

**MINUTES OF MEETING
MONTGOMERY TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
APRIL 12, 2021**

1. Call to Order: The April 12, 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 Finance, Brian Shapiro
Director of Fire Services, William Wiegman
Director of IT, Rich Grier
Director of Public Works, Greg Reiff
Director of Administration & HR, Ann Shade
Director of Planning & Zoning, Bruce Shoupe

2. & 3. Pledge of Allegiance and Public Comment: Following the Pledge of Allegiance, the following public comment was made:

Ralph Schurr of 109 Hemlock Drive (48-year resident of the Township) expressed disappointment that the Board would not allow the Community and Recreation Center to be used as a vaccination site. Ms. Bamford stated that the Township has been researching this matter as due diligence is required to do something like that in a public space. The Township has had conversations with representatives from Montgomery County about it. Ms. Bamford asked for a little more patience as this is not a closed issue, as far as using Township facilities for that purpose.

Amy Hanson of 116 Gwynmont Circle stated that she was eager to participate in the discussion regarding backyard chickens which is scheduled for the end of this meeting and she encouraged the Board to resist the urge to set a lot-size restriction during their discussion.

4. Announcements: Ms. Bamford announced that Derek Muller has transferred to the Administrative Department to serve as the new Public Information Coordinator effective March 29, 2021. Mr. Muller has been with Montgomery Township for three years, previously as the Recreation Program Director.

Ms. Bamford also announced that this week is National Public Safety Telecommunicators' Week. The week aims to honor and express gratitude to all telecommunications staff whose work is involved in public safety communication. The Board extended their appreciation to the men and women who comprise our team in the Police Department.

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 two matters of 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. Long and unanimously carried, the minutes of the March 22, 2021 meeting and the Bills List dated April 12, 2021 were approved as presented.

7. Appointments: Introduction and Swearing-In of Firefighters and FDMT Police Officers: Ms. Bamford administered the oath of office to the three new firefighters and two new special fire police officers.

MOTION: Upon motion by Ms. Bamford, seconded by Ms. Long and unanimously carried, the Board appointed Harry Reese, Anthony Rubas and Jacob Weltman to the position of Firefighters with the Department of Fire Services of Montgomery Township, effective April 5, 2021.

MOTION: Upon motion by Ms. Long, seconded by Ms. Chimera and unanimously carried, the Board appointed Jon Debkowski and Ryan Irvin to the position of Special Fire Police Officers with the Fire Department of Montgomery Township, effective April 12, 2021.

Planning & Zoning:

8. Resolution for Arbor Day Proclamation:

MOTION: Upon motion by Ms. Bamford, seconded by Ms. Staab and unanimously carried, the Board approved the 2021 Arbor Day Proclamation, which proclaimed Saturday, April 24, 2021 as Arbor Day in Montgomery Township.

9. Advertise Amended Mobile Food Vendor Ordinance: Mr. Shoupe reported that additional language has been added to the proposed ordinance, allowing mobile food vendors on private residential property. 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 Mr. Quigg and unanimously carried, the Board authorized the advertisement of the Mobile Food Vendor Ordinance to be considered at the April 26, 2021 meeting.

10. Waiver of Permit Fee: Mary Mother of the Redeemer Church – New Gas System Install

MOTION: Upon motion by Ms. Bamford, seconded by Mr. Quigg and unanimously carried, the Board approved the waiver request in the amount of \$644.50 for the gas system installation at Mary Mother of the Redeemer Church.

Public Works:

11. Purchase of Thermoplastic Machine for Line Striping:

MOTION: Upon motion by Mr. Quigg, seconded by Ms. Staab and unanimously carried, the Board authorized the purchase of a Graco Thermolazer Promelt System from Sherwin Williams Spray Center, at a total cost of \$15,685.00 per their quote dated April 7, 2021.

12. Lawn Care Application Contract:

MOTION: Upon motion by Ms. Bamford, seconded by Ms. Chimera and unanimously carried, the Board authorized the contract for the 2021 Lawn Care Treatment to Moyer Indoor/Outdoor, the only qualified vendor, in the amount of \$17,966.00.

13. Purchase of Zero Turn Lawn Mower:

MOTION: Upon motion by Ms. Bamford, seconded by Ms. Chimera and unanimously carried, the Board authorized the purchase of a 2021 Toro Z Master 7500 Series Zero-Turn Mower from Turf Equipment and Supply Company, an authorized vendor under the Co-Stars Cooperative Purchase Program, at a total cost of \$22,645.21 per their quote dated March 31, 2021.

Administration & Finance:

14. PennDOT Traffic Signal Maintenance Agreements: Ms. McCreary reported that PennDOT has started a new process for all traffic signals within a municipality to streamline the process and reduce paperwork each time a traffic signal is modified or proposed. The new process will involve one resolution and an agreement that will cover all the traffic signals within the Township.

MOTION: Upon motion by Ms. Chimera, seconded by Mr. Quigg and unanimously carried, the Board approved the resolution authorizing the Township to submit the Traffic Signal Maintenance Agreement to Penn DOT for their new system processing.

15. Approval of Settlement for Business Privilege Tax Appeal: Republic Services

MOTION: Upon motion by Ms. Bamford, seconded by Ms. Staab and unanimously carried, the Board approved the settlement agreement for BFI Waste Services of

Pennsylvania, LLC doing business as Republic Services of Bucks-Mont and authorize the Chairperson to execute on behalf of the Township.

16. Approval of Board of Assessment Appeal: Ms. McCreary reported that the North Penn School District and the property owner of the parcel located at 782 Bethlehem Pike have reached an agreement as to the assessment appeal, which now requires action by the Board.

MOTION: Upon motion by Ms. Bamford, seconded by Ms. Long and unanimously carried, the Board approved the stipulated agreement and authorized the Township Solicitor to execute the settlement stipulation for: 782 Bethlehem Pike, owned by North Wales Crossing Associates LTD.

Other Business:

17. Recognition of Ben Hartranft and Autism Acceptance Month

MOTION: Upon motion by Ms. Bamford, seconded by Ms. Staab, Ms. Chimera, Mr. Quigg and Ms. Long as unanimously carried, the Board recognized Montgomery Township resident Ben Hartranft for his efforts to increase both Autism Awareness and Acceptance throughout the year, and especially during April, which is Autism Awareness and Acceptance Month.

18. Proposed Property Dimensions to Accommodate Requests for Backyard Chickens: Mr. Shoupe reported that staff has continued to research ordinance requirements put in place by a small number of local municipalities that have adopted rules for backyard chickens. As requested previously by the Board, Mr. Shoupe prepared a map showing the various lot sizes, color-coded, that are 20,000 sq. ft. or greater so that they could see how many properties would be covered by the minimum size requirement. Discussion followed. Public comment was given by Amy Hanson of 116 Gwynmont Circle, Joseph Yarmel of 125 Deerpath Drive and Amin Salehi of 113 Rose Twig Lane. These residents implored the Board to consider utilizing other various requirements such as visibility and setbacks rather than just lot size restriction. Ms. Bamford polled the Board members and inquired of each their preference for the minimum lot size that they would be comfortable considering in a proposed ordinance: Ms. Staab was in favor of no lot size minimum; Mr. Quigg – 25,000sf; Ms. Chimera – 20,000sf; Ms. Long – 25,000sf and Ms. Bamford – 20,000sf. After considerable discussion and input from residents, Ms. Bamford stated that it was the Board's desire to permit backyard chickens in the Township, however, they were attempting to work through as many concerns as possible while drafting an ordinance. To help move the process along, Ms. Staab agreed to a minimum lot size of 20,000sf. The consensus of the Board was to move the project along and start with a minimum lot size requirement of 20,000sf., with the opportunity to revisit the ordinance once it has had a successful trial run and there has been a level of experience with this process. Residents with smaller lots will be able to apply for a variance if they are interested in raising chickens at this time as well. Staff was requested to proceed in drafting an ordinance with a minimum lot requirement of 20,000sf.

Public Comment: Chris Murphy of 105 Westminster Drive shared a letter and photos with the Board to express his concern about a safety issue along the sidewalk of Enclave Boulevard. Mr. Murphy indicated that there is a significant drop off next to the sidewalk and he believes that a fence should be installed there to protect children from accidentally falling down into the drainage area. Mr. Shoupe and Ms. McCreary stated that they would speak with the HOA of Montgomery Walk regarding the safety concern.

Adjournment: Upon motion by Ms. Bamford and seconded by Ms. Staab, the meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Deborah A. Rivas, Recording Secretary