measures are warranted, and the Highway Safety Unit will conduct directed speed enforcement in this area.

The Board commented that they generally preferred to give it time to see if it is working, because they have concerns about public safety. A study of the road showed that within two weeks of being installed, the speed had gone down. The Board also preferred to have an independent traffic engineer analyze the entirety of Grays Lane to see if any additional or alternative measures were warranted. Ms. Chimera reported that she made phone calls, and five residents said that there has been no improvement, with cars flying down the center of the road. Ms. Chimera proposed that the Board instruct staff to take it out.

Under public comment, the following residents spoke: Dave Sherman of 103 Forest Trail, Catherine Staudt of 107 Cove Circle, and Heather Sand of 115 Cove Circle. Residents' concerns included communication and involving the community, drivers going straight and speeding, property values, safety of bike riders and dog walkers, the fire truck going straight through, and generally, it is not working; cars are still speeding.

After considerable discussion, a suggestion was made to keep it in place until another solution was found. Still, in the end, the Board agreed to remove the chicanes and delineators as soon as possible, have the independent traffic study, and have the Police Department enforce the speed limit with traffic citations.

16. Committee Board Liaison Reports: Ms. Long reported that the gym floor replacement at the Community and Recreation Center is completed, and the craft fair was well received. There was no Public Safety Committee meeting last month. Ms. Chimera reported that there was no Planning Commission meeting and Shade Tree Commission discussed the Arbor Day event. Ms. Bamford reported that the Park Board continued the discussion on the farmhouse renovation. The historical society provided a history of the property and ownership of the parcel. The Sewer Authority will be holding a ribbon cutting ceremony when the Rose Twig park bathroom is

complete. The Sewer Authority Board also toured the water treatment plant. Ms. Staab announced that the Environmental Advisory Committee screened a production of Kiss the Ground, a movie about regenerative farming on April 22, Earth Day. The electronic recycling event went very well on Saturday, April 19, 2025. This year over 25,000 pounds of electronics were recycled. The Business Development Partnership will be creating Welcome Baskets for new businesses in the Township and will host a networking event on September 24, 2025 at Mark's Jewelers. Ms. Ware-Jones reported that the Senior Committee wrapped up its planning for the 2025 free seminars and began discussions for 2026. The Senior Committee also discussed The Wall That Heals event.

17. Adjournment: Upon motion by Ms. Ware-Jones and seconded by Ms. Staab, the meeting was adjourned at 8:57 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Deborah A. Rivas, Recording Secretary