

Upper Milford Township  
Board of Supervisors  
Township Building, Old Zionsville, PA 18068  
September 21<sup>st</sup>, 2023, 7pm  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

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**ATTENDANCE:** Supervisors, Joyce K. Moore, John D. Zgura, Daniel J. Mohr; Manager Edward Carter, Solicitor Marc Fisher; Planning Coordinator Brian Miller; Secretary/Treasurer Jessi O'Donald

Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

Meeting called to order at 7:00 pm.

**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.

Upper Milford Board of Supervisors held an executive session beginning at 6:30 pm prior to the start of this meeting to discuss a legal matter.

**PUBLIC INPUT:**

**Phil Casey** – commented that he has seen the sweeper out and about.

**Jim Krippe** – Jim asked if someone else was doing code inspections as he was made to put erosion control around when he built his garage, but it seems as though certain contractors and homeowners are not made to follow the same rules. Jim asked about erosion control around a pool installation and asked Supervisor Zgura if he had an inspection for the footer that was poured on an addition recently. Supervisor Zgura confirmed that he did have the proper inspections.

Nick & Lori Yackanicz of 4713 Beck Road –They asked if a better spot for it would be closer to the stop sign. They feel the road needs the speed limit sign but wonder why after 30 years it was installed in their yard and if it's possible to move it. Manager Carter said it would be investigated.

**ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES:**

Approval of September 7<sup>th</sup>, 2023, regular meeting minutes.

**MOTION:** Supervisor Mohr made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Supervisor Zgura seconded the motion. Hearing no questions or comments, all were in favor, motion carried.

**APPROVAL OF PAYMENT OF BILLS:**

**GENERAL FUND:**

PLGIT XXXX7096 - Check No's. 22471 to 22505 in the amount of \$147,242.49

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF BANK TRANSFERS:**

Transfer No's. 2023-042 to 2023-045

**MOTION:** Supervisor Mohr made a motion to pay the bills as read and acknowledge the bank transfers. Supervisor Zgura seconded the motion. Hearing no questions or comments, all were in favor, motion carried.

**SOLICITOR'S REPORT:** No Report

**OLD BUSINESS:**

1.) Fire Company Discussion

Supervisor Zgura started the conversation. He would like everyone to bring all the ideas to the table and discuss the future. He feels all ideas, even if they are thrown out, should be discussed. His first thought was a fire tax. He doesn't like to tax but it's a thought. He had a conversation with Senator Coleman. Senator Coleman would like to know what the Fire Companies need. John would like them to contact Senator Coleman. Grants are another item. His other thought is one fire company with two stations. He doesn't want anyone to get upset, he just wants to get all the ideas out there. He wants to think about this thoroughly, so everyone is on the right track in the future.

Joyce wanted everyone to know that since Upper Milford only has three Supervisors that they can't talk to each other in any way other than a public meeting. She thinks it's important to make sure everyone understands that and wonders if the Fire Companies have any thoughts.

Joe Sherman wanted everyone to think about Lower Milford instituting a Fire Tax and the Fire Company got less money due to the residents not donating to the Fire Company. He also thinks that one fire company would be hard and lengthen response time.

There was a conversation on what the real estate tax is now at .45 mills and the max fire tax is 3 mills. The Township brings in \$380,000.00 per year in Real Estate Taxes. The average tax assessment is \$213,000.00 so the average tax in Upper Milford is \$104.00. Colt Hershinger asked if the tax could just be raised to include what extra is needed and still give what the Township is already giving in addition, instead of the amount already being donated going into the general fund.

Angela Ashbrook asked for clarification on the dollar amount of 7 million. It was discussed that the numbers were just round numbers, and this is supposed to be a general conversation.

Phil Casey asked what oversight the Township would have if the Township chose to support them with more money. It was asked if an audit could be requested. It was also stated that when the Township sends out the yearly budget letters the Fire Company's goes out with the request of report for use of the prior year's money. Joe Sherman stated that Citizen's Fire turns in their Audit reports yearly.

Jim Krippe stated that the discussion here should have been had with the Emergency Services Committee. He wanted to know if the Township's five-year plan was to put hydrants throughout the Township. It was noted that hydrants follow development, and that to extend beyond that would be a hefty price tag.

Joe Sherman hopes the building Western District is looking to build will last 100 years so it's not something anyone has to do again anytime soon. He also felt that one chief for two departments would be too much. Supervisor Zgura stated that he is only putting conversation on the table to help decide where we go.

Mike Kline stated that today for the dwelling fire there were 12 members from each company on scene. He thinks that if there is a way to double the money the township gives would be good to keep everything going.

There were a lot of volunteers in the beginning of the Fire Companies when the call volume was low so people could fund raise, now that the call volume has increased it's hard to put fundraising on top of the training, meetings, and calls.

Supervisor Mohr said he's not sure paid fire or one station would work in this Township. He doesn't like to raise taxes. He noted that the last tax increase garnered a lot of press and, the 200% increase amounted to about \$50.00 because our taxes are so low. Mike Kline believes a lot of people think the school tax amount goes to the Township when it's so much lower.

Phil Casey suggested contracting Aqua Duck to provide water for fire scenes. Jim Krippe said he tried that for Emmaus and Aqua Duck isn't set up for 24-hour service.

Supervisor Moore stated that the Township is trying to find a way to not hurt the residents while providing for the Fire Companies.

Kevin Kleinsmith asked if each Board member could meet separately with each Fire Company.

That is what the ESC meeting with the Board of Supervisors is for. The advertised meeting for October 18<sup>th</sup> isn't going to work so there will be a new date chosen and re-advertised.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- 1.) 6730 Woodlawn Drive and 6212 Sweetwood Drive Conservation easements recommendation for appraisal.
  - a. Letter from Brian Miller

The Open Space Committee met September 13th, 2023, to discuss both 6730 Woodlawn Dr. Zionsville & 6212 Sweetwood Dr. Macungie for Natural Resource Conservation Easements. The Committee recommends the township begin the process of preserving both properties with a Township Natural Resource Conservation Easement. Copies of the property information are attached. At this time, I would request approval to have both properties appraised by Agrarian Associates Inc. at a cost of \$1,700 per appraisal.

**MOTION:** Supervisor Moore made a motion to authorize staff to proceed with ordering the appraisals for 6730 Woodlawn Dr and 6212 Sweetwood Drive with Agrarian Associates Inc for \$1700.00 each. Supervisor Mohr seconded the motion. Hearing no questions or comments, all were in favor, motion carried.

- ~~2.) Ag Security Application acknowledgement for 4801 South 5<sup>th</sup> Street~~
  - ~~a. Letter from Brian Miller~~

**DEP MODULES / SEWAGE PLANNING:** - None

**PLANNING COMMISSION – OLD BUSINESS:** - None

**PLANNING COMMISSION – NEW BUSINESS:** None

**SUBDIVISIONS – IMPROVEMENTS:** None

**CORRESPONDENCE:** None

**OTHER ISSUES:** - None

**REPORTS:**

Emergency Services Committee Report: N/A

Township Emergency Management Coordinator: N/A

Emergency Services Call Report: Report on Website

Fire Companies:

**Western District** has a Chicken BBQ Monday October 9<sup>th</sup> from 3pm to 6:30 pm, breakfast starting October 1<sup>st</sup> 7-noon, the Sportsman's raffle on November 4<sup>th</sup>

**Citizen's Fire** has an Open House on October 7<sup>th</sup> from 11 am to 3pm at their Firehouse. There will be hotdogs, soda, and handouts. The Ambulance Corps, Forestry and others have been invited. Join them to meet your local fire fighters. They have had 148 calls for the year with 1 Auto, 3 EMS Assist, 2 Mutual Aid fires, 1 in Emmaus, 1 in Macungie, 1 wire fire, 1 carbon monoxide detector.

Emmaus Library: October 5<sup>th</sup> is local heroes' night from 6-8 pm. The current Director Maryellen Kanarr is resigning, Lori miller has been named interim Director.

Recreation Commission: Angela Ashbrook reported that the Recreation Committee had submitted a couple of personal letters addressed to the Board of Supervisors in response to the Recreation area proposal for the Kay Builder's development at 4650 Indian Creek Road.

Township Manager:

Bud Carter – No Report

Supervisors:

John D. Zgura – John asked for the Fire Company discussion to be put on the next agenda. It was mentioned that this discussion should be had with the Emergency Services Committee. The next ESC meeting is scheduled on the same night as the Halloween Parade. It was noted that another night for the meeting would have to be found and that would be done tomorrow.

Daniel J. Mohr – Dan reported that he is treasurer for the Vera Cruz Homecoming Association. They are so short handed in organizing the events and being there the day of the event for enough hands. They may need a new lead on the bandstand rental and if they can't get that the Homecoming may be downscaled. They will still hold the Easter Egg Hunt and the Parade, but they are deciding if they can hold the Homecoming again.

Joyce K. Moore – No Report

Jim Krippe asked if the Township had a five-year plan to add fire hydrants around the rest of the Township as he felt this would keep the cost of the fire equipment down. Manager Carter reminded Jim that Fire Hydrants are where there is public water and that follows development as it would be extremely expensive for the Township to run water lines everywhere.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:** - Not needed

**ADJOURNMENT:** Meeting adjourned at 8:07 pm.

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Chairperson Joyce K. Moore

October 5<sup>th</sup>, 2023  
Date

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Secretary Jessi O'Donald