

This meeting was publicly advertised in the NP Reporter, listed on the Township website and posted in the Township building lobby.

1. Call to order.

The October 29, 2020, Special Meeting of the Board of Commissioners was called to order at 7:05 PM by President of the Board, Liz McNaney.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

President McNaney led the pledge of allegiance.

3. Roll Call

Roll call was taken by Ms. Weaver, Assistant Township Manager. The following individuals were in attendance:

Liz K. McNaney	President
Denise M. Hull	Vice President
Katherine D. Carter	Commissioner
Martha A. Simelaro	Commissioner
Ruth S. Damsker	Commissioner
Megan Weaver	Assistant Township Manager
David Brill	Finance Director

4. Public Comments & Concerns (limit of five minutes per individual)

There was no public comment.

5. Review of updated items since October 22, 2020 Meeting

Ms. Weaver asked if the Board had any issues with the 2021 Budget reading taking place at the Board of Commissioners November 23, 2020 meeting as opposed to the November 9, 2020 meeting. She explained that this will still allow enough time for the budget to be advertised in accordance with the 1st Class Township Code. It would also allow management enough time to prepare a budget presentation for the Board and residents. All Board members agreed with the 2021 budget reading being placed on the Board of Commissioners November 23, 2020 meeting agenda.

6. Discussion of any additional recommended budget revisions

Ms. Weaver reviewed the 'Budget Changes and Listed Open items' as prepared by Mr. Brill. The first change noted was the increase in the budgeted amount for the Sumneytown Pike over the Wissahickon Creek. The Township engineer provided a cost estimate for the design engineering at \$295,000. Another item requiring an update was the Liberty Bell feasibility study in the amount of \$10,000. This amount is

the Township's cost share for the project and will need to be included in the budget. Mr. Brill also mentioned that he identified and confirmed with Mr. Troxel that there was a double count in the original milling submission. This resulted in a \$105,000 budget decrease.

Non-Uniform Raises

Ms. Weaver stated that the Board will still need to decide on the Non-uniform employee raise amounts. There was discussion on how employees are evaluated for the merit-based raise. The Board asked if Mr. Brill could circulate the Employee Handbook and Evaluation forms. After discussion, the Board majority decided to keep the Non-Uniform raises at the current level of 3.5%.

Police Department Staff Increase

Ms. Weaver noted that the Board delayed a decision on increasing the Police Department staffing level by 1 sworn officer. After the Board engaged in discussion on the Township's police department staffing level in comparison with other Township's, it was decided that the Township and the community would benefit in increasing the staffing level by 1 sworn officer. Ms. Carter was opposed. This will remain in the budget at \$101,181.

Community Contributions

Ms. Weaver stated that the Board still needed to decide on the level of Community Contributions for Nor-Gwyn Baseball and North Wales Library. It was noted that both organizations were requesting additional funding.

After lengthy discussion, the Board majority decided to make a community contribution to the North Wales library in the amount of \$30,000. Ms. McNaney and Ms. Carter were opposed to funding the library to that high of a level. It was noted that this contribution is in addition to the \$7,000 that the Township contributes to the Library for Museum passes. It was discussed that the Library increased their request by \$25,000 with lack of solid budget detail to support their increased request. The Board requested that the Library follow the same procedure as NorGwyn baseball with submitting receipts for reimbursement. The Board would also like to request that North Wales Library acknowledge on the Museum passes that they are sponsored by Upper Gwynedd Township.

The Board of Commissioners reviewed the request from NorGwyn baseball. After discussion, the Board decided to fund the top 2 projects that NorGwyn Baseball was proposing which includes the light poles and field house. The Board unanimously agreed to budget \$41,000 towards NorGwyn's community contribution request.

Center Street Lighting

Ms. Weaver explained that as a follow up to the Board's October 22, 2020 meeting, the Township reached out to our insurance carrier to address the Board's liability concerns. DVIT recommended to have a professional look at the placement of the lighting in accordance with AASHTO. Ms. Weaver said that the Board could leave this amount in the budget but perform a study prior to installation of lighting. The Board agreed to perform a study first prior to the installation.

Fire Department Budget Open Items

Ms. Weaver asked the Board if they would like to discuss the Fire Department proposed budget and increased request of \$ 13,000. There was discussion on how the tax rate has been down due to COVID and payment of taxes. The Board decided to contribute the same amount to the Fire Department as

2020. There was discussion on the stipend program and if that program could continue due to IRS rules. The Board still wanted to support the firefighters potentially through a Length of Service Awards Program (LOSAP) or a similar program. The Board unanimously agreed to contribute \$ 127,000 to the Fire Department endowment. In addition, to fund \$60,000 for another program such as a LOSAP to benefit the volunteers. The Board requested that management put together a list of what is eligible to be spent from fire department endowment funding and to meet with the Fire Department.

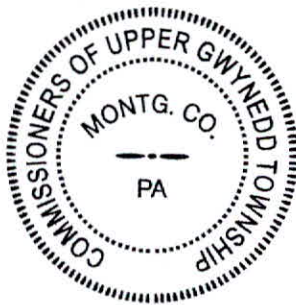
Wastewater Treatment Capital Fund

Ms. Weaver asked the Board if they were in agreement with all of the proposed Wastewater Treatment Capital purchases. All Board members supported the budget as previously prepared.

Mr. Brill highlighted that with all of the changes made, the Township's budget will still be able to transfer \$200,000 into the capital reserve fund and have a small surplus in the general fund.

7. Questions & Answers

There were no additional questions from the Board or members of the public.



Respectfully Submitted,

Megan Weaver

Megan Weaver
Assistant Township Manager/Assistant Secretary