

UPPER MILFORD TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
TOWNSHIP BUILDING, OLD ZIONSVILLE, PA 18068
OCTOBER 15, 2015 AT 7:30 P.M.
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

ATTENDANCE: Supervisors; George DeVault, Daniel Mohr, Robert Sentner; Asst. Township Manager, Timothy Haas; Treasurer, Jessi O'Donald; Solicitor, Marc Fisher

Meeting called to order at 8:01 P.M.

Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

This meeting is being recorded principally to aid in the preparation of Minutes and for such other purposes as the Board sees fit. For that reason, will each person wanting to give any comments during this meeting, please state your name for the record and address the Board of Supervisors.

PUBLIC INPUT: None

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES:

October 1, 2015 Workshop & Regular Meeting Minutes.

MOTION:

Supervisor Sentner made the motion to accept the October 1, 2015 Workshop & Regular meeting minutes. Supervisor Mohr seconded the motion. Any questions or comments, all were in favor, and the motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF PAYMENT OF BILLS:

GENERAL FUND:

PLGIT XXXX7096 - Check No's 15073 to 15107 in the amount of \$140,186.91

PAYROLL FUND:

PLGIT XXXX7015 - Check No 7322 in the amount of \$96.56

STREETLIGHT FUND:

PLGIT XXXX7125 - Check No's 1259 to 1260 in the amount of \$2,344.34

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF BANK TRANSFER(S):

Transfer # 2015-050

MOTION:

Supervisor Mohr made the motion to pay the bills as read and acknowledge the bank transfer. Supervisor Sentner seconded the motion. Any questions or comments, all were in favor, and the motion carried unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS:

- 1.) False Fire Alarm Ordinance.
 - a. Authorization for Township Solicitor to advertise.

MOTION:

Supervisor Sentner made the motion authorize the Township Solicitor to advertise the False Fire Alarm Ordinance for adoption. Supervisor Mohr seconded the motion. Any questions or comments, all were in favor, and the motion carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS:

- 1.) Resolution No. 2015-030.
 - a. United States Postal Lease Contract Renewal

MOTION:

Supervisor Sentner made the motion to adopt Resolution No. 2015-030. Supervisor Mohr seconded the motion. Any questions or comments, all were in favor, and the motion carried unanimously.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT:

- 1.) Ordinance No. 142
 - a. An Ordinance requiring certain structures to have a key lock box installed on the exterior of the structure for fire safety purposes.

Solicitor, Fisher briefly summarized Ordinance No. 142. It has been dully and properly advertised for adoption.

MOTION:

Supervisor Sentner made the motion to adopt Ordinance No. 142. Supervisor Mohr seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote: Supervisor Sentner, Yes; Supervisor Mohr, Yes; Chairman DeVault, Yes; the motion carried unanimously.

DEP MODULES / SEWAGE PLANNING: None

PLANNING COMMISSION – OLD BUSINESS: None

PLANNING COMMISSION – NEW BUSINESS: None

SUBDIVISIONS – IMPROVEMENTS: None

CORRESPONDENCE:

- 1.) Letter from Mr. Salvatore Verrastro, dated October 7, 2015.

Supervisor Sentner reminded the Board that the open burning topic has been sent back to the Fire Company Steering Committee for their discussion and recommendation.

Supervisor Mohr would like to see the present burning ordinance enforced more consistently.

The Board briefly discussed open burning and thanked Mr. Verrastro for his letter.

- 2.) Letter regarding Citizen's Fire Co. Treasury, dated October 12, 2015.
- 3.) Letter regarding Citizen's Fire Co. Personnel, received October 12, 2015.
- 4.) Letter regarding Citizen's Fire Co. Personnel, dated October 13, 2015.

Upon reading the letter Chairman DeVault shared the response percentages of the Citizen's Fire Company personnel that recently resigned. He was deeply concerned by the recent resignations as he feels the "varsity team" has gone up in smoke.

Solicitor Fisher shared three (3) comments for the Board of Supervisors: (1) The Board has been very fortunate that they have volunteers to step in as firefighters to protect the Township, its residents, and those that travel through the Township, but it's sad to see the resignation of the specified individuals. (2) Regarding the request of resigned personnel from Citizen's Fire Company asking the Township to intercede, the Board does not have the authority to step in. However, the Board has a duty to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the residents of the Township. The Board also has the absolute right to adopt rules and regulations relating to the governments of the fire companies. The Board is responsible for providing fire services and to ensure that they are available to the extent that the Board determines to be adequate. (3) Given the serious decrease in response personnel the Board should not sit back on this matter and should consider directing staff to send a letter to Citizen's Fire Company requesting them to identify the names of all persons responding to incidents, the addresses of those people responding, which of those people are able to respond during the day, list the qualifications of such responding people, and what is their plan for controlling response within their district. If Citizen's Fire Company does not respond in the time stated within the proposed letter (October 23, 2015), or the Board feels that the response is inadequate, the Board has the authority to invite other

entities that could aid in providing service in addition to Citizen's Fire Company. It is his recommendation that the Board take such action.

Solicitor Fisher suggested that the Board make a motion as official action directing staff to write such letter.

MOTION:

Supervisor Sentner made the motion to direct staff to write a letter to Citizen's Fire Company. Supervisor Mohr seconded the motion. Any questions or comments, all were in favor, and the motion carried unanimously.

Supervisor Sentner asked for all additional response entities to be on high alert right now because the possibility of slower response by Citizen's Fire Company.

Chairman DeVault briefly summarized for the audience what the parameters are for a Board of Supervisors in their relationship with a volunteer fire company.

Resident, James Krippe asked if the county dispatch should be contacted to find out how they would plan on handling the dispatching until the issues are resolved.

Chairman DeVault responded, "We'll will take that bull by the horns."

Supervisor Mohr and Chariman DeVault thanked those who resigned from Citizen's Fire Company for their service to the community.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: None

OTHER ISSUES: None

REPORTS:

Emmaus Library: Ms. Lisa Marten updated the Board that the homework center continues to be used regularly and the fall programs for both the children and adults are in full swing and well attended.

Township Emergency Management Coordinator: None

Fire Department: None

Recreation Commission: None

Fire Company Steering Committee:

1.) Report from Assistant Manager, Tim Haas.

Assistant Manager, Haas summarized the October 12 meeting of the Fire Company Steering Committee for the Board. Highlighted topics were: Joint training dates, training costs, training gaps, firefighter incentives, rosters, and Committee member terms.

Supervisor Sentner raised concerns that the fire department's SCBAs may not be interchangeable.

Supervisors:

Robert Sentner – Thanked all Citizen's Fire Company firefighters, both past and present, for their service. It's a shame that reconciliation is not occurring. The Board reached out to the fire company to aid in reconciliation and looking at the audience it is evident which side showed up and which side didn't.

Daniel Mohr – Thanked everyone for participating in and enjoying the Vera Cruz Halloween parade. He also thanked the fire companies for providing Fire Police service. He mentioned the Township has seen discord in the fire companies before, but this time it's been brought up to the Township, so the Board will have to deal with it.

George DeVault – Thanked all the firefighting volunteers, past, present, and future for their service. So much goes into volunteer service that is not seen by the public eye. He told everyone to stay safe.

ADJOURNMENT: 8:49 P.M.

George D. DeVault, Chairman

Date

Timothy A. Haas, Asst. Twp. Manager/Secretary