

**MINUTES OF MEETING
MONTGOMERY TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
DECEMBER 14, 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 Annette M. Long
Supervisor Beth A. Staab
Township Manager Carolyn McCreary
Township Solicitor Sean Kilkenny, Esquire

ABSENT:

Supervisor Candyce Fluehr Chimera

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:

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

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 submitted.

Following the Pledge of Allegiance and roll call, Chair Tanya C. Bamford announced that Santa is scheduled to ride through the Township with members of the Fire Department on Saturday, December 19, beginning around noontime. Ms. Bamford also announced that the Township will be seeking nominations for a weekly "Shout-Out" to businesses and residents in the Township who continue to do their part in helping our community be safe in the midst of this continuing pandemic.

Township Solicitor Sean Kilkenny, Esquire announced that the Board had met in an executive session virtually via TEAMS on Thursday, December 10 at 2:00 p.m. to discuss a potential litigation matter. The Board also met virtually via TEAMS in an Executive Session at 6:15 p.m. this evening to discuss three personnel matters. Mr. Kilkenny 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 November 23, 2020 Board of Supervisors meeting and Supervisor Annette M. Long seconded the motion. The minutes of the meeting were unanimously approved as submitted.

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 December 14, 2020.

Chief of Police J. Scott Bendig introduced Ms. Jennifer Graham, Executive Director of the Delaware Valley Chapter of the American Red Cross, who presented lifesaving awards to the following individuals: Jessie Ordillas, Samantha Yuen, Sergeant Thomas Ward, Officer Matthew Seydel, Deputy Chief Lori Dusza, Paramedic Jeff Owler, and EMT Marie Eckman. These heroes saved an individual who suffered sudden cardiac arrest while swimming in a local community pool.

Chair Tanya C. Bamford announced that the Board wished to recognize and commend Montgomery Township residents Lisa and Michael Wasserman, owners of the Delaware Valley Dance Academy (DVDA). Chair Bamford stated that the Wassermans have done an excellent job in adapting their dance studio around the pandemic to protect their pupils and staff, while also keeping their business afloat during a really challenging time. Resolution #20-187 made by Tanya C. Bamford, seconded by Supervisor Beth A. Staab and adopted unanimously, recognized and commended the Wassermans.

Chair Tanya C. Bamford recognized the retirement of Director of Public Works Kevin Costello and congratulated him on his 40 years of service to Montgomery Township. Mr. Costello started as a part-time employee in 1978, taking a full-time position as a Laborer in 1980, promoted to Park Foreman in 1993, Assistant Public Works Director in 1996 and Public Works Director on January 1, 2000. Mr. Costello served as the Director of Public Works for the last 20 years during a time of dramatic growth in the Township. Resolution #20-188 made by Chair Tanya C. Bamford, seconded by Supervisor Annette M. Long and adopted unanimously, recognized and commended Kevin Costello on his retirement from Montgomery Township.

Township Manager Carolyn McCreary reported that an executed agreement was reached with the Police Officers' Collective Bargaining Unit. The current contract expires on December 31, 2020. The new agreement is for three (3) years and includes wage increases of 3.25% each year. Resolution #20-189 made by Chair Tanya C. Bamford, seconded by Supervisor Beth A. Staab and adopted unanimously, approved the Collective Bargaining Agreement with the Montgomery Township Police Officers' Collective Bargaining Unit.

Director of Finance Brian Shapiro reported that the Township had originally issued G.O. Bonds, Series of 2013, in the principal amount of \$8,745,000 with the purpose to construct the Community and Recreation Center. In 2016, the Township refinanced the remaining principal amount of \$8,140,000. The Series of 2016 Bonds can be refinanced in December 2021. With rates at an historic low, the Township contacted the Delaware Valley Regional Finance Authority who are able to fix interest rates now for a closing date in 2021. This allows for the refunding of the loan and a closing on December 1, 2021 with the Township locking in at a lower interest rate now. With the quoted interest rate of 1.36%, the Township will save approximately \$1.4 million dollars from 2022 until 2043. Resolution #20-190 made by Chair Tanya C. Bamford, seconded by Vice Chair Matthew W. Quigg and adopted unanimously, approved Ordinance #20-317, authorizing the refinancing of a General Obligation Bond with Delaware Valley Regional Financing Authority.

Township Manager Carolyn McCreary reported that the 2021 Budget was presented and discussed with the Board of Supervisors at work sessions held in October. The Board approved the preliminary budget at the November 9, 2020 Board meeting and the budget has been available for public inspection at the Township building and on the Township website. Resolution #20-191 made

by Chair Tanya C. Bamford, seconded by Vice Chair Matthew W. Quigg unanimously adopted the 2021 Budget as presented.

Resolution #20-192 made by Chair Tanya C. Bamford, seconded by Supervisor Annette M. Long and adopted unanimously, established the real estate tax millage (1.49 mills) and homestead exclusion (\$30,000.00) for 2021.

Resolution #20-193 made by Chair Tanya C. Bamford, seconded by Vice Chair Matthew W. Quigg and adopted unanimously, approved the 2021 Montgomery Township Municipal Sewer Authority Budget.

Resolution #20-194 made by Chair Tanya C. Bamford, seconded by Supervisor Beth A. Staab and adopted unanimously, approved the Montgomery Township Municipal Sewer Authority 2020 Tapping Fee Agreements.

Director of Fire Services William Wiegman reported that during a preconstruction meeting at the Spartan/Smeal factory, the Tower Ladder Replacement Committee made several changes to the new ladder to enhance the capabilities of the new apparatus. These necessary changes resulted in additional costs. Resolution #20-195 made by Chair Tanya C. Bamford, second by Vice Chair Matthew W. Quigg and adopted unanimously, approved the change order in the amount of \$51,981.00 for the purchase of a Spartan/Smeal Tower 100' Mid Mount Tower Ladder from Campbell Supply Company for the projected total cost of \$1,386,851.00.

Township Manager Carolyn McCreary reported that the Board authorized the sale of Township surplus assets through the online auction company Municibid. The bidding process has completed and the following equipment has been authorized to be sold to the highest bidder. Resolution #20-196 made by Chair Tanya C. Bamford, seconded by Vice Chair Matthew W. Quigg and adopted unanimously, authorized the sale of: 1989 International Dump Truck to Chris Allen - \$4,500.00; 1994 Hallmark Trailer to Nick Kaufman - \$1,650.00; 2006 Chevy Impala to Sefik Romanic - \$1,852.00; 1990 20 Ton Trailer to Leah Geesey - \$4,370.00; Coats Tire changer to Antonino Musso - \$1,050.00; 2007 Dodge Caravan to Riley Collins - \$1,100.00; Karcher Pressure Washer to Nick Stonerod - \$575.00; 1999 Alamo Flail Mower to Anthony Hollinger - \$1,200.00; Onan Generator #1 to Tom Trenwith - \$267.00; Onan Generator #2 to Aboubacar Toure - \$250.00; Onan Generator #3 to Kevin Carney - \$390.00; and Onan Generator #4 to Kevin Carney - \$465.00.

Resolution #20-197 made by Chair Tanya C. Bamford, seconded by Supervisor Beth A. Staab and adopted unanimously, approved construction escrow release #1 for PEMV Partners, LP for 1274 Welsh Road in the amount of \$100,373.79.

Resolution #20-198 made by Chair Tanya C. Bamford, seconded by Supervisor Beth A. Staab and adopted by a vote of 3 to 0, with Vice Chair Matthew W. Quigg abstaining, approved the construction escrow release #2 for Mary, Mother of the Redeemer, for 1325 Upper State Road in the amount of \$3,000.00.

Director of Recreation and Community Center Floyd Shaffer presented the proposed Winter 2021 Recreation/Fitness Programs and the recommended fees for the various activities. Resolution #20-

199 made by Chair Tanya C. Bamford, seconded by Vice Chair Matthew W. Quigg and adopted unanimously, approved the Winter 2021 Recreation Programs and fees.

Township Manager Carolyn McCreary reported that recently the Township became aware that Maryanne Mogensen, a long time member of the Fire Department of Montgomery Township is seriously ill. Ms. Mogensen and her family have been described as “an essential part of the fabric of the department” having been with the department since its inception. With this in mind, the Board of Supervisors wishes to make a donation to the Mogensen family to assist them at this difficult time. Resolution #20-200 made by Chair Tanya C. Bamford, seconded by Supervisor Beth A. Staab and adopted unanimously, approved a donation of \$3,000 to the Mogensen family.

Township Manager Carolyn McCreary reported that the Township Departments submitted monthly reports for the month of November in the meeting packet. There were no questions or concerns and the Board thanked the department heads for their outstanding work this year.

Chair Tanya C. Bamford asked the Board members to provide updates on any committee activities during the past month. Supervisors Beth A. Staab reported that the Environmental Advisory Committee met informally on a virtual call and discussed ideas for future projects. Supervisor Annette M. Long stated that the Public Safety Committee did not meet in December and that the Finance Committee discussed the budget wrap up for 2021. Vice Chair Matthew W. Quigg stated that his committees did not meet in November. Chair Tanya C. Bamford stated that the Sewer Authority met and discussed promoting the insurance program offering that has been sent out to residents regarding insurance to cover for repairs on the laterals. Many resident are not sure if the offer is a legitimate one and it is. The Sewer Authority is continuing to participate in the bio bot study, which measures the amount of COVID-19 virus that is present in our sewer system. The last 30 days show a sharp increase in the presence of COVID-19 in the system.

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 8:04 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Deborah A. Rivas, Recording Secretary