

**MINUTES OF MEETING
MONTGOMERY TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
JANUARY 22, 2024**

1. Call to Order: The January 22, 2024 action meeting of the Montgomery Township Board of Supervisors was held at the Montgomery Township Municipal Building, 1001 Stump Road, Montgomeryville, PA. Chairwoman Candyce Fluehr Chimera called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

IN ATTENDANCE:

Chair Candyce Fluehr Chimera
Supervisor Tanya C. Bamford
Supervisor Annette M. Long
Supervisor Beth A. Staab
Vice Chair Audrey R. Ware
Township Solicitor John Walko, Esq.
Township Manager Carolyn McCreary

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:

Police Chief J. Scott Bendig
Fire Chief Bill Wiegman
Director of Finance Brian Shapiro
Director of Planning & Zoning Marianne McConnell
Director of Public Works Greg Reiff
Director of Rec & Community Ctr. Floyd Shaffer
Director of IT Richard Grier
Recording Secretary Deborah Rivas

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

- The Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services shared that their data shows that 94 households visited the 202 Trail during the 2023 Montco Trail Challenge. Look for additional information on the 2024 Montco Trail Challenge, coming this spring!
- The Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT) recently announced that construction will begin on Monday, January 29, 2024 on a \$14.2 million project to improve travel and safety at Route 309 (Bethlehem Pike), Route 463 (Horsham Road/Cowpath Road), and Business U.S. 202 (Doylestown Road) Intersection, commonly referred to as Five-Points Intersection in Montgomery Township, Montgomery County. This project is financed 100% by federal funding. The press release is linked on our website for anybody seeking more information.

4. Public Comment: George Schutte of 109 Cove Circle commented that he had previously visited the Board to address concerns about his right to privacy and his neighbor's backyard camera. He said he installed a six-foot privacy fence, but his neighbor's camera is 10 feet high. He wants the Township to draft an ordinance to protect residents' privacy and enforce the height of external cameras.

5. Consent Agenda:

MOTION: Upon motion by Ms. Chimera, seconded by Ms. Bamford, and unanimously carried (5-0), the minutes of the January 2, 2024 Board meeting, the payment of bills for January 22, 2024, the escrow release #15 and end of maintenance for Firefox Phase 1, the escrow release #1 for LUV Car Wash Montgomeryville, the escrow release #1 for

Krispy Kreme – 1281 Knapp Road, and the escrow release #8 for Westrum Montgomeryville were all approved as submitted.

Presentations:

6. Retirement of Police Canine Cooper – Chief Bendig reported that late last year, Canine Cooper retired after nine years of service to the Montgomery Township Police Department. Cooper entered service in 2015, serving as a dual-purpose canine, specializing in both patrol work and drug detection. During his distinguished career, Canine Cooper and his handler, Officer Brian Schreiber, responded to over 1110 calls for service, arresting numerous offenders and seizing significant quantities of drugs. This team also competed yearly in the United States Police Canine Association Police field trials, obtaining numerous tracking, narcotic, Detector Dog, and PD1 Certifications.

MOTION: Upon motion by Ms. Chimera, seconded by Ms. Ware, and unanimously carried (5-0), the Board recognized Canine Cooper for his nine years of service to the Police Department and citizens of Montgomery Township.

7. Introduction of Police Canine Niko: Chief Bendig introduced the newest member of the Canine Unit, Niko. Niko is a two-and-a-half-year-old German Shepard, imported from Germany, who has been serving the department since October of 2023. Certified in narcotics detection and patrol duties, Niko is handled by Officer Nicholas Eufrazio.

Public Safety:

8. New Fire Police Officers: Ms. Chimera administered the Oath of Office to Mr. Marquette and Mr. Otte.

MOTION: Upon motion by Ms. Chimera, seconded by Ms. Ware, and unanimously carried (5-0), the Board appointed Caeden Marquette and John Otte to the position of Special Fire Police Officers, effective January 22, 2024, and welcomed Mr. Marquette and Mr. Otte to Montgomery Township.

9. Purchase of Replacement Computers for the Police Department: Chief Bendig reported that the Police Department is scheduled to replace eight (8) desktop computers in accordance with the replacement schedule advocated by Rich Grier, Director of Information Technology for the Township. A quote has been received from Computer Design & Integration, LLC, an authorized vendor under the Co-Stars Cooperative Purchase Program, at a cost of \$15,154.64.

MOTION: Upon motion by Ms. Chimera, seconded by Ms. Bamford, and unanimously carried (5-0), the Board awarded the contract for the purchase of eight (8) desktop computers from Computer Design & Integration, LLC, an authorized vendor under the Co-Stars Cooperative Purchase Program, at a total cost of \$15,154.64 per their quote.

10. Replacement Generator for Battalion 2 Change Order: Chief Wiegman reported that the Board approved the installation of a new generator at Battalion 2 firehouse at their meeting on June 12, 2023. The cost of the installation of the generator at that time was \$26,170.00. There was \$30,000.00 in the 2023 Capital Investment Plan. West Generator Services of Kulpville, PA, has informed the Township that the quoted generator is no longer available and a timeframe for replacement is unknown. They are recommending a different generator that is a better option and has the same engine as the recently quoted replacement for the generator at Battalion 1. The additional cost is \$10,551.00. Several Board members had concerns about the increased cost and whether this new proposed generator was the best option. Chief Wiegman assured the Board that all options were considered before making this recommendation.

MOTION: Upon motion by Ms. Chimera, seconded by Ms. Bamford, and unanimously carried (5-0), the Board approved the change order for \$10,551.00 for the purchase of a new generator for the Battalion 2 firehouse to replace the existing generator. West Generator Service will purchase and install the new generator for \$36,721.00.

11. Advertisement of Ordinance Amendment Establishing Massage Establishments: Chief Bendig reported that last year staff initiated internal discussions regarding the need to regulate massage establishments within the Township due to a recent increase in the number of illegal massage or alternative therapy establishments around Montgomery Township that promote unlawful conduct such as prostitution, sex trafficking, and unfair labor practices. After discussion and review with the Township Solicitor, the staff is presenting the proposed ordinance for comment and review and requesting authorization to proceed and advertise. Ms. Bamford questioned the requirement for license fees to be set by resolution and the inclusion of a limitation of location proximity to 1,000 feet between such establishments. Ms. McCreary explained that the license fees must be set by resolution so they can be amended without having to amend the ordinance. The Board consensus was to include a distance limitation of 1,000 sq. ft. between these types of establishments. Ms. Ware inquired how this ordinance would impact current establishments and whether they would be required to register. Mr. Walko stated that they would have to register under this ordinance.

MOTION: Upon motion by Ms. Chimera, seconded by Ms. Ware, and unanimously carried (5-0), the Board authorized staff to advertise for an amendment to the Township Code Part II, General Legislation, to create a new chapter entitled "Massage Establishments" with the additional language to restrict the locations to be no closer than 1,000 ft. between establishments.

Planning and Zoning:

12. Review of Zoning Hearing Board Application: Ms. McConnell identified the pending hearing application that was received for the February 7, 2024 Zoning Hearing Board meeting. Application 24010001 is for Raising Cane's Restaurants, LLC at 860 Bethlehem Pike for relief for proposed signage. Total proposed wall signage equals 319.96 sq ft. Maximum wall signage allowed at this location is 103 square feet.

Board consensus was not to enter an appearance for the application, allowing the Zoning Hearing Board to render a decision based on the testimony presented.

13. 2023 Tree City USA Recertification and Growth Award Application:

MOTION: Upon motion by Ms. Chimera, seconded by Ms. Staab, and unanimously carried, the Board approved the application for Montgomery Township to receive the 2023 Tree City USA Recertification and 2023 Growth Award.

Old Business:

14. Review of Quiet Hours in the Township: Ms. McCreary stated that during the conditional use hearing for the Village Shopping Center at the December 11 public meeting, a resident spoke to the Board about concerns with noise levels should the project move forward. Since this property is adjacent to a residential development (The Orchards), the Board asked staff to review the ordinance and report back at a future meeting. The current quiet hours are 11:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m. The staff has reviewed the code and recommended that the Board consider modifying the "quiet hours" while leaving the other portions of the ordinance in place as currently written. Staff suggested changing the hours from 9:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m. Discussion followed, and the Board consensus was to keep the hours the same and monitor noise complaints to see if any future action needs to be taken.

New Business:

11. Department Reports - Monthly reports were submitted by each department for activity in the month of December. Ms. Staab mentioned a fire in her neighborhood and that the response from emergency personnel was swift. She thanked the fire and police departments for the care and concern provided to those affected by the fire. Chief Wiegman gave an update on the Township's Continuation of Operations Plan (COOP). Chief Wiegman reported that it is a plan to ensure that Township Governmental Services are not interrupted during a disaster. For example, the Township is currently engaged in COOP to upgrade its emergency communication infrastructure and increase the effectiveness and range of its current radio system. The upgrades include the placement of a radio repeater on the top of the new NWWA Water Tower at Airport Square. Recently, Township staff participated in a tabletop exercise to determine additional emergency service planning and action needs. In 2024, the plan will be revised as staff continues to determine the strengths and weaknesses. The Township will be positioned to have a starting point in an emergency.

12. Committee Liaison Reports – Ms. Long reported that she was unable to attend the Public Safety Committee. The Community and Recreation Center Advisory Committee reorganized and discussed the parking lot solar light problem. The temporary lights in the parking lot have been beneficial in illuminating the parking area in the dark. The front entrance ramp concrete work is complete. The committee met with Jenna Bertoti, the Special Events Coordinator. She is planning on three movies, eight concerts, Kids University and a teen event so far for this summer. Ms.

Bamford recognized Floyd Shaffer and his team as her company held a planning session at the center and the entire process was seamless.

Ms. Chimera reported that the Planning Commission was canceled.

Ms. Bamford reported that the Park Board was very excited about the Kenas Road Farmhouse at Windlestrae Park project. The architect's presentation provided the Park Board with several options to consider. The Shade Tree Commission is making progress on revising the street tree removal program. Arbor Day has been scheduled for April 27, 2024, at Gazebo Park. The Sewer Authority experienced a significant surge of water in their overflow tank due to the recent heavy rain. Nineteen trees surrounding the sewer plant were recently removed due to their poor condition. The trees had served as buffers so a privacy fence will be installed in the near future.

Ms. Staab reported that the Environmental Advisory Committee had not met yet. She also attended the Northern Montgomery County Recycling Commission meeting, and they discussed the recycling efforts throughout the region. Ms. Staab indicated that the Township might want to consider stepping away from the NMCRC as it is the most significant contributor to the efforts made by the members, of which the benefits are shared equally.

Ms. Ware reported that the Senior Committee discussed the Breakfast with Santa event and how well it was run and attended. The committee also discussed and set up senior-focused seminars for the 2024 calendar year. The Montco Senior Games will be held from May 6th to 10th, 2024.

Board members also gave a "shout-out" to the Public Works Department and Greg Reiff for the awesome job with the snow removal on Friday, January 19, 2024.

13. Adjournment: Upon motion by Ms. Chimera and seconded by Ms. Ware, the meeting was adjourned at 8:13 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Deborah A. Rivas, Recording Secretary