

**MINUTES OF MEETING
MONTGOMERY TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
JUNE 14, 2021**

1. Call to Order: The June 14, 2021 public 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 Fire Services, William Wiegman
Director of Finance Brian Shapiro
Director of Administration & HR, Ann Shade
Director of Planning & Zoning, Bruce Shoupe
Director of Public Works, Greg Reiff
Director of Rec & Community Ctr Floyd Shaffer
Director of IT, Rich Grier
Public Information Coordinator Derek Muller
Recording Secretary Deborah A. Rivas

2. & 3. Pledge of Allegiance and Announcements: Following the Pledge of Allegiance, the following announcements were made by Ms. Bamford:

- The Township is currently collecting non-perishable food items and other necessities for Manna on Main Street through June 18, 2021. Manna on Main Street is committed to ending hunger in the North Penn region and we appreciate our residents supporting their efforts.
- As of June 1st, all visitors and staff who are not fully vaccinated are required to wear a mask when inside the Township building.
- There are two surveys currently available for residents and businesses to provide feedback. One is the upcoming comprehensive plan update, and the other is a quick survey on how Township information is received.
- Ms. Bamford reported on her recent tour of the Laurel Harvest store which recently opened in the Township. Ms. Bamford stated that she was impressed with the staff and the facility.
- Chief Scott Bendig recently joined PA Attorney General Josh Shapiro and Montgomery County DA Kevin Steele to announce the launch of the Law Enforcement Treatment Initiative (LETI).
- The Board recognized Township resident Tonya Lupinacci who is actively involved with the LETI program. Ms. Lupinacci is collaborating to train police officers throughout the County how to link individuals to treatment.

4. Public Comment – Under public comment, Amy Hanson of 116 Gwynmont Circle, Mary Lynn Alvarino of 102 Oval Lane and Joanne Cunningham of 117 Narcissus Place commented on the

agenda item regarding the keeping of chickens in residential areas in the Township. Ms. Hanson requested that the Board consider a grandfather clause for those who are already raising chickens; Ms. Alvarino is in support of allowing residents to raise chickens; and Ms. Cunningham stated that many residents were unaware that the practice was not permitted or that the Board was considering allowing this practice now.

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 6:15 p.m. to discuss one litigation matter and two personnel matters. Mr. Kilkenny stated that the topics discussed are legitimate subjects of an Executive Session pursuant to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania's Sunshine Law.

6. Recognizing June as Pride Month:

MOTION: Upon motion by Ms. Bamford, seconded by Ms. Staab and unanimously carried, the Board adopted Resolution #2021-28 – Recognizing June as Pride Month in Montgomery Township.

7. Consent Agenda:

MOTION: Upon motion by Ms. Chimera, seconded by Mr. Quigg and unanimously carried, the minutes of the May 24, 2021 meeting and the Bills List dated June 14, 2021 were approved as presented.

8. Presentation: Montgomery Mall Pedestrian Study and Site Analysis: Ms. Judith Stern Goldstein, R.L.A. ASLA and Ms. Leslie Salsbury, P.E. of Gilmore & Associates presented their study findings regarding the area of Montgomery Mall and Airport Square, identifying the opportunities and constraints of the area as it pertains to pedestrian mobility. They reported that there were partial crosswalks and minimal sidewalks in the area to support pedestrian mobility. There are currently plans underway to improve/replace the traffic signals at the mall and that some of these crosswalks could be incorporated as part of these improvements. The study showed various locations where future improvements could be made to permit safer pedestrian movement in the area.

Planning & Zoning:

9. Escrow Release and Commencement of Maintenance Period: 119 Wentworth Drive:

MOTION: Upon motion by Ms. Chimera, seconded by Mr. Quigg and unanimously carried, the authorized construction escrow release #2 in the amount of \$4,682.55, as recommended by the Township Engineer for 119 Wentworth Drive, contingent upon the developer satisfying all outstanding Township invoices related to this project and; further the Board grants the waiver of Section 510 of the PaMPC requiring the applicant

to comply with the required 18-month maintenance period after completion of improvements.

10. Update on Westrum Proposed Land Development: Ms. McCreary reported Westrum's attorney had contacted the Township advising that her client had spent the last few months reviewing the feasibility of the desired Route 309 pedestrian crossing at Knapp Road and requested an opportunity to discuss further. It was suggested that the Board considering waiving the fee-in-lieu for Parks and Recreation if it was put towards the construction costs of the pedestrian improvements since pedestrian mobility is a clear priority of the Board. In addition, they are asking that the approvals to construct the pedestrian crossing not be a condition to releasing the final plans for recording and commencement of construction of the project nor the issuance of the Certificate of Occupancy for the building due to the possible length of time to have permits issued from the regulatory agencies. Westrum agrees to post the necessary financial security to ensure the pedestrian crossing is complete. Discussion followed. Mr. Quigg expressed a concern for the Township being held responsible for the crossing should Westrum fail to follow through with that piece of the project. It was agreed that as the project would go through the process of the text amendment, followed by a conditional use hearing as well as the land development plans, those concerns could be addressed at that time.

MOTION: Upon motion by Ms. Bamford, seconded by Mr. Quigg and unanimously carried, the Board agreed to waive the fee-in-lieu of for Parks and Recreation in the amount of \$97,481.50 conditioned on the funds being appropriated for the pedestrian crossing project at Route 309 and Knapp Road with documentation confirming this being forwarded to the Township Solicitor.

11. Proposed Guidelines for the Keeping of Chickens in Residential Areas: Mr. Shoupe presented the proposed guidelines for the keeping of chickens in residential neighborhoods. The staff has reviewed other municipalities' guidelines. As agreed previously by the Board, a minimum property size would be 20,000 square feet which would support 5 chickens and 40,000 square feet or larger would support 6 chickens. Roosters and slaughtering would be prohibited. Ms. McCreary presented the proposed residential survey requested by Ms. Bamford to gather feedback from residents regarding the keeping of chickens. Board members commented that they prefer that responders are not able to front load the survey, add an area for comments and a link to educate residents about chickens.

Under public comment, Amy Hanson of 116 Gwynmont Circle stated she was in favor of a survey and felt that people do not have an opinion because they do not understand it. She also suggested that the survey clearly state hens only, not roosters. Ms. Hanson asked the Board to consider revising setback guidelines and suggested that a simpler rule such as "can't be closer to neighbor's house than your own house" would be preferred.

Joseph Yarmel of 125 Deerpath Drive stated that people who raise chickens are responsible and keep their areas clean because their chickens produce the eggs that they eat.

Amin Salehi of 113 Rose Twig Lane said that he was concerned about the size restrictions as the bigger the coop size, the better it is for the chickens. Capping the size of the coop is a problem and he suggested that you limit the minimum size, not the maximum size.

After considerable discussion, the Board asked the staff to move forward with the survey with the additional suggestions and they would continue the discussion at a future meeting.

11a. Preliminary/Final Approval of Fahy Minor Two-Lot Subdivision: Mr. Shoupe introduced Wayne Kiefer of Showalter Associates, who represented the applicant, Patricia Fahy. The applicant proposes to subdivide the existing lot into two lots. The existing barn, detached garage, and retaining wall will be demolished on lot 1. The applicant requests the following six waivers: requirement to install sidewalks, driveway location for lot 2, provide a landscape plan, landscaping including street trees, buffer trees and on lot landscaping; and requirement to provide street lighting.

MOTION: Upon motion by Ms. Bamford, seconded by Ms. Staab and unanimously carried, the Board adopted Resolution 2021-29 granting preliminary/final approval of the application for the Fahy minor two-lot subdivision located at 276 Stump Road (LDS 708) and all waivers contained therein.

Park & Recreation:

12. Waiver of Permit Fees for Bridle Path Cub Scout Pack #229 Rocket Launch:

MOTION: Upon motion by Ms. Bamford, seconded by Ms. Chimera and unanimously carried, the Board permitted the Bridle Path Cub Scout Pack 229 the limited opportunity to conduct their annual Rocket Launch at Spring Valley Park on Saturday, June 26, 2021 from 11:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. with certain conditions. Further, the Board approved the request to waive the fees of \$175.00 associated with their Rocket Launch.

Public Works:

13. Authorization to Purchase a Pickup Truck:

MOTION: Upon motion by Ms. Chimera, seconded by Ms. Long and unanimously carried, the Board awarded the contract for the purchase of one 2022 Ford F-350 Pickup Truck from Whitmoyer Auto Group, an authorized vendor under the COSTARS Cooperative Purchase Program, at a total cost of \$51,600.00 per their quote dated May 21, 2021.

Administration & Finance:

14. A/V Upgrades to Township Meeting Rooms: Mr. Grier reported that the 2021 Capital Improvement Plan included funds for Audio Visual (AV) upgrades in the amount of \$165,000 for

the Township Meeting and Board Conference Rooms. Three vendors prepared proposals and presentations which would provide live stream via internet and broadcast TV with improved camera functionality; virtual meeting capability; upgraded presentation capabilities; and assistive listening compliance for the Township Meeting Room. Staff is recommending New Era Technology to supply, install and configure AV equipment at a cost of \$164,314.00.

MOTION: Upon motion by Ms. Bamford, seconded by Ms. Chimera and unanimously carried, the Board approved the purchase and installation of AV equipment for the Township and Board Conference Meeting Rooms as per the quote dated May 24, 2021 by New Era Technology, COSTARS contract ID 034-014, for \$164,314.00.

15. Discussion – “Ready for 100” Proposed Committee Structure: Ms. McCreary reported that the Board voted to adopt the Ready for 100 Renewable Energy resolution at the May 10, 2021 meeting. The resolution states that the Board of Supervisors will provide guidance for commissioning a committee to draft an energy transition plan by May 2022. Staff is seeking input from the Board to determine the best approach to forming this committee and determining its size, makeup and meeting frequency. Ms. McCreary stated that she has reached out to other municipalities who have adopted this resolution and many of them are well on their way to completing the deadline but had started several years before. The Township will not be able to meet the deadline of May 2022. Discussion followed. Suggestions were made to partner with other municipalities or utilize a third party to assist the Township. Ms. Bamford suggested that the committee be an ad hoc committee and not permanent. Ms. McCreary was asked to check if anyone would be willing to share the burden of hiring a third party organization to assist with the creation of a plan.

Other Business:

15. Adjournment: Upon motion by Ms. Bamford and seconded by Ms. Chimera, the meeting was adjourned at 8:41 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Deborah A. Rivas, Recording Secretary