

**MINUTES OF MEETING
MONTGOMERY TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
JULY 27, 2020**

At 6:00 p.m., Chair Tanya C. Bamford called to order the Executive Session at the Montgomery Township Municipal Building, 1001 Stump Road, Montgomeryville, PA. In attendance were Vice Chairman Matthew W. Quigg, Supervisors Candyce Fluehr Chimera, Annette M. Long and Beth A. Staab. Also in attendance was Township Manager Carolyn McCreary and Township Solicitor Robert J. Iannozzi, Esquire.

At 7:00 p.m., Chair Tanya C. Bamford called to order the action meeting at the Montgomery Township Municipal Building, 1001 Stump Road, Montgomeryville, PA.

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 Robert J. Iannozzi, Esquire

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:

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

Following the Pledge of Allegiance, Chair Tanya C. Bamford called for public comment from the audience.

Under public comment, Amy Hanson of 116 Gwynmont Circle, stated that she was interested in working with the Township to see if it would be possible to permit chickens to be raised on private properties within the Township. Ms. Hanson provided a variety of suggestions to allow for an open dialogue and education about backyard chicken ownership. The Township will continue to research this matter and report back to the Board. There was no other public comment to come before the Board.

Chair Tanya C. Bamford announced that all Township volunteer committee meetings in August would meet virtually, except for the Zoning Hearing Board and Planning Commission (if necessary). The public restrooms in the Township parks continue to be closed to the public. The Township is investigating adding additional port-a-potties where needed, with increased cleaning schedules. The Community and Recreation Center remains open for limited personal fitness exercise and the walking track. Knapp Road remains closed between Lansdale Avenue and Valleybrook Drive for repairs. The estimated completion date is Friday, August 28, 2020. The Korean War Memorial and American-Korea Alliance Peace Park was officially dedicated on Saturday, July 25, 2020. Chair Tanya Bamford read the PA House of Representatives Citation that was presented to the Township for the park. Supervisor Annette Long, who served on the committee, thanked the Public Works Department and Police Department for assisting before, during and after the ceremony.

Township Solicitor Robert J. Iannozzi, Esquire, announced that the Board had met in an executive session prior to this meeting at 6:00 p.m. to discuss two personnel matters and two matters of potential litigation. Mr. Iannozzi 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 July 13, 2020 Board of Supervisors meeting and Supervisor Candyce Fluehr Chimera seconded the motion. The minutes of the meeting were unanimously approved as submitted.

Township Manager Carolyn McCreary reported that the Board previously discussed the option of adopting a resolution or ordinance for the Young Lungs at Play program aimed to help communities create tobacco-free parks, playgrounds and recreation areas for children. The Board consensus was to draft an ordinance for the Board's consideration. Ordinance #20-314 has been prepared and advertised as directed. Signs will be provided by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania through the Council of Southeast Pennsylvania, Inc. Resolution #20-123 made by Chair Tanya C. Bamford, seconded by Vice Chair Matthew W. Quigg and adopted unanimously, approved the adoption of Ordinance #20-314, Tobacco / Nicotine-Free Areas.

Township Manager Carolyn McCreary reported that the Township recently received 8 bids for the Friendship Park Playground Project located off of Enclave Boulevard. The bids were reviewed by the Township Engineer and references checked. The project is included in the Capital Reserve Fund 2020 budget with an estimated cost of \$751,770 and is offset by a \$70,000 DCED grant awarded to the Township and \$643,000 representing the developer's contribution. The construction portion of the project budget is estimated to be \$373,216. Picnic tables and trash cans will be supplied by the Public Works staff. The playground equipment and pavilion are being purchased by the Township through COSTARS. Resolution #20-124 made by Supervisor Candyce Fluehr Chimera, seconded by Vice Chairman Matthew W. Quigg and adopted unanimously, awarded the construction bid for Friendship Park to Couzins, Inc., the lowest responsible bidder, in the amount of \$380,615.00 per the recommendation of Gilmore & Associates in their letter dated July 20, 2020.

Resolution #20-125 made by Chair Tanya C. Bamford, seconded by Supervisor Beth A. Staab and adopted unanimously, authorized a construction escrow release in the amount of \$187,713.63, as recommended by the Township Engineer, for the Crystal Road Enterprises LLC – Firefox Phase 1 – LDS 630.

Resolution #20-126 made by Supervisor Annette M. Long, seconded by Supervisor Candyce Fluehr Chimera and adopted unanimously, authorized a construction escrow release in the amount of \$145,306.80, as recommended by the Township Engineer, for the Crystal Road Enterprises LLC – Firefox Phase 2 – LDS 630.

Resolution #20-127 made by Vice Chair Matthew W. Quigg, seconded by Supervisor Candyce Fluehr Chimera and adopted unanimously, authorized a construction escrow release in the amount of \$16,500.00, as recommended by the Township Engineer, for the Crystal Road Enterprises LLC – Firefox Phase 3 – LDS 630.

Resolution #20-128 made by Supervisor Candyce Fluehr Chimera, seconded by Vice Chair Matthew W. Quigg and adopted unanimously, authorized a construction escrow release in the amount of \$28,027.00, as recommended by the Township Engineer, for M.L. Homes – 911 Lansdale Avenue – LDS 435R.

Resolution #20-129 made by Supervisor Candyce Fluehr Chimera, seconded by Vice Chair Matthew W. Quigg and adopted unanimously, authorized a construction escrow release in the amount of \$152,194.13 as recommended by the Township Engineer, for Lightbridge Academy – LDS 673W.

Director of Planning and Zoning Bruce Shoupe reported the Department of Planning and Zoning is scheduled to replace the 2006 Chevy Impala used by department staff. The proposal is to replace the vehicle with a 2020 Chevrolet Equinox LT. A quote was obtained from Whitmoyer Auto Group for \$26,200.00 under the PA COSTARS Program. Resolution #20-130 made by Chair Tanya C. Bamford, seconded by Supervisor Candyce Fluehr Chimera and adopted unanimously, awarded the contract for a 2020 Chevrolet Equinox LT to Whitmoyer Auto Group in the amount of \$26,200.00.

A motion to approve the payment of bills was made by Chair Tanya C. Bamford, seconded by Supervisor Candyce Fluehr Chimera, and adopted unanimously, approving the payment of bills as submitted for July 27, 2020.

Chair Tanya C. Bamford reported that the Township Departments submitted monthly reports for the month of June in the meeting packet. Ms. Bamford asked Director of Recreation and Community Center Floyd Shaffer to update the Board on the Midsummer Mavericks program. Mr. Shaffer stated that the program was created to offer a short day program for those residents who would have participated in Kids University had it been held this summer. The program is for 6 to 12 year olds and it is going very well.

Township Manager Carolyn McCreary stated that she wanted to mention a few items from the reports. The Department of Planning and Zoning completed site visits to multiple restaurants in the Township to make them aware of their options to add or expand their existing outdoor seating areas. Permits submitted for these activities were reviewed by planning, fire and police and issued within 24 to 48 hours. Ms. McCreary stated that this is one example of excellent customer service and all the departments have gone above and beyond to assist the residents, businesses and internal customers during the pandemic.

Under committee liaison reports, Supervisor Candyce Fluehr Chimera reported that the Business Development Partnership moved their monthly meeting to 8:30 a.m. and is discussing how the committee can better serve the business community of the Township.

Supervisor Beth A. Staab reported that her committees did not meet this past month.

Vice Chair Matthew W. Quigg reported that the Park and Recreation Board discussed the resumption of play for the Montgomery Township Baseball and Softball Association. The board also discussed the Bark Park and outdoor pickleball courts. There was no Community Center Advisory committee meeting last month.

Chair Tanya Bamford reported on the Sewer Authority Board meeting. The Sewer Authority continues to participate in the bio bot study data, which looks for the presence of COVID-19 in our sewage. The data has shown that the virus is clearly present in the community.

Supervisor Annette Long reported on the Finance Committee and asked Director of Finance Brian Shapiro to update the Board on his presentation. Mr. Shapiro stated that the Montgomery County Consortium created a subcommittee to research the effects of COVID-19 on municipal budgets in the future. Many tools are being utilized to help each municipality forecast the economic impact of COVID-19 on their revenue sources. Supervisor Long also reported on the Public Safety Committee and asked Chief Bendig to provide an update on his report. Chief Bendig stated that calls for service on fireworks greatly increased earlier this month. The department is responding to these calls, but it has been difficult to determine if the guidelines set forth by the state are being followed. Chair Tanya Bamford applauded the Chief and Township Manager Carolyn McCreary on their town hall informational session. Ms. Bamford stated that the program was very informative and

it was good to hear all of the great things that the Montgomery Township Police Department has been doing with regard to training, practices and policies. Ms. Bamford also mentioned that the Montgomery Township Police Department is one of the top 10 departments in the state. Chief Bendig provided some additional information on the accreditation process and the statistics showing that the department is one of the 10 premier agencies in the state. Of the approximately 1200 police departments in the state, there are just over 125 which are accredited and 25 of those are in Montgomery County. The Board stated that they were very proud and thanked Chief Bendig and the Police Officers for their hard work in the community.

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Deborah A. Rivas, Recording Secretary