

**MINUTES OF MEETING
MONTGOMERY TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
JUNE 13, 2022**

1. Call to Order: The June 13, 2022, public meeting of the Montgomery Township Board of Supervisors was held at the Montgomery Township Municipal Building, 1001 Stump Road, Montgomeryville, PA. Chairwoman Tanya C. Bamford called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

IN ATTENDANCE:

Chair Tanya C. Bamford
Vice Chairwoman Candyce Fluehr Chimera
Supervisor Beth A. Staab
Supervisor Audrey R. Ware
Township Manager Carolyn McCreary
Township Solicitor Sean Kilkenny, Esq.

ALSO, IN ATTENDANCE:

Director of Finance, Brian Shapiro
Director of Public Works, Greg Reiff
Director of Planning, Bruce Shoupe
Director of Information Technology, Rich Grier
Recording Secretary, Deborah Rivas

ABSENT:

Supervisor Annette M. Long

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

- The Montgomery Township 20th Autumn Festival will be held on Saturday, October 15, 2022, from 12:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. The event will be at the William F. Maule Park at Windlestrae. Follow Autumn Festival updates on social media or the Township website.
- Summer concerts begin this Thursday, June 16th, at 7:00 p.m. at the Community and Recreation Center and will be held every Thursday through July 28th.
- The popular Kids University Summer Program will begin next Monday, June 20th.

4. Public Comment – Alan Gold, 390 Old Ironhill Road, New Britain Township, inquired as to why the Township Community news does not list the America-Korea Alliance Peace Park as a separate park. Ms. Bamford explained that the Township park is Memorial Park and the America-Korea Alliance Peace Park is a feature of Memorial Park.

Garry Adair of 42 Douglas Road commented that crime is inevitable, and it happens. There is always a victim, and victims suffer. He recommends that the Board consider enlarging the police force size and visibility to deter crime in the Township. Mr. Adair stated that the Board should attract and hire the best and increase the force by one-third. Mr. Adair noted that he is available for further details and asked the Board to consider his suggestion.

5. Announcement of Executive Session – Township Solicitor Sean Kilkenny, Esquire, announced that the Board of Supervisors met in an Executive Session earlier this evening at 6:45 p.m. to

discuss two matters 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:

MOTION: Upon motion by Ms. Bamford, seconded by Ms. Chimera and unanimously carried (4-0), the minutes of the May 23, 2022 meeting, the payment of bills for June 13, 2022, and the Montgomery Realty Associates, LLC, 740 Bethlehem Pike Escrow Release #3 for \$64,500.00 were approved as presented.

Public Hearing:

7. Ordinance 22-328Z – Permitting the Raising and Keeping of Chickens on Residential Properties - Ms. Bamford opened the public hearing for the consideration of Ordinance 22-328Z at 7:14 p.m. Notes of testimony were taken by Court Reporter Ed McKenna. Mr. Shoupe presented the ordinance in which regulations have been reviewed by the Montgomery County Planning Commission and the Montgomery Township Planning Commission, as well as several discussions with the Board of Supervisors over the last year. Under public comment, Amy Hanson of 116 Gwynmont Circle stated that she was happy that the ordinance was under consideration this evening. She had a few remarks regarding the chicken care best practices pamphlet included in the packet. Ms. Hanson was asked to forward her comments/concerns about the packet to Ms. McCreary. Ms. Bamford closed the public hearing at 7:20 p.m.

MOTION: Upon motion by Ms. Bamford, seconded by Ms. Staab, the motion carried (3-1) (Ms. Chimera voting no), adopting Ordinance #22-328Z, amending the Township's Zoning code granting approval for Backyard Chickens in the Township on occupied single-family residential properties which meet the minimum standards of the code.

Public Works:

8. Bid Award – Whistlestop Park Courts:

MOTION: Upon motion by Ms. Bamford, seconded by Ms. Chimera, and unanimously carried (4-0), the Board awarded the bid for the Whistlestop Court Projects to Top-A-Court, LLC, the lowest responsible and only bidder with a bid of \$253,499.25 per the recommendation of Gilmore & Associates, Township Engineer.

9. Approve Proposed Corrective Action Plan – 416 Stump Road – Mr. Reiff reported that staff and CKS Engineers, Inc. met to develop a plan to correct a drainage problem located at 416 Stump Road affecting BSI Electronic Contractors (Stanton Properties Limited Partnership). The proposed work is to realign the concrete curb, re-grade the area behind the curb, and restore the blacktop roadway. A quote of \$30,175.00 was received from Drumheller Construction, Inc.,

a member of COSTARS, with the work being completed under COSTARS contract number 029-E22-079.

MOTION: Upon motion by Ms. Chimera, seconded by Ms. Staab and unanimously carried (4-0), the Board awarded the contract for the repairs to Drumheller Construction, Inc., under COSTARS contract number 029-E22-079 at a total cost of \$30,175.00.

Parks and Recreation:

10. Approve Boy Scout Rocket Launch Event: Ms. McCreary reported that the Township received a request from the Bridle Path Cub Scout Pack #229 to waive the \$50.00 special event permit fee and the \$125.00 Park and Facility rental fees for their rocket launch at Spring Valley Park to be held on July 10, 2022, from 11:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. It has been the policy of the Board of Supervisors to waive permit fees for non-profit and religious organizations.

MOTION: Upon motion by Ms. Chimera, seconded by Ms. Bamford, and unanimously carried (4-0), 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, July 10, 2022, from 11:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. and waive the fees totaling \$175.00 under the following conditions:

- 1. Only rockets created by the Cub Scout Pack 229 shall be launched;**
- 2. All takeoffs shall be conducted under the direct supervision of an adult;**
- 3. There must be a minimum 15-foot clearance around each launch pad;**
- 4. Prior to the Rocket Launch, Cub Scout Pack 229 shall produce a certificate of liability insurance naming Montgomery Township as an additional insured;**
- 5. Cub Scout Pack 229 shall secure the presence of a Fire Department of Montgomery Township fire truck for the duration of the event; and**
- 6. The event will be conducted only if the weather conditions do not present a safety hazard.**

Administration and Finance:

11. Software RFP Results and Recommendation to Proceed: Mr. Shapiro reported that the Finance Department had identified several shortcomings with the Township's current software provided by BS&A Software. It was imperative that the Finance Department and other staff research and identify a new software platform that would meet current and future needs. In March 2022, a Request for Proposals (RFP) for an Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) software solution was released. A total of three (3) proposals were submitted, and all three vendors were invited to make presentations. The three proposals and costs were reviewed. The current costs associated with BS&A were also reviewed. A team of Township staff was assembled to evaluate the software presentations. Following an extensive search and evaluation process, the

staff recommends the acquisition and implementation of Tyler Technologies for a comprehensive ERP software package. Discussion followed.

MOTION: Upon motion by Ms. Staab, seconded by Ms. Ware, and unanimously carried (4-0), the Board authorized staff to execute a software service agreement and all other necessary documents to purchase municipal software with Tyler Technologies.

Information Technology:

12. Approval of Managed Services: Mr. Grier reported that staff member Wes Whitaker recently left his position with the Township. Mr. Whitaker was instrumental in managing the Township's network infrastructure and security. It was decided that it would be best to pursue an outsourced agency to provide these services to the Township instead of hiring a replacement. IT staff met with three separate vendors in search of a provider to manage the Township's network infrastructure and security. Omega Systems, out of Reading PA, offered the most comprehensive package of services and security while also adhering to strict Criminal Justice Information Services (CJIS) certifications for all their staff engineers. The total cost of services is \$8,095 in start-up fees and \$3,875 monthly.

MOTION: Upon motion by Ms. Bamford, seconded by Ms. Staab and unanimously carried (4-0), the Board approved the purchase of network managed services and security assignments for the Township's networking infrastructure from Omega Systems per their quote dated June 8, 2022, for \$8,095 start-up fees and \$3,875 monthly for a three-year contract.

Old Business:

13. Feasibility Study Proposal for Installation of Turf Fields (Update) – Ms. McCreary reported that during the Board's last meeting, the Board did not vote to move forward with the feasibility study by a vote of 2 to 3. At that meeting, one of the Supervisors noted the proposal from D'Huy Engineering exceeded the budget and suggested going back and asking if the study could be completed for the \$10,000 budgeted amount. Ms. McCreary said she spoke with the Principal of D'Huy Engineering about the Board's discussion and resulting vote on the study. He agreed to amend the firm's proposal to the \$10,000 budget, noting the Board's desire to stay within the budget.

Ms. Bamford called for public comment on the matter and invited North Penn School Board President Tina Stoll to provide comments on turf fields. Ms. Stoll stated that she favors turf fields and that the North Penn High School stadium field was recently reconstructed with a turf field and is now used as a multi-purpose field. Mr. David MacWilliams of 1 Andrew Lane commented that soccer has changed over the years and become very competitive. Parents are looking for the best options for their children. Turf fields are big attractions as the current fields are unusable in inclement weather. Mr. MacWilliams encouraged the Board to please consider approving the study. Other attendees who spoke in support of the feasibility study and turf

fields and the importance of soccer included Bill Hettel and daughter Kate of 121 Shelburne Drive, Mark Randa of 117 Blue Ribbon Drive, Lynn Lentz and daughter Sarah of 945 Beechwood Drive, Greta and Jim Scott of 408 Victoria Drive, John O'Rourke of 206 West Fairwood Drive, Chalfont, Stephen Slade of 105 Mallard Drive, Snehal Talati of 103 Inverness Drive, Blue Bell.

Marilyn Tontoni of 219 Mallard Drive stated that she and others strongly object to the money being spent even for a feasibility study. The money could be better spent on the parks to enhance and repair the parks. She said that building turf fields is crazy and ridiculous, taking green space and replacing it with plastic. Hope Grosse of 115 Samantha Lane stated that she loves soccer and has played soccer, as well as her daughters. She said that she wondered why the Township would spend all that money on turf and not financially invest in organically taking care of the fields. She stated that she favored a feasibility study but inquired about a study to show the cost differential between turf and taking care of the grass. Ms. Grosse noted that she is involved with studies on PFAS and turf fields and is concerned about the effect of PFAS on future generations.

MOTION: Upon motion by Ms. Bamford, seconded by Ms. Staab, the motion to approve the revised proposal from D'Huy Engineering, Inc. for \$10,000.00 to conduct a feasibility study for the installation of turf fields at Windlestrae Park failed with a (2-2) vote, Ms. Chimera and Ms. Ware voting Nay.

Ms. Bamford asked Ms. Chimera and Ms. Ware to explain their Nay votes. Ms. Chimera indicated that she was not in favor of turf fields because they are not for everyone in the Township, and the cost is too expensive. Ms. Ware also has concerns about the cost and is familiar with the significant amount of money required for maintenance because of her personal experience with the maintenance of a turf field.

New Business:

14. Re-appointment of Resident Volunteer Alicia Sasso – Ms. McCreary reported that Alicia Sasso, a member of the Autumn Festival Committee, recently sent correspondence to the Board to consider appointing her to the EAC. Ms. Sasso was initially appointed to the Autumn Festival Committee in February and would resign from this Committee.

MOTION: Upon motion by Ms. Bamford, seconded by Ms. Staab, and unanimously carried (4-0), the Board appointed Alicia Sasso to the EAC for the remainder of the term, which expires on January 1, 2023.

Ms. McCreary reported that in May, the Township received the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) Distinguished Budget Presentation Award for the 2022 budget document. Ms. McCreary recognized Finance Director Brian Shapiro for leading this initiative. She stated that his commitment to excellence and continuous dedication to improving the processes by which the Township provides services internally and externally were noted.

15. Adjournment: Upon motion by Ms. Bamford and seconded by Ms. Chimera, the meeting was adjourned at 8:28 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Deborah A. Rivas, Recording Secretary