MINUTES OF MEETING
MONTGOMERY TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
MARCH 9, 2026

1. Call to Order: The March 9, 2026 action 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 7:00 p.m.

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

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:
Police Lieutenant Gerald Dougherty
Director of Finance Blaine Bergey
Director of Public Works Greg Reiff
Director of Planning & Zoning Marianne McConnell
Director of Information Technology Richard Grier
Recording Secretary Deborah A. Rivas

2. & 3. Pledge of Allegiance and Announcements: Following the Pledge of Allegiance, Ms. Bamford made an announcement recognizing March as Women's History Month in Montgomery Township. In addition to celebrating the women who have made history in Montgomery Township, the Board recognized Marianne McConnell during her last meeting as the Director of Planning and Zoning.

Ms. Bamford announced that she was rearranging the agenda items and moved up Item #07 - Recognition of the Police Canine Teams.

7. Recognize Police Department Canine Teams: Lt. Dougherty reported that the Police Department is proud to recognize two Canine Teams who are receiving awards from the United States Police Canine Association, Region 6, in recognition of the Police Canine Certifications they earned in 2025. Officer Robert Ungurean of the Upper Southampton Police Department, who serves as President of the United States Police Canine Association, Region 6, stated that the canine teams aim to complete several certifications. Of the association's 145 members, approximately 100 dogs are eligible to complete these certifications. Last year, only four completed all the certifications to receive the Triple Crown Award. Montgomery Township has two of the four teams that have completed all the certifications offered. Officer Ungurean presented the Triple Crown Awards to Officer Andrew Haber and Canine Riggs and Officer Nicholas Eufrasio and Canine Niko.

4. Public Comment: Ms. Bamford called for public comment on any items not listed on the agenda, and there were none.

5. Announcement of Executive Session: Township Solicitor Sean Kilkenny, Esquire, announced that the Board of Supervisors met in Executive Session earlier this evening at 6:00 PM in person to discuss personnel matters. Mr. Kilkenny stated that the topics discussed are legitimate subjects of an Executive Session under the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania's Sunshine Law.

6. Consent Agenda:

MOTION: Upon motion by Ms. Bamford, seconded by Mr. Pelletier, and unanimously carried (5-0), the minutes of the February 23, 2026 meeting, the payment of bills for March 9, 2026, in the amount of $520,892.69, the Escrow Release and End of Maintenance for Redner's Gas and the Escrow Release #8 for Bharatiya Temple Learning Center were approved as submitted.

Introduction:

7. Public Safety Committee Appointment: Township resident Bernd Heinze submitted an application and expressed his interest in serving on the Public Safety Committee.

MOTION: Upon motion by Ms. Bamford, seconded by Mr. Pelletier, and unanimously carried (5-0), the Board appointed Bernd Heinze to the Public Safety Committee to serve an existing one-year term to expire on January 1, 2027.

Code Enforcement:

8. Discussion on Property Maintenance – Snow, Leaf, & Debris Removal: Ms. McCreary reported that Ms. Staab had inquired about what types of letters/notices are typically sent to property owners who fail to remove their snow or other materials from their sidewalks. The packet included samples of letters that are sent by the Township. Ms. McConnell stated that it has been a very bad winter with significant snow and ice storms. The Township sent notices to properties that were not shoveled and to those that were throwing snow out into the street after the Public Works Department had cleared the streets. Ms. Staab said that people had called her about the conditions, and she had seen people walking in the street, concerned about slipping and falling. She also said that some people think they only need to shovel the front of their house, when some properties have sidewalks behind them. Overall Ms. Staab and other Board members were pleased with the letters that were sent and stated that they were well written.

Planning, Zoning and Land Development:

9. Appointment of Interim Zoning Officer: Ms. McCreary stated that with the resignation of Marianne McConnell, the Board of Supervisors needs to appoint an interim Zoning Officer to continue this function during the hiring period. This individual will have the authority to issue notices of violations and citations. Ms. McCreary recommended that the Board appoint Jesse Hill as the Interim Zoning Officer. Mr. Hill is currently a third-party inspector who handles zoning matters in other municipalities and is experienced in those matters.

MOTION: Upon motion by Ms. Staab, seconded by Mr. Pelletier, and unanimously carried, the Board appointed Jesse Hill as the Interim Zoning Officer.

Public Works:

11. Award the Contract for the 2026 Lawn Care Treatment:

MOTION: Upon motion by Ms. Bamford, seconded by Mr. Pelletier, and unanimously carried (5-0), the Board awarded the contract for the 2026 Lawn Care Treatment to Moyer Indoor/Outdoor, the contractor providing the lowest quote, dated January 16, 2026, in the amount of $20,813.00.

12. Award the Contract for the Replacement of the Montgomery Elementary Pedestrian Bridge:

MOTION: Upon motion by Ms. Staab, seconded by Ms. Ware-Jones, and unanimously carried (5-0), the Board awarded the contract for the Replacement of the Montgomery Elementary Pedestrian Bridge to J.D. Fedele Construction Demolition, Inc., the lowest responsible bidder, in the amount of $241,451.00 per the recommendation of Gilmore & Associates, Township Engineer.

13. Authorize the Purchase of Two (2) Wacker Neuson Light Towers: Mr. Reiff reported that the Public Works Department is scheduled to purchase two Wacker Neuson Light Towers as approved in the Capital Investment Plan. The light towers will be used for nighttime repairs, nighttime events, accident scenes, and other projects that require illumination. During public comment, Jay Washesky, a Township resident, asked how much the Township spends on portable lighting each year. The information was not available at the meeting.

MOTION: Upon motion by Ms. Bamford, seconded by Mr. Pelletier, and unanimously carried (5-0), the Board approved the purchase of Two (2) Wacker Neuson Light Towers from Groff Tractor & Equipment, an authorized vendor under the Sourcewell Purchasing Program, at a total cost of $31,784.00 per their quote dated January 21, 2026.

14. Purchase of Replacement 2026 Reiser Trailer:

MOTION: Upon motion by Ms. Bamford, seconded by Ms. Staab, and unanimously carried (5-0), the Board awarded the contract for the purchase of one (1) 2026 Reiser Trailer from Cargo Trailer Sales, Inc., an authorized vendor under the Co-Stars Cooperative Purchase Program, at a total cost of $10,135.00 per their quote dated March 3, 2026.

15. Purchase of Kifco Water Reel:

MOTION: Upon motion by Mr. Pelletier, seconded by Ms. Staab, and unanimously carried (5-0), the Board approved the purchase of a Kifco Water Reel from Turf Equipment and Supply Company, at a total cost of $22,904.00 per their quote dated February 11, 2026.

Parks and Recreation:

16. Authorize Bid for the Whistlestop Park Improvement Project: Ms. McCreary stated that the Whistlestop Park Improvement Project includes the removal and replacement of outdated play equipment with a new accessible, inclusive playground with sensory components located adjacent to the pavilion. The playground will include a poured-in-place safety surfacing, shade structures, and perimeter fencing. The existing playground area will be converted into a picnic grove. Six pickleball courts will be added. The softball field will be updated with a new backstop, heavy-duty fencing, and new play benches and bleachers. A loop trail with ADA access to the softball field and other park amenities will be added, and improvements will be made to the existing path to meet ADA requirements. The existing rain garden will be rehabilitated, and existing stormwater issues will be addressed. When completed, this project will enable children and others of all abilities to play and recreate in a safe and inclusive place. The total cost of the project is estimated to be $1.9 million. $1.5 million was included in the 2026 Capital Reserve Fund budget. Grants awarded to date include $250,000 from DCNR and $125,000 from DCED. A grant application for $350,000 was recently submitted to the MONTCO 2040 Implementation Grant Program. Funding has also been sought from the Local Share Account Grant Program.

> **MOTION: Upon motion by Ms. Bamford, seconded by Mr. Pelletier, and unanimously carried (5-0), the Board authorized the advertisement of the bid for the Whistlestop Park Improvement Project utilizing the PennBid website.**

Administration and Finance:

17. Ratification of Real Estate Tax Appeal Settlement – 918 Bethlehem Pike: Mr. Bergey reported that the taxpayer, TD Bank, filed an appeal for the property tax for the 2024 tax year. The assessed value of 918 Bethlehem Pike was initially $1,004,190.00. Based upon the applicable Common Level Ratio, the current implied market value for the property is as follows: $2,828,704.23 (CLR of 35.5%); $3,052,249.24 for Tax Year 2025 (CLR of 32.9%); and $3,264,596.88 for Tax Year 2026 (CLR of 30.76%) On October 16, 2023, after the taxpayer presented evidence, the Board of Assessment Appeals issued a "Notice of No Change in Assessment." The taxpayer thereafter filed an appeal with the Court of Common Pleas.

The proposed settlement negotiated between the School District and the Taxpayer is $1,681,859.00, representing fair market value for tax year 2024. Applying the applicable Common Level Ratio, the assessed value would be $597,060.00, resulting in a decrease of $407,130.00 for 2024.

The fair market value would become $1,681,854.00 for tax year 2025. Applying the applicable Common Level Ratio, the assessed value would be $553,330.00, resulting in a decrease of $450,860.00 for 2025.

The fair market value would become $1,681,859.00 for tax year 2026. Applying the applicable Common Level Ratio, the assessed value would be $517,340.00, resulting in a decrease of $486,850.00 for 2026.

Based on the proposed settlement, should the Township agree to it, the Taxpayer will be owed a refund of $2,522.39 for the 2024-2025 tax years. The assessed value of the Property will be decreased by $486,850.00 for the 2026 tax year.

> **MOTION: Upon motion by Ms. Bamford, seconded by Ms. Ware-Jones, and unanimously carried (5-0), the Board approved the stipulated settlement for 918 Bethlehem Pike and authorized the Township Solicitor to execute the document on behalf of the Township.**

Old Business: None.

New Business:

18. Electric Vehicle Charging Stations: Ms. McCreary reported that the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation has opened the latest round of National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (NEVI) funding, focusing on southeastern Pennsylvania. Montgomery Township is on the list of priority eligible communities for this first round of funding. Priorities were developed through public outreach and county input. Previously, when initiatives were developed, the Township identified four locations as potential sites, including the Community and Recreation Center, the Township building, Windlestrae Park, and Whistlestop Park. The next step in the process is to complete an Interested Parties Directory Survey. Staff are seeking the Board's direction to continue evaluating this initiative, working with the local community partners at the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission (DVPRC) and our local community partner, the Partnership for Transportation.

Overall, the Board of Supervisors was in favor of investigating this initiative further and pursuing the effort.

Also under New Business, Mr. Pelletier asked whether the Board has a rule or policy regarding public comment and whether the Board can read letters into the record during public comment. Mr. Kilkenny explained that any Board can regulate public comment. Ms. Chimera stated that she felt that she was being targeted because she had read letters, at the request of the writers, at the last Board meeting regarding the Fire Chief situation. She stated that it was a slippery slope if you started taking away the public's right to free speech. Some residents may not be able to attend a meeting and still want their thoughts or comments heard. Ms. Kilkenny stated that the Board can amend or adopt a resolution. Ms. Bamford stated that the Board could adopt a resolution limiting public comment to in-person only. Ms. Bamford asked Ms. McCreary to provide the current resolution outlining the guidelines established for the Board of Supervisors meeting for discussion at the next meeting.

Residents asked to provide public comment on the Electric Vehicle Charging Station, although no action was taken. Ms. Bamford provided for public comment. Jay Washesky, a Township resident, sent an email outlining why the Township should not consider installing electric vehicle charging stations. Mr. Washesky stated his opposition to the initiative. John Scholl, a Township resident, inquired if there had been a study of how many people wanted these charging stations and if not a need, why are we pursuing it? Mike Wozny, a Township resident, stated that electric cars are tanking and are not the way of the future. As for reading letters during public comment, Mr. Wozny said the Board should let people's voices be heard. Also under public comment, Bob Guzzardo, a Township resident, questioned the changes in the fire department since the current tax increase. Ms. Bamford outlined the current plan, which increased taxes to support the general fund, the fire fund, and the capital reserve fund. A fire study is underway and will be used to determine the best way to proceed with the expansion of the fire department.

19. Adjournment: Upon motion by Ms. Bamford and seconded by Mr. Pelletier, the meeting was adjourned at 8:19 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Deborah A. Rivas, Recording Secretary