

UPPER GWYNEDD TOWNSHIP BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

BOC BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES

March 16, 2021

This meeting was held virtually due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The public was notified of the meeting via an ad in The Reporter as well as our website and other social media. The public was invited to participate by calling in or by submitting questions in advance.

1. Call to order

The March 16, 2021, Public Meeting of the Upper Gwynedd Township Board of Commissioners was called to order by President of the Board, Liz K. McNaney at 7:00 PM. This meeting was recorded and visually taped.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

Mrs. McNaney led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Roll Call

Roll call was taken by Deanna Logan, Administrative Assistant to the Township Manager. The individuals in attendance were:

Liz K. McNaney	President
Denise M. Hull	Vice-President
Martha A. Simelaro	Commissioner
Katherine D. Carter	Commissioner
Ruth S. Damsker	Commissioner
Sandra Brookley Zadell	Township Manager
Megan Weaver	Assistant Township Manager
Lauren Gallagher	Township Solicitor
Isaac Kessler	Township Engineer
David W. Duffy	Chief of Police
David Brill	Finance Director
E. Van Rieker	Zoning Officer

4. Announcement of Executive Sessions

Ms. Gallagher said there were no announcements this evening.

5. Public comments and concerns (limit of five minutes per individual)

There was no public comment

6. Motion to approve Consent Items A – I (via roll call vote)

- A. Staff Department Reports
- B. Public Meeting Minutes of February 8, 2021
- C. Public Meeting Minutes of February 16, 2021
- D. Merck & Co. waiver request from Chapter 113-1 & 124-5 for after-hours work with heavy equipment steel and metal panel installation work on B51 Freezer Facility. Sundays March 21 – May 30, 2021.

UPPER GWYNEDD TOWNSHIP BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

- E. Merck & Co. waiver request from Chapter 113-1 & 124-5 for after-hours crane work on West Point Building 16 Electrical Upgrade Project. Sundays in April 2021
- F. Emergency Declarations dated February 22, March 1, 8 and 15, 2021
- G. Payment #16 to PACT One for the Pump Station & Force Main Project in the amount of \$49,285.72
- H. Payment #22 to Blooming Glen Contractors for the WWTP Hydraulic Expansion Project in the amount of \$41,934.77
- I. Payment #8 to BSI for the Pump Stations Electrical Contract in the amount of \$24,106.00

Hearing no public questions or comments, upon motion by Mrs. Hull, seconded by Mrs. Simelaro, the motion to approve the Consent Items was unanimously approved.

Roll call vote:	President McNaney	Aye
	Vice President Hull	Aye
	Commissioner Carter	Aye
	Commissioner Simelaro	Aye
	Commissioner Damsker	Aye

Liz K. McNaney, PRESIDENT **Finance/Personnel/Administration**

7. Appointment of Brian Hutchinson to the Environmental Advisory Council for a term expiring December 31, 2022 and Cora Moyer to the Vacancy Board for a term expiring December 31, 2021.

The interview process was conducted by Commissioner Hull and Assistant Township Manager, Megan Weaver.

Hearing no public questions or comments, upon motion by Mrs. Damsker, seconded by Mrs. Carter, the motion was unanimously approved.

8. Motion to approve Resolution 10-2021, Reallocation of budgeted revenues

Mrs. McNaney said the Township received a \$50,000 donation to be used where deemed appropriate. The funds will be distributed to the Upper Gwynedd Fire Department, North Penn Fire Department and the North Wales Area Library. Mrs. Carter added that we are also allocating some of the funds for tree removal and clean up at Jacks Lane Open Space.

Hearing no public questions or comments, upon motion by Mrs. Simelaro, seconded by Mrs. Damsker, the motion was unanimously approved.

9. Motion to approve Resolution 09-2021, extending the 2018/2019 WQIP Intergovernmental Agreement

Ms. Weaver said the Township is in partnership with other municipalities for an alternate TMDL plan for the removal of phosphorus. The plan was submitted to the EPA and DEP and we are waiting for their comments.

Hearing no public questions or comments, upon motion by Mrs. Hull, seconded by Mrs. Carter, the motion was unanimously approved.

UPPER GWYNEDD TOWNSHIP BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

10. Motion to approve Resolution 11-2021, recognizing April 4 – 10, 2021 as National Library Week

Mrs. McNaney read Resolution 11-2021. Jayne Blackledge, Director of the North Wales Area Library said the reading of the Resolution gave a true snapshot of what libraries are for the community. She gave a summary of what's going on at the library such as the story walk, outdoor story time, remote pick up. There is a story walk and display at the Montgomery Mall in partner with Longwood Gardens. Mrs. Blackledge went on to say the library has a great partnership with Upper Gwynedd Township who offers the attraction passes to the library. These passes are some of the busiest items that are circulated. She said the Library has been open since the end of July following strict social distancing rules. Hours has been curtailed a bit and the library has not been as busy as before, but hours will increase in the future. Book clubs, reading books to children and other activities are being held on ZOOM. The staff is always looking at better utilization of the outdoors. Mrs. Blackledge said two Eagle Scouts completed projects; one built picnic tables and one built a sensory garden. She said the library is always moving forward looking for ways to help the community. Mrs. Blackledge announced the addition of Miss Humblebee's Academy online learning tool that provides preschool education at no cost. She noted that most fundraisers have been cancelled, but this year the library is hosting a golf outing on May 24th at Blue Bell Country Club. She said the library has been applying for numerous grants to help offset expenses. She thanked the Township for their donation to help with staffing so they can continue to offer programming for the community.

Mrs. McNaney told Mrs. Blackledge we are fortunate to have her at the library as she makes the world a more beautiful place by devoting so much of your time to the library. Mrs. Simelaro said the library book club is the best one she has ever been involved in and encouraged residents to join the book club.

Hearing no public questions or comments, upon motion by Mrs. Damsker, seconded by Mrs. Hull, the motion was unanimously approved.

Denise M. Hull, VICE PRESIDENT **Zoning/Planning/Code Enforcement**

11. Motion to approve Resolution 07-2021, Preliminary/Final Subdivision Land Development Approval of North Wales Station/ 180 Wissahickon Avenue subject to the conditions set forth in the resolution

Presentation by Dan Daley of Edward B. Walsh Associates and Allan Xu, property owner.

This is a currently vacant property with a plan to construct five (5) small warehouse units with office space. It is a little over three acres in the Limited Industrial (LI) district. Future tenants will select to either rent or purchase a unit which will be under an HOA as a condominium for business space. All review comments by our consultants have been addressed. The applicant is asking for two (2) waivers; one for preliminary/final plan approval and one to allow stormwater to drain at a quicker rate. The applicant is asking for 45.9% of parking in reserve. Dr. Xu wants to use the warehouse units for storage, research and offices. He stated a sidewalk will be constructed to connect the existing sidewalks along Wissahickon Avenue.

Mrs. Carter asked what type of research businesses may be present. Dr. Xu will operate his business (pharmaceutical research) out of two (2) of the units and will seek tenants to fill the other spaces in full compliance of the LI district. Mrs. Zadell said the Township will confirm through the permitting process that the businesses are in compliance with a use & occupancy permit, certificate of occupancy and fire inspection. Inspections will be conducted by our building code official and fire marshal.

Hearing no public questions or comments, upon motion by Mrs. Hull, seconded by Mrs. Simelaro, the motion was unanimously approved.

UPPER GWYNEDD TOWNSHIP BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

12. Motion to approve the Township Solicitor attending the ZHB meeting on March 23rd in support of WB Homes, formerly the Jeppy property

Mrs. Hull said WB Homes proposed the original plan for this property about five (5) years ago. They have continually worked with the Township and the nearby residents to develop a plan to meet the needs of all the parties involved. She said if this plan is approved, it will eliminate one of the blighted areas in the Township.

Hearing no public questions or comments, upon motion by Mrs. Hull, seconded by Mrs. Simelaro, the motion was unanimously approved.

13. Motion to approve the Indemnity Agreement for HOP Application for 2131 Bethel Road

2131 Bethel Road is in Worcester Township, but their sewer service is through Upper Gwynedd Township. The owners are installing a grinder pump, and this is an Indemnity Agreement to protect the township.

Hearing no public questions or comments, upon motion by Mrs. Hull, seconded by Mrs. Damsker, the motion was unanimously approved.

Katherine D. Carter **Public Safety**

14. Motion to approve the contract with PennVet for the purchase and training of two police dogs

Mrs. Carter stated Chief Duffy proposed in 2019 about starting a canine unit. This was approved during the most recent budget process to purchase two (2) police dogs one to detect narcotics and one to detect bombs. Both dogs will be trained to track and apprehend, as well as patrol with the officers.

Hearing no public questions or comments, upon motion by Mrs. Carter, seconded by Mrs. Damsker, the motion was unanimously approved.

Mrs. Simelaro encouraged everyone to check out the video of the dogs on the website.

Ruth S. Damsker **Public Works/Parks/Recreation**

15. Motion to approve the contract with International Fireworks for the Carnival on September 10 & 11, 2021

Hearing no public questions or comments, upon motion by Mrs. Damsker, seconded by Mrs. Simelaro, the motion was unanimously approved.

Mrs. Damsker said the Parks and Recreation Department is planning in person activities and registration has been strong for the upcoming events.

16. Motion to approve the 2021 Road Program Bid Award to Allan Myers in the amount of \$686,637 for the base bid, alternate 1 for a bid amount of \$85,470 and alternate 2 for a bid amount of \$120,470.

Mrs. Zadell said it is wonderful that we were able to approve the two (2) alternate bids to get ahead on the ADA ramps.

UPPER GWYNEDD TOWNSHIP BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Hearing no public questions or comments, upon motion by Mrs. Damsker, seconded by Mrs. Hull, the motion was unanimously approved.

17. Motion to approve Resolution 08-2021, Montco 2040 grant application for installation of items related to intersection safety

Hearing no public questions or comments, upon motion by Mrs. Damsker, seconded by Mrs. Simelaro, the motion was unanimously approved.

18. Motion to approve the Laurel House 5K run on Sunday, October 17, 2021

Mrs. Damsker said Laurel House has a number of safety protocols in place for this event.

Hearing no public questions or comments, upon motion by Mrs. Damsker, seconded by Mrs. Hull, the motion was unanimously approved.

19. Motion to approve the purchase of the Compact John Deere Tractor, John Deere Loader and the Frontier 7ft BOOM in the amount of \$51,834.85

Hearing no public questions or comments, upon motion by Mrs. Damsker, seconded by Mrs. Carter, the motion was unanimously approved.

Martha A. Simelaro **Wastewater Treatment**

20. Motion to approve the 2021-2023 Sludge Hauling Bid to Hydrotech Environmental in the amount of \$1,215,000.00 based on the result of the coin toss held on Friday, March 12, 2021 at 9:00 am.

We had two (2) bids that tied for low bidder and it was decided by a coin toss.

Hearing no public questions or comments, upon motion by Mrs. Simelaro, seconded by Mrs. Damsker, the motion was unanimously approved.

21. Motion to approve the hiring of Matt Diaz to the position of Wastewater Collections Operator for the WWTP

Hearing no public questions or comments, upon motion by Mrs. Simelaro, seconded by Mrs. Carter, the motion was unanimously approved.

22. Motion to approve the logo recommended by the EAC

Mrs. Simelaro said the selected logo encompasses water, flora, fauna and air. She said we had numerous submissions for the logo and have some extremely talented residents.

Hearing no public questions or comments, upon motion by Mrs. Simelaro, seconded by Mrs. Damsker, the motion was unanimously approved.

UPPER GWYNEDD TOWNSHIP BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Other Business

23. Motion to approve the March 2021 Open Invoices (via roll call vote)

Hearing no public questions or comments, upon motion by Mrs. Damsker, seconded by Mrs. Simelaro, the motion to approve the Open Invoices was unanimously approved.

Roll call vote:	President McNaney	Aye
	Vice President Hull	Aye
	Commissioner Carter	Aye
	Commissioner Simelaro	Aye
	Commissioner Damsker	Aye

24. Motion to approve the March 2021 Paid Invoices (via roll call vote)

Hearing no public questions or comments, upon motion by Mrs. Hull, seconded by Mrs. Damsker, the motion to approve the Paid Invoices was unanimously approved.

Roll call vote:	President McNaney	Aye
	Vice President Hull	Aye
	Commissioner Carter	Aye
	Commissioner Simelaro	Aye
	Commissioner Damsker	Aye

25. Call for Adjournment

Mrs. McNaney adjourned the meeting at 8:12 pm.



Respectfully Submitted,

Sandra Brookley Zadell
Secretary

Approved April 20, 2021

/djl