

Upper Milford Township
Board of Supervisors
Township Building, Old Zionsville, PA 18068
July 15th, 2021 7pm
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

ATTENDANCE: Supervisors; Daniel Mohr, Robert Sentner, Joyce Moore; Manager Edward Carter, Planning Coordinator Brian Miller; Solicitor Marc Fisher, Secretary/treasurer Jessi O'Donald

Meeting called to order at 7:00 pm.

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:

Jim Krippe: Asked if there will be a Traffic signal warning light on the South side of the Rt 29 Bridge prior to the Allen Street Traffic light? Manager Carter, Supervisor Sentner and Brian Miller all agreed that PennDOT protocols list this as having enough sight distance.

Jason Tapler – 2868 Chock Rd – Former assistant Chief of Station #28.

Jason listed out several section of the Second Class Township Code in regard to Fire Service within the Township. He is concerned that there is not enough response trained volunteers within the fire service and now stations are excluding volunteers like himself with 26 years' experience. He asked several questions: 1.) Does the township have a minimum standard by which they determine the "means and extent" to which fire and emergency services are required to meet in order to provide adequate service to its citizens to adhere to state law? 2.) With no minimum standard expectation level set for fire and emergency services, how can the Township be ensured they are adequately meeting the requirements of the Second Class Township Code Section 1553 per state law to provide fire and emergency service protections to its citizenry *OR* are they selecting these services solely by selecting a department by name and proximity only, not qualifications? 3.) Does the Township have an aid agreement with the departments? If so does it list expectations of service or qualifications? 4.) The Board of Supervisors was provided a packet of documentation in a May meeting (two months ago) regarding problems within, and relating to the fire department, has the Board of Supervisors reviewed that information? 5.) Are the Board of Supervisors aware there are potential ongoing issues within the Department that may affect quality of service? 6.) Does the fire departments received funding [essentially taxpayer funding] from the township? 7.) Is it true that the Emergency Services Committee indicated Recruitment and Retention is the number one priority for the fire departments in Upper Milford Township?

There was a brief discussion as to the fact that Jason presented these questions and he deserves an answer. He is concerned that experienced volunteers are not being allowed to respond to calls. He has 26 years in the fire service and he has been forced out of the station. Supervisor Sentner wanted everyone to remember that there are two fire companies in the Township and Jason is discussing the

events at Station #28. Supervisor Sentner feels an outside person needs to look into this pattern of people leaving the Fire Company.

It was recommended by Solicitor Fisher that the Township go through the questions and see what can and cannot be responded to for the next meeting. Jason then recounted concerns he has over action the Fire Company has taken to remove him and two other volunteers from active duty. He asks the Township to determine expectation for the Fire Company.

Supervisor Sentner responded and asked if Jason would be giving the Township a copy of the letter he read. Supervisor Sentner also confirmed that the concerns were with Station #28 so no one confuses the two Fire Companies with these concerns. He reiterated that what happens in the Fire Companies is internal to the Fire Companies. He asked that the Township have an outside person look into these concerns if that is possible. He sees this as a pattern of behavior. Supervisor Sentner is concerned that the Assistant Chief after 25 years is questioning the response of the Fire Company.

Solicitor Fisher stated that he would like to see the questions and be able to give Mr. Tapler the answers after he looks through them to see what is possible to answer. He felt the answers can be looked at for the next meeting.

Jim Krippe: Jim asked if Supervisor Sentner remembered when the Township tried to get an outside person to weigh in on the Fire Companies and the same people who are now expressing concerns they want the Township to take care of.

Michael Krause – 3720 Allen St Mr. Krause read a prepared statement. Mr. Krause would like to know how to get his possessions back. The Township followed through on the court order to remove items from Mr. Krause's property on Allen St. He relayed that there are fines and liens against his property and the storage fees for the vehicles removed are \$350.00 per day. He says that he cannot work due to this and he has no money. He claims that the person who precipitated the complaints against him allows a young child to drive an ATV all over the neighborhood, has loud parties and questioned permits for sheds.

He was advised to seek legal counsel and speak to Lehigh County Court.

Glenn Reinert – 3802 John St. Mr. Reinert states that Mr. Krause helps everyone in the neighborhood. Krause runs a legitimate business and the Township lawlessly took Mr. Krause's property and ruined a small business. He stated that Mr. Krause has had zoning approval since 1985 to run his business. He wants the Township to forgive the fines and return Mr. Krause's property to him to make everything right as he sees it. Mr. Reinert questioned the Mr. Krause should be able to park the vehicles for his business outside and he feels that the Township unjustly went after Mr. Krause and made subjective decisions on what was junk on the property and which vehicles were taken. He felt no one has given Mike any direction on how to proceed to get these items back. The Township should not be imposing ridiculous rules. Mr. Krause is actively working on items all the time and the Township took items that Mr. Krause needed to run his farm. He also believes the Township took household items as well and he feels this is an abuse of power.

Karin Reinert – 3802 John St. She questioned if the Township could go after Mike Krause, then the Township could go after anyone in their neighborhood with a variance.

Neil Bailey - 6102 Chestnut St Mr. Bailey expressed concerns over the illegal dumping of logs and stumps in the Township's yard waste site. He asked if there is anything that could be done to curb the extra waste being taken in.

Dave Schoedler - 5506 Walnut Lane Mr. Schoedler is also concerned about the dumping of stumps at the yard waste site and the out of area people dumping commercial accounts. He would like to know why Township employees are not enforcing the rules.

Mike Steltz – 3744 Chestnut St - He asked if the license plates were given to the township would the people be fined.

Emily Fair – Chock Rd She suggested instead of paying someone to be there that a gate be looked into with an RFD reader so cards could be read and monitored as to who id dumping.

Manager Carter noted that there were changes and the cameras don't get license plates. He stated the only way to control it is to pay someone to man the area during open hours.

There was a brief discussion about the feasibility of fencing and manning during certain hours. The Board directed staff to come up with numbers to see what the costs would be.

Paul Lagato – Ridge Street Macungie He is very upset in regard to the issues with Mr. Krause. He has been in the County Courthouse with the litigation. He was here to plead for Mr. Krause. He stated that Mr. Krause cannot work anymore. He has two vehicles with Mr. Krause to restore and the court document is one page long. He knows Mr. Krause for 38 years and he is a good guys. He can show many junkyards in Upper Milford Township and he feels that the litigation will go on and he feels the township can put a stop to this.

Supervisor Sentner explained there will be no comment.

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES:

Approval of June 17th Regular meeting minutes

MOTION: Supervisor Moore made a motion to accept the minutes and presented for June 17th 2021. Supervisor Sentner seconded the motion. Hearing no questions or comments, all were in favor, motion carried.

RATIFICATION OF BILLS: from July 1st, 2020

GENERAL FUND:

PLGIT XXXX7096 - Check No's. **20448 to 20472** in the amount of **\$ 23,433.29**

HIGHWAY AID FUND:

PLGIT XXXX7112 - Check No's. **2641** in the amount of **\$ 17,194.85**

PAYMENT OF BILLS: from July 15th, 2020

GENERAL FUND:

PLGIT XXXX7096 - Check No's. **20473 to 20512** in the amount of **\$ 112,887.50**

Street Light FUND:

PLGIT XXXX7125 - Check No's. 1368 in the amount of **\$2,160.93**

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF BANK TRANSFERS:

Transfers No's. 2021-041 to 2021-049

Motion: Supervisor Moore made a motion to ratify the bills from July 1st, pay the bills as read for July 15th and acknowledge the bank transfers. Supervisor Sentner seconded the motion. Hearing no questions or comments, all were in favor, motion carried.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT: - No Report

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

- 1.) Open Space Recommendations –Wachter & Miller
 - a. Letter from Secretary O'Donald

At their July 14th meeting the Upper Milford Open Space Committee discussed two parcel application for Natural Features Conservation Easements. 1.) 4302 Main Rd West/5760 Vera Cruz Rd the Owner is presently working with Lehigh County Ag Conservation for approximately 47.7 acres of Ag land. The Natural Features Conservation Easement that has been applied for is the remaining +/- 41.3 acres. This land is in the LVPC High Priority area and contains flood plain/buffer area, steep slopes and wetlands along the Cold water fishery of the Liebert Creek. 2.) 7447 Salem Bible Church Rd. This property is located within the Perkiomen Watershed and contains Natural Heritage Inventory Supporting Landscape, Steep Slopes and a large section of inland woodland. This property is located within the LVPC highest priority conservation area. The parcel is also in the largest wooded section of the Township where there are no dwellings in an area of over 300 acres. The Open Space committee motioned to recommend to the Board of Supervisors that these two applications are of high value in preservation and requests approval for staff to start the appraisal process.

MOTION: Supervisor Sentner made a motion to authorize staff to proceed with the appraisal process for the properties recommended in Secretary O'Donald's letter dated July 15th, 2021. Supervisor Moore seconded the motion. Hearing no questions or comments, all were in favor, motion carried.

DEP MODULES / SEWAGE PLANNING: - None

PLANNING COMMISSION – OLD BUSINESS: None

PLANNING COMMISSION – NEW BUSINESS: None

SUBDIVISIONS – IMPROVEMENTS: None

CORRESPONDENCE:

- 1.) Letter from L. Young

The letter from Ms. Young asks for a refund or credit on her pavilion rental. Her complaint states that the park was noisy during their family reunion as there were multiple sports games going on and that another family sat at the tables at the pavilion until they were directly asked to leave. Ms. Young and her family have rented Lenape Pavilion you the last several years and say they have not encountered the activity at the park as they did this year.

There was a brief discussion about the rental of the pavilions and the use of the park. It was agreed that the rental is for the pavilion and not the park. The activities in that park are allowed to go on. While it was sad that others used the pavilion during the Young's rental the Township cannot control other people's behavior and that the family in question did leave when asked. Staff was asked to put a bolder notice on the rental paperwork that park activities may be on going while the pavilions are rented. It was agreed that a refund or credit cannot be issued for normal park activity.

OTHER ISSUES: - None

REPORTS:

Emergency Services Committee Report: No Report - Next meeting Wednesday July 21st at 7 pm.

Township Emergency Management Coordinator: N/A

Emergency Services Call Report: Report on website

Fire Companies: Mike Ruyak reported that the companies were practicing and trying to come up with a budget for 2022. He said the concern is ad loss in fund raising money.

Secretary O'Donald asked if the Fire Company applied for loss in revenue grants during the CARES act money distribution. He could confirm that Station #19 did and they received approximately 90% of what they requested.

Emmaus Library: No Report

Recreation Commission: Next meeting 7/19 at 7pm at Churchview Park

Township Manager:

Bud Carter – The Rt. 29 bridge detour will be done mid-August. The construction is on track to remove the detour the 2nd or 3rd week in August.

Supervisors:

Robert Sentner – Supervisor Sentner reported that with the detour being complete he will again bring up the letter to PennDOT about the truck traffic. He also wanted to ask if anything could be done with the Fireworks as they are really becoming a problem.

There was a brief discussion with input from Makenzie Christman and Mike Ruyak about the fireworks, noise and enforcement concerns.

Joyce Moore – No Report

Daniel Mohr – No Report

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Not Needed

ADJOURNMENT: Meeting was adjourned at 8:25 pm.

Chairman Daniel J. Mohr

August 5th, 2021
Date

Secretary Jessi O'Donald