MINUTES OF MEETING
MONTGOMERY TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
JANUARY 26, 2026

1. Call to Order: At 7:00 p.m., Chairwoman Tanya C. Bamford called to order the virtual action meeting, which was held remotely by a live-stream event due to the significant winter storm. The public and all interested parties were invited to view and participate in the meeting via a web link that was accessible on the Township's website and social media pages.

IN ATTENDANCE:
Chairwoman Tanya C. Bamford
Vice-Chair Beth A. Staab
Supervisor Eric S. Pelletier
Supervisor Audrey R. Ware-Jones
Township Solicitor Sean Kilkenny, Esq.
Township Manager Carolyn McCreary

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:
Police Chief William Peoples
Director of Finance Blaine Bergey
Director of Planning & Zoning, Marianne McConnell
Director of Information Technology Richard Grier
Recording Secretary Deborah A. Rivas

ABSENT:
Supervisor Candyce Chimera

2. & 3. Pledge of Allegiance and Public Comment: Following the Pledge of Allegiance, Ms. Bamford called for public comment on any item not listed on the agenda and explained the process for speaking during the virtual meeting. There was no public comment.

4. Announcement of Virtual Meeting/Live Stream: Ms. Bamford announced that due to the unpredictable winter storm, the Board of Supervisors agreed to hold a virtual Board meeting as an emergency to ensure the safety of participants. Solicitor Kilkenny stated that as a precaution and to be sure that the Township was totally compliant with the Second Class Township code, a staff member was available at the Township building to let someone in to join the virtual meeting should someone show up physically at the building.

> **MOTION: Upon motion by Ms. Bamford, seconded by Ms. Staab, and unanimously carried (4-0), the Board of Supervisors authorized a virtual meeting as an emergency based on the significant weather impact for Monday, January 26, 2026 at 7:00 p.m.**

5. Consent Agenda:

> **MOTION: Upon motion by Mr. Pelletier, seconded by Ms. Ware-Jones, and unanimously carried (4-0), the minutes of the January 5, 2026 meeting, the payment of bills for January 26, 2026, in the amount of $1,501,691.22, and The Meadows at Parkview End of Maintenance were approved as submitted.**

Planning and Zoning:

6. Application for 2025 Tree City USA Recertification and Growth Award: Ms. McConnell stated that the Tree City USA program, sponsored by the Arbor Day Foundation in cooperation with the USDA Forest Service and the National Association of State Foresters, gives national

recognition for urban and community forestry programs in towns and cities that meet the following four standards: A Tree Board or Department, a Tree Care Ordinance, a Community Forestry Program with an annual budget of at least $2 per capita, and an Arbor Day Observance and Proclamation. The application process is completed online at arborday.org. A application page and the 2025 Annual Work Plan have been submitted for review. Montgomery Township has received the Tree City recognition for the last 28 years and has received the Growth Award for 24 of those years. No action was necessary.

Public Safety:

7. Purchase of Replacement of Police Vehicles: Chief Peoples reported that the department is scheduled to replace two police vehicles. After research, the department is proposing to purchase two 2026 Ford Police Interceptor Utility Hybrid models and equipment as approved in the 2026 budget. Quotes were obtained from Co-Star vendors, Fred Beans Ford Lincoln, and Havis, Inc. The total cost for the replacement of the two vehicles, including equipment and installation, is $141,307.50. A total of $139,915.10 was included in the 2026 Approved Final Budget-Police Department Capital Replacement.

> **MOTION: Upon motion by Ms. Bamford, seconded by Mr. Pelletier, and unanimously carried (4-0), the Board awarded the contract for the purchase of two 2026 Ford Police Interceptor Utility Hybrid vehicles from Fred Beans Ford Lincoln, an authorized vendor under the Co-Stars Cooperative Purchase Program, at a total cost of $93,344.00 per their quote.**
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> **MOTION: Upon motion by Ms. Bamford, seconded by Ms. Ware-Jones, and unanimously carried (4-0), the Board awarded the contract for the purchase and installation of equipment for these vehicles from Havis, Inc., an authorized vendor under the Co-Stars Cooperative Purchase Program, at a total cost of $47,963.50 per their quote.**

8. Review of PennDOT LTAP Technical Assistance Report for Grays Lane: Chief Peoples stated that after receiving public comments concerning the chicane installation on Grays Lane and the subsequent removal, the Board of Supervisors sought quotes for a traffic calming study of the area. PennDOT was identified as having the means to do a study at no cost to the Township. The program is called LTAP, which stands for Local Technical Assistance Program. Their review of the situation provided different options for traffic calming. One of the biggest things they identified is the need for an actual traffic calming policy. Part of this policy puts some of the partnership into the community, aligning with what they're looking for and securing buy-in from the community. The Police Department's Highway Safety Unit is currently working on a traffic-calming policy. The draft policy has been reviewed by the Chief and the Township Manager and will go forward to the Public Safety Committee at the February 4th meeting. Updates should be ready for the Board to review at the February 9th meeting.

Information Technology:

9. Replace Police Department Server: Mr. Grier reported that staff included $30,000 in the 2026 IT budget for the Police Windows Server replacement. The existing server has reached end-of-life and is no longer supported, creating operational security risks. The quote from Dell dated January 5th, 2026, was obtained for the purchase of a PowerEdge R760 server with Windows Server 2025 licensing and five-year ProSupport. The total cost for the quote is $48,420.63. Due to market price increases, the cost exceeds the budgeted amount; however, delaying purchase would likely result in further cost escalation and increased risk to Police Department operations. To confirm price trends, staff obtained a follow-up quote on January 20th, six days ago, which showed continuing increases, rising by $843 from the earlier quote. Discussion followed. Mr. Grier explained that the overall increases for computers, laptops, tablets, etc. were due to the rising cost of memory chips.

> **MOTION: Upon motion by Ms. Bamford, seconded by Mr. Pelletier, and unanimously carried (4-0), the Board approved the purchase of a new Dell PowerEdge R760 server with Windows Server 2025 licensing and 5-year ProSupport under COSTARS-003-E22-603 per the quote dated January 5, 2026, for $48,420.63.**

10. Upgrade Township Building Admin Wing Door Access Control: Mr. Grier stated that the Township Building's Administration Wing currently uses an outdated access control system that requires modernization to maintain security and operational efficiency. The Police Department's access control system was upgraded in the fourth quarter of last year, and this project will bring the administrative wing to that same standard. The proposed upgrade will transition the system to Avigilon cloud, install new control panels, convert existing access-controlled doors, and replace 16 standard car readers with multi-technology readers. Existing proximity cards will remain functional, but they will now have an option to upgrade with future enhancements. This upgrade strengthens building security, improves reliability, and ensures consistency across Township facilities. Funds for this project are included in the 2026 IT budget allocation of $25,000 for admin access control. The proposal dated January 23rd, 2026, from CM3 Building Solution totals $24,184, which is within the approved allocation.

> **MOTION: Upon motion by Ms. Bamford, seconded by Mr. Pelletier, and unanimously carried (4-0), the Board awarded the contract for the upgrade of the Township Building Administration Wing Door Access Control System to CM3 Building Solutions under the Co-Stars Cooperative Purchase Program at a total cost of $24,184.00, per their quote.**

11. Replacement of Main and Staff Entrance Doors for Administration Building: Mr. Grier reported that**,** with the access control upgrade, staff discussed physically replacing the original doors that were installed in 1995. The administration building requires replacement of the main entrance and staff entrance doors to improve security, accessibility, and aesthetics.

Proposals have been received from Advanced Door Service for both locations, including automation and entry assist pedestal work at the main entrance. This purchase will be funded from the Capital Reserve Fund, Building and Grounds. The current doors are showing their age and have been retrofitted to the access control system. The new doors will be out-of-the-box compatible with our access control system, so they will have automated panic bars. We're currently relying on a magnet system that is a bit outdated and flawed from a security perspective, but these doors will be all new and compatible with all those systems.

MOTION: Upon motion by Ms. Bamford, seconded by Ms. Ware-Jones, and unanimously carried (4-0), the Board awarded the purchase and installation of the Main Entrance doors, Staff Entrance doors, and Accessibility Pedestal hardware at the Montgomery Township Administration Building to Advanced Door Service under the Co-Stars Cooperative Purchasing Program, in the total amount of $37,113.22, with funding from the Building Maintenance GL account.

12. Purchase and Installation of Network Switch Replacements for the Recreation Center: Mr. Grier reported that the Recreation Center currently utilizes a Cisco 3650 switch stack that has reached the end-of-life. To maintain network reliability and security, staff recommend replacing these switches with Fortinet models. This upgrade will ensure compatibility with existing infrastructure and support future network demands. A quote from Omega Systems dated January 20th, 2026, outlines the hardware and services required for this project. The proposal also includes switch configuration, installation, and project management services. Funding for this project is available in the 2026 IT budget under Fund 30 Capital Reserve, Department of Recreation, with a budgeted amount of $14,500, and the proposed expenditure of $14,236.05.

MOTION: Upon motion by Ms. Bamford, seconded by Ms. Staab and unanimously carried (4-0), the Board awarded the contract for the purchase and installation of network switch replacements for the Recreation Center from Omega Systems, under the Co-Stars Cooperative Purchase Program, at a total cost of $14,236.05, per their quote.

Administration and Finance:

13. Adoption of the Sewer Rate Ordinance Amendment: Ms. McCreary reported that at the January 5th public meeting, the Board reviewed a memorandum from Municipal Sewer Authority Executive Director Shannon Drosnock requesting the Board's approval to advertise an ordinance amendment for sewer rental charges. She noted that historically, the rates have been updated by ordinance. However, that's not an industry standard, and the Authority is proposing to move towards industry standards, allowing them to dictate their future rate increases, which would be approved by a resolution of their Board, and it would no longer be adopted by a Township ordinance. The Board authorized the advertisement of the proposed ordinance amendment, and the Township Solicitor's Office properly advertised it.

MOTION: Upon motion by Ms. Bamford, seconded by Ms. Staab, and unanimously carried (4-0), the Board adopted Ordinance #26-355, amending Section 187-78.13 of the Montgomery Township code, sewer rental charges.

14. Review Timeframe for the 2025 Audit and 2026 Audit Information: Mr. Bergey reported that, in accordance with the information provided by our audit firm, Maille LLP, the audit plan is to issue the 2025 audit report by June 30th, 2026. Staff will have all the requested information to the auditors by the beginning of March. They will start procedures a week after that, and they'll have it issued by June 30. Per the recommendation of Montgomery Township's elected auditors, a request for proposal will be issued for the 2026 audit. The committee acknowledged the high quality of the work Maille performs for the Township and the firm's excellent reputation, but feels that bidding the audit every 3 to 5 years is a good practice. Maille will be included in the RFP, as well as three other firms.

15. Ratification of Participation as a Cosigner of Amicus Brief – Interest for Business Privilege and Mercantile Tax: Ms. McCreary stated that she received an e-mail from Patrick Hitchens, who is an attorney at our solicitors' firm, advising of an appellate case involving Radnor Township and Lincoln Financial. Lincoln Financial argued that the Local Tax Enabling Act (LETA) does not specifically authorize interest on gross receipts tax. The court vacated the assessment but did not rule on the interest question, so Radnor Township has appealed the decision to the Commonwealth Court. Due to the negative consequences of not being able to collect interest on these delinquent taxes, the firm suggested that an amicus brief be filed. The decision to participate was time sensitive as the brief had to be filed by January 22nd. Based on the fact that we collect not only business privilege but also mercantile tax, and we rely on those taxes. We also feel that delinquent taxpayers should have to pay interest, so we agreed to participate in the filing. The Township would share the cost of preparing and filing the brief with other Kilkenny municipal clients.

MOTION: Upon motion by Ms. Bamford, seconded by Mr. Pelletier, and unanimously carried (4-0), the Board ratified the participation as a cosigner of the Amicus Brief in support of Radnor Township.

16. Authorize the Advertisement of the Revised 2026 Budget: Ms. McCreary reported that the revised budget being presented to the Board this evening includes the following changes from the original: A 1 mill tax increase, instead of 1.71 mills, allocated as follows, .11 to go to the general fund, .44 to go to the fire fund, and .45 to go to the capital reserve fund. The real estate tax revenue for the capital reserve fund is now shown separately as a revenue line item, like the other funds, rather than as an inter-fund transfer. The only inter-fund transfers that will appear going forward will be those the Board authorizes based on any surplus the general fund might have and the Board's decision to put it into capital reserves. Total real estate tax revenue decreased slightly as the latest Township Assessment report from the county shows our total valuation has declined. The salary and benefit lines for the Fire Protection Fund now reflect no change in staffing levels from 2025. However, we added an expenditure line for potential new

hires. That line matches the additional amount of revenue that would be coming into the fire tax fund. Since the Board has commissioned a fire services study, the Board will determine future hires and when they will be made after it has had time to review the study and hear it presented at a public meeting. The real estate tax revenue changed slightly in the Park and Recreation and debt service funds due to the homestead exemption being allocated differently because of the new millage rates. The beginning fund balances, while they're still preliminary until the audit is issued, have been updated based on the latest year-to-date numbers. Staff is recommending that the Board of Supervisors authorize the proposed revised 2026 budget as being available for public inspection, with the adoption scheduled for the February 9th public meeting. This would put us six days ahead of the required February 15th deadline, which has to be in place when you reopen a budget. The numbers that changed were highlighted in yellow to make it easier to see. Mr. Bergey provided an explanation of the footnotes and the differences between the original and revised 2026 budgets.

MOTION: Upon motion by Ms. Bamford, seconded by Ms. Staab, and unanimously carried (4-0), the Board authorized the advertisement of the proposed revised 2026 Budget (all funds) as being available for public inspection.

17. Authorize the Advertisement of an Ordinance for the Establishment of a Fire Tax: Ms. McCreary reported that as a result of the Board's discussion and approved motion at the January 5th business meeting, the fire tax ordinance adopted on December 15, 2025 has been amended to reflect a reduction in millage from 1.71 mills to 1 mill. Previously, .56 mills were internally allocated to fire services. The addition of .44 mills brings the dedicated millage to 1 mill. It's estimated that one mill will generate $2,015,000 in real estate tax revenue, which is shown on page 15 of the 2026 budget. This ordinance amendment would then be able to be adopted at your February 9th public meeting. This ordinance amendment was prepared by the Township Solicitor's office.

MOTION: Upon motion by Ms. Bamford, seconded by Mr. Pelletier, and unanimously carried (4-0), the Board authorized the advertisement of an ordinance amending Ordinance #25-353, which established and levied a Fire Services Tax on all real property in Montgomery Township.

18. Appointment of Deputy Tax Collector for Montgomery Township: Mr. Bergey reported that Tina Stoll was sworn in as Tax Collector of Montgomery Township on January 5, 2026. Ms. Stoll wishes to appoint Christian Fusco, the bonded Tax Collector of Towamencin Township, as her Deputy Tax Collector for Montgomery Township should she be unable to perform her duties for any reason.

MOTION: Upon motion by Ms. Bamford, seconded by Ms. Staab and unanimously carried (4-0), the Board approved the appointment of Christian Fusco as the Deputy Tax Collector for Montgomery Township.

New Business:

19. Department Reports: Each department submitted monthly reports for activity in the month of December. Ms. McCreary discussed the recent storm and the work that the Public Works Department has done over the last three weekends. This particular storm was very difficult due to the amount of snow and the ice on top. The crews will continue to work this week to clean up as much as possible. Ms. Creary also noted that Derek Muller resigned his position as Public Information Officer late last year to become Director of Parks and Recreation in Quakertown Borough. She is pleased to announce that Ava Komasz, who worked with Derek, has accepted the role. The title is changing from Public Information Coordinator to Interim Community Engagement Manager. The reason it's interim is to give both a chance to see if this is something that Ava likes, because there's an administrative side, not just the communication side. Ava flourishes not only with her articulateness but also with her creativity. Congratulations to Ava. We know everybody on the staff supports her and is really looking forward to seeing her flourish and doing what we can to support her in that role.

20. Committee Liaison Reports: Ms. Bamford reported that the Sewer Authority reorganized in January, and the Business Development Partnership did not meet. Ms. Staab noted that the Park and Recreation Board met, set priorities, and discussed funding for the farmhouse project. The EAC is hosting a residential lawn replacement program with native pollinator gardens. The Northern Montgomery County Recycling Commission is finally receiving its 2023 check from the DEP. The Township should be receiving its share soon. Ms. Ware-Jones said the Finance Committee met and discussed the revised budget. The Senior committee met and discussed their upcoming presentations and recapped the Breakfast with Santa event. Mr. Pelletier reported that the CRC Advisory Committee met and was happy to report that the building is being used quite a bit. The new gym floor is in good shape, but there will be some big expenditures coming up in the future, such as parking lot lighting and replacement of fitness equipment. Ms. Ware-Jones also noted that Ms. Chimera was unable to attend the virtual meeting because she is away and is experiencing a power outage.

21. Adjournment: Upon motion by Ms. Bamford and seconded by Ms. Staab, the meeting was adjourned at 8:03 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Deborah A. Rivas, Recording Secretary