

**MINUTES OF MEETING
MONTGOMERY TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
NOVEMBER 23, 2020**

At 6:15 p.m., Chair Tanya C. Bamford called to order the Executive Session at the Montgomery Township Municipal Building, 1001 Stump Road, Montgomeryville, PA. In attendance were Vice Chair Matthew W. Quigg, Supervisors Candyce Fluehr Chimera, Annette M. Long and Beth A. Staab. Also in attendance was Township Manager Carolyn McCreary and Township Solicitor Sean Kilkenny, Esquire.

At 7:00 p.m., Chair Tanya C. Bamford called to order the action meeting at the Montgomery Township Municipal Building, 1001 Stump Road, Montgomeryville, PA.

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 Sean Kilkenny, Esq.

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:

Police Chief J. Scott Bendig
Director of Admin & HR Ann M. Shade
Director of Fire Services Bill Wiegman
Director of IT Rich Grier
Director of Planning & Zoning Bruce Shoupe
Director of Finance Brian S. Shapiro
Director of Recreation Floyd Shaffer
Director of Public Works Kevin Costello
Recording Secretary Deborah A. Rivas

Following the Pledge of Allegiance, Chair Matthew W. Quigg called for public comment from the audience.

Under public comment, Louis Greenfield of 101 Destiny Way, submitted a petition signed by 30 neighbors asking the Board of Supervisors to petition the U.S. Postal Service to keep the mailbox served by these residents in the current temporary location at Primrose Court and Enclave Boulevard rather than move it to the final proposed, but unsafe location. The Board directed staff to contact the U.S. Postal Service to inquire about this matter.

Also under public comment, Raj Thota of 213 Harley Court, stated that he was having an issue with his neighbor parking his vehicle in front of Mr. Thota's home causing him to be unable to exit his driveway safely. Mr. Thota stated that he had contacted the Police Department about this matter but was told that unless there was a No Parking sign posted, vehicles are able to park anywhere in the vicinity. Chief J. Scott Bendig discussed the matter with Mr. Thota outside of the meeting room.

Under announcements, Chair Tanya Bamford reported that former Township Solicitor Frank R. Bartle had passed away the evening prior and expressed the Board's condolences to Mr. Bartle's family and the staff of Dischell, Bartle and Dooley. Supervisor Candyce Fluehr Chimera stated that she had known Mr. Bartle for many years and that he will be missed tremendously. Township

Solicitor Sean Kilkenny said that Mr. Bartle was a mentor to him and they became good friends over the years and that Mr. Bartle was well known as one of the best municipal lawyers in the County.

Chair Tanya C. Bamford also announced that the Township building was serving as a drop off location for the Toys for Tots program, as well as the Lt. Patty Simons Annual Food Drive. In addition, the fall curbside leaf and yard waste collection is scheduled for Saturday, December 12, 2020.

Township Solicitor Sean Kilkenny, Esquire, announced that the Board met in an executive session earlier this evening at 6:15 p.m. to discuss one litigation matter and two personnel matters. Mr. Kilkenny stated that these matters are legitimate subjects of executive session pursuant to Pennsylvania's Sunshine Law.

Supervisor Annette M. Long made a motion to approve the minutes of the November 9, 2020 Board of Supervisors meeting as submitted, and Supervisor Candyce Fluehr Chimera seconded the motion. The minutes of the meeting were approved by a vote of 4 to 0, with Chair Tanya C. Bamford abstaining as she was not present at the November 9, 2020 meeting.

Director of Information Technology Richard Grier introduced new employee, Favian Zendejas Ruiz, who began his employment with the Township on November 16, 2020 as an IT Support Technician in the Information Technology Department. Resolution #20-179 made by Supervisor Annette M. Long, seconded by Supervisor Beth A. Staab and adopted unanimously, welcomed Favian Zendejas Ruiz to Montgomery Township.

Planning & Zoning

Resolution #20-180 motioned by Supervisor Candyce Fluehr Chimera, seconded by Vice Chair Matthew W. Quigg and adopted unanimously, authorized a construction escrow release in the amount of \$34,016.00 as recommended by the Township Engineer for the M.L. Holmes project at 911 Lansdale Avenue.

Fire Services

Director of Fire Services William Wiegman reported that this year the PA Office of State Fire Commissioner offered a COVID-19 Supplemental Grant to assist in the recovery efforts from the pandemic. The Department of Fire Services and the Fire Department of Montgomery Township applied for the supplemental grant in July. The DFS was awarded \$24,931.00 and the FDMT was awarded \$25,342.00. This funding will be used to purchase equipment and supplement COVID - 19 related expenditures.

Additionally, the DFS applied for the Montgomery County ACT 147 Funding for county emergency radio infrastructure upgrades at the Battalion 1 firehouse in the event the training room would be utilized as an Emergency Operations Center. The county awarded the DFS \$1,600.00 to assist in the funding of the upgrades. Resolution #20-181 made by Chair Tanya C. Bamford, seconded

by Supervisor Annette M. Long and adopted unanimously, approved the acceptance of the grants.

Director of Fire Services William Wiegman reported that PA legislation requires that political subdivisions of the Commonwealth establish a local emergency management organization. This organization is tasked with the responsibilities to prepare, maintain, and keep current an Emergency Operations Plan (EOP). The Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency (PEMA) suggests that the EOP be updated at least every two years. The plan was last updated in July 2018 and is now updated with personnel and contact information changes. An official Promulgation Form must be approved and signed. Resolution #20-182 made by Vice Chair Matthew W. Quigg, seconded by Supervisor Annette M. Long and adopted unanimously, promulgated the Montgomery Township Emergency Operations Plan dated November 23, 2020.

Public Hearing

At 7:22 p.m. Chairman Tanya C. Bamford opened the Public Hearing for a Conditional Use Application for TNT Volleyball, Inc. Notes of testimony were taken by Court Reporter Tim Kurek. The applicant proposes to rent 10,000 sf of warehouse space at 1050 Bethlehem Pike for their volleyball club formed in 2016 for members between the ages of 12 and 18. Director of Planning and Zoning Bruce Shoupe summarized the proposal and introduced Matt McHugh, Esquire, who represented the applicant, TNT Volleyball, Inc. After his presentation, Mr. McHugh stated that the use is permitted as a conditional use for that location. Supervisor Candyce Fluehr Chimera reported that the Planning Commission was very concerned about the amount of parking that would be required should there be a tournament. It was agreed that a stipulation of the approval would be to require offsite parking should a tournament be scheduled. There was no public comment. Resolution #20-183 made by Vice Chair Matthew W. Quigg, seconded by Supervisor Candyce Fluehr Chimera and adopted unanimously, approved the Conditional Use Application for TNT Volleyball Inc.

Administration

Township Manager Carolyn McCreary reported that the Delaware Valley Health Trust Executive Committee recently reviewed and discussed renewal rates for 2021. Recognizing the impact COVID-19 has had on municipalities' revenues, the Committee approved an addendum to provide additional relief to its members. The addendum will provide an additional \$108,604 in rate relief to the Township and result in a rate increase in 2022 being capped at 6.5%. There is no rate increase for 2021. Resolution #20-184 made by Vice Chair Matthew W. Quigg, seconded by Supervisor Candyce Fluehr Chimera and adopted unanimously, approved the addendum.

Township Manager Carolyn McCreary reported that an agreement has been reached between Montgomery Township and the Montgomery Township Professional Firefighters IAFF Local 4890 for a new collective bargaining agreement. The current contract expired on 12/31/19. The new agreement is for four years and includes a market adjustment of the hourly rates in the first year, followed by wage increases of 2.5%, 2.5% and 3%. Additionally, the Township will pay for one (1) hour per day for any day an employee is designated to be on-call for Fire Marshall services, and contribute \$2,600 annually to each full-time members' 457 plan. Resolution #20-185 made by

Supervisor Candyce Fluehr Chimera, seconded by Vice Chair Matthew W. Quigg, and adopted unanimously, approved the Collective Bargaining Agreement as presented.

Township Manager Carolyn McCreary reported that staff has prepared a list of Township records which may be disposed of in accordance with the provisions of the Municipals Records Act. The Board of Supervisors must approve each act of disposition by resolution. Resolution #20-186 made by Chair Tanya C. Bamford, seconded by Supervisor Annette M. Long and adopted unanimously, authorized the disposal of non-permanent Township Records.

A motion to approve the payment of bills was made by Chair Tanya C. Bamford, seconded by Supervisor Candyce Fluehr Chimera, and adopted unanimously, approving the payment of bills as submitted for November 23, 2020.

New Business

Under discussion items, Township Manager Carolyn McCreary reported that the Township currently has two dumpsters located in the parking lot of the Township building which are available for residents to bring their cardboard for recycling. Staff has seen a significant increase in the usage of the dumpsters and the Township is receiving notices from the trash hauler about the containers being overfilled. It recently came to staff's attention that residents with businesses outside of the Township are using these dumpsters for their commercial use. Staff is seeking consensus from the Board to permit staff to monitor the situation in the next few weeks and determine if these dumpsters should be removed altogether as residents are able to recycle cardboard with their curbside recycling collection. Discussion followed. It was agreed to increase the pickup of the dumpsters to twice per week, place new signage at the dumpsters regarding their use and monitor the situation at this time.

Chair Tanya C. Bamford requested that the Board consider some type of recognition program for Township businesses who are continuing to follow best practices to mitigate the spread of COVID-19. She indicated that she wanted to make it a positive reinforcement for the many businesses in the Township. Discussion followed. Social media was suggested as a way to solicit nominations, but Supervisor Beth A. Staab cautioned that a social media platform might invite some people to call out other businesses for negative practices. It was suggested to start with one business per month and then an expansion could be considered if there was interest. Township Solicitor Sean Kilkenny mentioned the Lansdale Borough Business of the Month program. Another suggestion was to have nominations sent to a specific email address. Chair Bamford suggested that staff come up with a recognition program and suggestions for how to solicit for recommendations.

Township Manager Carolyn McCreary reported that staff is seeking direction from the Board as to how to proceed with the proposed Powerline Trail Connector based on the information provided this evening relating to the engineering costs for the project. Options include moving forward with the CLOMR study required by FEMA, looking at alternatives to the trail location, and investigating other/additional funding opportunities. Discussion followed and it was agreed to continue moving forward with the CLOMR study.

Chair Tanya C. Bamford reported that the Township Departments submitted monthly reports for the month of October in the meeting packet and asked the Board if there were any questions with regard to the reports. Supervisor Candyce Fluehr Chimera reported that the Planning Commission discussed the TNT Volleyball Conditional Use Application and specifically the parking issue. Supervisor Annette M. Long said the Finance Committee discussed the final Budget and the Public Safety Committee discussed police department activity. Supervisor Beth A. Staab stated that the Shade Tree Commission and the Environmental Advisory Committee (EAC) did not meet this month. Vice Chair Matthew W. Quigg stated that the Park and Recreation Board discussed the new Bocce Ball Courts. Chair Tanya C. Bamford mentioned the Sewer Authority's BioBot Study and that the current results show an uptick in COVID cases in the Township. The Board reminded residents to stay safe.

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 8:22 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Deborah A. Rivas, Recording Secretary