

**MINUTES OF MEETING
MONTGOMERY TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
APRIL 26, 2021**

1. Call to Order: The April 26, 2021 action meeting of the Montgomery Township Board of Supervisors was held at the Montgomery Township Municipal Building, 1001 Stump Road, Montgomeryville, PA. Chair Tanya C. Bamford called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

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 Finance Brian Shapiro
Director of Fire Services William Wiegman
Director of Public Works Greg Reiff
Director of Planning & Zoning Bruce Shoupe
Public Information Coordinator Derek Muller
Jr. Systems Administrator Wesley Whitaker
Recording Secretary Deborah A. Rivas

2. Pledge of Allegiance: Prior to the Pledge of Allegiance, Ms. Bamford requested a moment of silence to honor the passing of Fire Department of Montgomery Township Fire Police Officer Maryanne Mogensen. Ms. Bamford read the following statement:

“Fire Police Officer Maryanne Mogensen passed away earlier this morning surrounded by her husband of 40 years, John Mogensen and her children Paul and Katie. Maryanne began her fire service career as a fire police officer with the Colmar Volunteer Fire Company. After ten years of service with the Colmar Fire Company, Maryanne and her family joined the newly formed Fire Department of Montgomery Township where she was both a life and charter member. In her time with the FDMT, Maryanne responded to over 1,725 calls for service. Maryanne met John on a fire alarm at the Marshall’s store where she was employed and remained employed until the fall of 2020. Maryanne and her family are part of the very fabric of the FDMT.

Maryanne began her battle against cancer in November. John and the family would like to express their sincerest appreciation to the Board of Supervisors and Township Staff for their support through this difficult time.”

4. Announcements: Ms. Bamford announced that Montgomery Township Police Chief J. Scott Bendig has recently begun his term as the President of the Police Chiefs Association of Montgomery County. Chief Bendig has served on the Executive Board for the last four years. The Board congratulated Chief Bendig on this honor and for his leadership, dedication to the profession and commitment to ensuring the health, safety, and welfare of our community.

Ms. Bamford also announced that Township Manager Carolyn McCreary was invited to speak at Villanova University earlier this month by the ICMA Student Chapter as the Wolek Honorary Distinguished Leader for their Spring 2021 speaker series. Carolyn was asked to speak about public service leadership traits that will be critical in a post-COVID world, and her evolving role

as township manager during the pandemic, including the greatest challenges faced and greatest lessons.

Ms. Bamford also announced that Montgomery Township was awarded First Place in the 53rd Annual PA State Association of Township Supervisors (PSATS) Citizen Communication Contest in the category of Audiovisual Communications. This distinction was for the two virtual townhall meetings held in the Summer of 2020 regarding COVID-19 and police use of force.

Lastly, Ms. Bamford read a statement regarding a COVID-19 Update and Vaccination Site Announcement. The statement read as follows:

“As we are concluding our 14th month of operations during a global pandemic, I wanted to provide a status report on COVID-related issues, including cases and deaths, some alarming news about the presence of a new variant, as well as an update on vaccine availability here in the township.

To date, 1,455 Montgomery Township residents have tested positive for COVID-19. Sadly, we lost another one of our neighbors to this disease in the last 30 days. This brings our death total to 43. On behalf of my fellow board members and our staff, I want to express our sincere condolences to those families who have lost loved ones to coronavirus.

We have been monitoring the presence of the virus not only through Montgomery County, but also through ongoing analysis of our wastewater provided by the Montgomery Township Municipal Sewer Authority. According to the latest Biobot Analytics report, our COVID numbers are creeping back up and the virus is spreading at a rate of up to 5 new cases per day. The increases are attributed to viral spread from small group gatherings indoors during the recent holidays. This recent uptick is of particular concern because the British variant of the virus has now been detected in our wastewater. As this virus strain is significantly more contagious, we want to impress upon everyone in the community that they need to continue to be vigilant about adhering to CDC guidelines for face coverings, social distancing, and avoiding group gatherings indoors without masks—particularly with people who have yet to be vaccinated. The good news is that all available vaccines have proven effective at protecting against the British strain, and now that registration for the vaccine is open to everyone ages 16 and older, we strongly encourage everyone get vaccinated who is eligible.

On the topic of vaccinations, I have encouraging news to share about vaccine availability here in the township. We were not at liberty to discuss this at our last meeting, but Montgomery Township has been working for the last several months with Montgomery County to prepare the former Sears location at the Montgomery Mall as a vaccine distribution site. I am pleased to announce that the mall site will open on May 3rd. If you have not already registered, I encourage you all to visit MontCoPA.org to register, and when you are notified of an appointment availability, you will be able to select the Montgomery Mall as the location for your appointment. We are excited about hosting this mass vaccination site in the township for a variety of reasons. First and foremost, the Montgomery Mall site will provide convenient access to these lifesaving vaccines for all who reside and work within the township. Beyond convenient access, this site will bring thousands of consumers to our mall on a weekly basis, which we anticipate will have a positive economic impact for our community at a time when it is so clearly needed.

Our top priorities are the continued safety and well-being of the members of our community. This is why we have been utilizing our Community and Recreation Center to conduct life-saving blood drives with The American Red Cross. It is why we have conducted virtual town halls, produced

public service announcements, and have been proactively sharing COVID-related updates like this one about the virus spread, testing, safety protocols, vaccination registration and much more. And it is why Montgomery Township has been communicating with private pharmacies about conducting vaccination clinics at our Community and Recreation Center. The situation remains fluid, with the availability of vaccine doses, as well as demand, fluctuating from day to day. As such, no plans have been finalized for a clinic at that location. Regardless of where clinics are held within our township, our board and staff remain committed to ensuring the safety and well-being of our community by contributing to COVID-19 vaccination efforts. As we have done consistently since the outset of the pandemic 14 months ago, we will continue to provide you with updates as more information becomes available.”

4. Public Comment – There was no public comment from the audience.

5. Announcement of Executive Session – Township Solicitor Sean Kilkenny, Esquire, announced that the Board of Supervisors met in an Executive Session prior to this public meeting at 6:45 p.m. to discuss one personnel matter and one matter of potential litigation. Mr. Kilkenny stated that the topics discussed are legitimate subjects of an Executive Session pursuant to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania’s Sunshine Law.

6. Consent Agenda: Ms. Staab requested a change to the minutes from the April 12, 2021 Board meeting. She asked that the Board’s response be included with the public comment made by Mr. Schurr at the April 12, 2021 meeting.

MOTION: Upon motion by Ms. Bamford, seconded by Ms. Chimera and unanimously carried, the minutes of the April 12, 2021 meeting as revised, and the Bills List dated April 12, 2021 were approved as presented.

7. Welcome to New Employee, Chris Cardamone: Mr. Reiff introduced Chris Cardamone who has started his employment with Montgomery Township as a Laborer in the Public Works Department. Mr. Cardamone brings a wide range of experience in operating equipment, lawncare/landscaping and construction, which will prove to be an asset to the department and Township.

MOTION: Upon motion by Ms. Bamford, seconded by Ms. Chimera and unanimously carried, the Board welcomed Chris Cardamone as a Laborer in the Public Works Department effective April 12, 2021.

Planning & Zoning:

8. Adoption of Ordinance #21-319 – Mobile Food Vendors – Mr. Shoupe stated that the purpose of the ordinance is to regulate operation of mobile food vendors and establish reasonable guidelines and regulations, as well as provide locations where mobile food vendors can operate within the Township.

MOTION: Upon motion by Ms. Bamford, seconded by Ms. Long and unanimously carried, the Board approved Ordinance #21-319 – Mobile Food Vendors.

9. Financial Security Release – Korean War Memorial and America-Korea Alliance Peace Park:

MOTION: Upon motion by Ms. Bamford, seconded by Ms. Staab, with Ms. Long abstaining and a 4 – 0 vote, the Board approved the release of the remaining \$5,000 of the financial security posted to ensure completion of the Korean War Memorial and America-Korea Alliance Peace Plaza.

10. Board Positions for Zoning Hearing Board Applications: Mr. Shoupe presented the one application to be considered by the Zoning Hearing Board at their May meeting. The one application is for 21 Douglas Road for a pool. The Board declined to intervene on the application.

11. Discussion: Higher Rock Proposed Residential Development: Mr. Shoupe reported that the Higher Rock Development has a vacant parcel located at the top of the wall behind the Wawa. Jim Kahn, one of the principals of the Higher Rock Development Group would like to present a proposal, which is not presently permitted under the zoning ordinance, for the Board's consideration and feedback. Mr. Kahn introduced Chris Canavan from WB Homes, George Hartman from Bohler Engineering and Greg Richardson from Traffic Planning and Design. Mr. Kahn stated that they would like to make a presentation and seek the Board's support for a reuse of the 4.7-acre property, known as the hill behind the Wawa. The intention was to use this property for commercial purposes, but the pandemic has forced a reset and they have had to look at other options. Mr. Canavan presented a plan for a mixed residential use, which would have 36 townhomes, designed to accommodate all the required setbacks from the retaining wall. Mr. Richardson discussed the trip generation comparison between a retail and daycare use versus the proposed residential use and the residential trip generation is much lower than retail. A discussion was held regarding pedestrian access and the walkability of the plan to the area retail surrounding it. After hearing the general proposal, the consensus of the Board was to support this use and it was encouraged that the staff meet with the developer and their consultants to discuss the next steps.

Administration and Finance:

12. Changes to Township Building Access/Security: Ms. McCreary reported that one item addressed on a 2018 facilities study done by KCBA Architects was building security. The report stated that there was a lack of security control in the main lobby to perform basic services requiring the public to routinely be brought back into the security office space. Their recommendation was to build a secured wall prior to the corridor that leads back to the Administration, Finance, MTMSA and Code Enforcement offices. The Township has obtained three quotes to construct this wall. The lowest responsible proposal came from Hassett Enterprises, Inc. at \$8,000.00.

MOTION: Upon motion by Ms. Bamford, seconded by Ms. Staab and unanimously carried, the Board approved the proposal from Hassett Enterprises Inc. in the amount of \$8,000.00 to construct a security wall in the administration building lobby.

13. Water Quality Management Permit Amendment: Ms. McCreary reported that the Township received correspondence dated April 19, 2021 from the Montgomery Township Municipal Sewer Authority's (MTMSA) engineer, advising us that they will be making an application to PaDEP to amend their permit. If approved, the amendment would allow for an increase in influent organic loading. The Board acknowledge receipt of the notification.

14. Other Business: Department and Committee Liaison Reports:

Ms. Staab reported that this past Saturday, the Shade Tree Commission handed out 200 trees by 10:30 a.m. as part of the Arbor Day Celebration. Over at Windlestrae Park, the Environmental Advisory Committee hosted an electronic recycling event.

Ms. Long reported that the Police Department hosted a National Drug Take Back Day event at the Wegmans store on Saturday. Operation Chill also happened at the local 7-11. During the Public Safety Committee meeting, Chief Bendig reported that there have been no recent reports of hate crimes in the Township. Finance Committee discussed the summary report of the budget. Mr. Shapiro was asked to update the Board on the status of the budget. He reported that it is difficult to predict in the first three months, but the real estate taxes will begin to arrive in April/May. The Business Privilege Tax was due on March 15, 2021, so that will be coming from Berkheimer Associates. The good news is that the Township is on track with the budget at this time.

Mr. Quigg reported that the Park and Recreation Board meeting was cancelled in April as there was no quorum. The Senior Committee has not met. Autumn Festival Committee is discussing that this year is not actually going to be the full festival. They are still going to plan an event, but it will be substantially scaled down because of the lack of certainty in terms of what's going to be happening with COVID in October. As things need to be planned well in advance, Mr. Quigg thought it was better to push it back another year for bringing back the full Autumn Festival.

Ms. Chimera reported that the Business Development Partnership (BDP) has been meeting virtually and that all of our businesses seem to be doing well. The businesses are reporting that they are hiring staff and that people are becoming more comfortable coming in to shop. There was also a discussion about grants available for businesses too.

Ms. Bamford reported on the latest Bio Bot study and she found it alarming that the British variant has been detected in the wastewater here. Ms. Bamford recommended that everyone continue to use safety protocols. Ms. Bamford also thanked Chief Bendig for the all the work involved with the County and setting up the vaccine clinic at the Mall.

Ms. Bamford inquired of Chief Wiegman if the delay in parts and components would impact the manufacturing of the ladder truck. Chief Wiegman indicated that the truck is scheduled to go into production in June and is still on target for an October 13, 2021 delivery. No delay has been expressed by the manufacturer.

Adjournment: Upon motion by Ms. Long and seconded by Ms. Staab, the meeting was adjourned at 8:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Deborah A. Rivas, Recording Secretary