

**MINUTES OF MEETING
MONTGOMERY TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
APRIL 27, 2020**

At 7:00 p.m., Chair Tanya C. Bamford called to order the virtual action meeting, which was held remotely by a live-stream event due to the current COVID-19 pandemic and social distancing requirements. The public and all interested parties were invited to view and participate in the meeting via a web link that was accessible on the Township's website and social media pages.

IN ATTENDANCE:

Chair Tanya C. Bamford
Vice Chair Matthew W. Quigg
Supervisor Candyce Fluehr Chimera
Supervisor Annette M. Long
Supervisor Beth A. Staab
Township Manager Carolyn McCreary
Township Solicitor Robert J. Iannozzi, Esquire

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:

Police Chief J. Scott Bendig
Director of Finance Brian Shapiro
Director of Fire Services William Wiegman
Director of Admin & HR Ann M. Shade
Director of Planning & Zoning Bruce Shoupe
Director of Public Works Kevin Costello
Director of Recreation & CRC Floyd Shaffer
Director of Information Technology Rich Grier
Public Information Coordinator Kelsey Whalen
Recording Secretary Deborah A. Rivas

Chair Tanya C. Bamford thanked the residents of the Township for their patience as the Board of Supervisors works to keep the meetings transparent for everyone. Ms. Bamford stated that thoughts are with our residents who are battling the COVID-19 virus at this time. The Township has a page on its website, www.montgomerytwp.org, dedicated to providing information and resources during this time.

Chair Tanya C. Bamford also provided information on the PA Primary Election date change to June 2, 2020 with applications for mail-in ballots available at www.votespa.com; Township committees will be holding virtual meetings during the month of May; residents should complete the 2020 Census if they have not done so at www.my2020census.gov; Governor Wolf announced that PA Golf Courses will be open on May 1st; and on behalf of the Board, Ms. Bamford thanked all frontline COVID-19 participants, first responders, healthcare workers, essential workers. The Township is grateful to all.

Following the Pledge of Allegiance and roll call, Recording Secretary Deborah Rivas announced that the Township Spring Leaf and Yard Waste Curbside pickup had been rescheduled for four consecutive days beginning on Monday, May 18th through Thursday, May 21st. Residents should place their leaf and yard waste in biodegradable bags curbside by the evening of May 17th.

Chair Tanya C. Bamford called for public comment from the audience, which was available by previously submitted email questions and a live chat during the meeting. There was no public comment.

Chair Tanya C. Bamford announced that the Board had met in an executive session prior to this meeting at 3:30 p.m. by conference call to discuss three personnel matters. Ms. Bamford stated that these matters are all legitimate subjects of executive session pursuant to Pennsylvania's Sunshine Law.

Chair Tanya C. Bamford made a motion to approve the minutes of the April 13, 2020 Board of Supervisors meeting and Supervisor Candyce Fluehr Chimera seconded the motion. The minutes of the meeting were unanimously approved as submitted.

Director of Planning and Zoning Bruce Shoupe reported that the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has requested to install new monitoring groundwater sampling wells for the North Penn Area No. 5. The EPA proposes to use 10 parking spaces to store their equipment in an enclosed fenced in area for approximately 3 months beginning of May through end of July at Whistlestop Park. Mr. Shoupe indicated that the Township would place the information on all media outlets to educate residents about the activity that will occur. Resolution #20-84 made by Chair Tanya C. Bamford, seconded by Vice Chair Matthew W. Quigg and adopted unanimously, approved the consent for access agreement with the US EPA.

Director of Planning and Zoning Bruce Shoupe reported that during the redevelopment of the 309 AMC Movie Theater property located in Horsham Township, Goodman Properties, the owner of the shopping center, made modifications to the traffic signal. The modifications made do not meet PennDOT standards and unfortunately, the modifications were not submitted to PennDOT for approval. Montgomery Township shares this traffic signal with Lower Gwynedd Township and has the lead responsibility for its upkeep and maintenance. Due to this situation, the current traffic signal permit is out of compliance. The Township is requesting its consultant, Traffic Planning and Design (TPD) to amend the plans and submit for an updated permit. However, TPD is also the developer's consultant for work outside of Montgomery Township. Staff is requesting the Board of Supervisors waive any conflict for the Traffic Engineer to perform this work. Resolution #20-85 made by Chair Tanya C. Bamford, seconded by Supervisor Candyce Fluehr Chimera and adopted unanimously, approved the waiver of conflict for TPD to submit the traffic signal modifications to PennDOT for approval.

Director of Public Works Kevin Costello reported that the Township Traffic Engineer, along with staff, has updated the Traffic Signal Specifications for the Township. The purpose of the update is to provide design engineers and qualified traffic signal contractors with the general requirements for installation of traffic signals and flashing warning devices in Montgomery Township. The majority of changes reflect the rapidly changing technology and to maintain compliance with the PennDOT regulations. Resolution #20-86 made by Chair Tanya C. Bamford, seconded by Supervisor Annette M. Long and adopted unanimously, approved the updated Traffic Signal Specifications dated February 2020.

Township Manager Carolyn McCreary reported that every three years, Montgomery County is required to identify municipalities that wish to participate in the County's Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program. The purpose of this process is to establish the Urban County's population base in order to calculate the amount of funding the County will receive from the US Department of Housing and Urban Development. By participating in the County program, the Township would compete for CDBG grant funding with other communities and non-profit organizations within Montgomery County. The Township has participated in this program since its inception in the late 1970s. Resolution #20-87 made by Chair Tanya C. Bamford, seconded by Supervisor Candyce Fluehr Chimera and adopted unanimously, authorized the Township to continue in this program for the periods of 2021-2023 inclusive.

A motion to approve the payment of bills was made by Chair Tanya C. Bamford, seconded by Vice Chair Matthew W. Quigg, and adopted unanimously, approving the ratification of the payment of bills as submitted for April 27, 2020.

Township Manager Carolyn McCreary reported that the Township Departments submitted monthly reports for the month of March in the meeting packet. Director of Fire Services Bill Wiegman provided a brief summary of recent COVID-19 activities in the Township. Mr. Wiegman reported that the department has been reaching out to the various long-term care facilities, grocery stores, Costco, BJ's and other such businesses for needs assessment and support on a weekly basis since March 17, 2020. The department was able to procure masks for one long-term care facility that was running low on supplies. Mr. Wiegman stated that all facilities are now reporting that they have proper equipment and are following the CDC guidelines.

Under other business, several Board members mentioned resources that are open and available to residents who may be experiencing difficult circumstances at home during this time, including domestic violence advocates and child advocacy groups, such as the Laurel House, the Montgomery Child Advocacy Project and the Montgomery County Courthouse, which is open for protection from abuse orders and other urgent matters.

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Deborah A. Rivas, Recording Secretary