

# UPPER GWYNEDD TOWNSHIP BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

## BOC BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES

May 24, 2022

This meeting was held in person at the Township and live streamed on our website at [www.uppergwynedd.org](http://www.uppergwynedd.org)

### 1. Call to order

The May 24, 2022, Public Meeting of the Upper Gwynedd Township Board of Commissioners was called to order by President of the Board, Denise M. Hull at 7:00 PM. This meeting was recorded and visually taped.

### 2. Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Officer Harrison Colcher.

### 3. Roll Call

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

Denise M. Hull	President
Katherine D. Carter	Vice President
Martha A. Simelaro	Commissioner
Liz K. McNaney	Commissioner
Ruth S. Damsker	Commissioner
Megan Weaver	Assistant Township Manager
Lauren Gallagher	Township Solicitor
Isaac Kessler	Township Engineer
David Duffy	Chief of Police
Nathan Crittendon	Finance Director

Sandra Zadell, Township Manager and Van Rieker, Zoning Officer were absent.

### 4. Recognition of Officer Harrison Colcher for 20 years of service to the Township (will attend)

Mrs. Carter stated that Officer Colcher has served for 14 years as an Operator for the Montgomery County Special Weapons and Tactics Team – Central Region. He is one two Rapid Response Coordinators in the police department and trains our officers in emergency deployments to active shooters and other tactical emergencies. In this role, Officer Colcher also works with school staff, businesses, places of worship, and Township residents. She added, Officer Colcher is a member of the Montgomery County Drug Task Force and has served for many years as a patrol shift Officer in Charge, acting as the shift supervisor when a sergeant is not on duty. He has received numerous commendations for his performance and has earned three Meritorious Service Medals and one Medal of Valor. Officer Colcher was congratulated by the Board of Commissioners for his 20 years of service.

### 5. Announcement of Executive Sessions

Ms. Gallagher said the Board has not met in Executive Session since the last meeting.

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

Linda Smith, 815 Macintosh Way expressed concern about high density housing. She said the Township is 95% built out and shouldn't be compelled to add high density housing to follow a national agenda. She has traffic concerns with high density. Mrs. Hull said the Walters Group is not a high-density development. It is within the density that it is currently zoned. Mrs. Hull said we will get you the density numbers tomorrow. Mrs. Smith said that is spot zoning to which Ms. Gallagher replied that it is not. Mr. Rieker to call Ms. Smith to discuss.

Carl Smith, 815 Macintosh Way – said the leadership has transitioned to top-down authoritative government overreach. You've taken power to strip a residence of his property rights and are not being transparent. Mrs. McNaney asked how the Board can be more transparent. Mrs. Hull said there is no plan at this time to change the density for the proposed development at Church Rd. from the Walters group

Tom Borneman – 722 Green Street, commented about a recent article written about the sewer diversion project and said much of the planning was completed by the previous Board. Mrs. Hull said the previous Board was always given the credit for the planning of the project and this Board was responsible for the implementation of the WIP project. Mrs. McNaney said they were never opposed to the project but were concerned about how the project was being paid for because there wasn't much information provided about the project.

### **Denise M. Hull, PRESIDENT** **Finance/Personnel/Administration**

7. Motion to approve Consent Items A – F (via roll call vote)
- A. Staff Department Reports
  - B. Special Meeting Minutes of April 6, 2022
  - C. Public Meeting Minutes of April 11, 2022
  - D. Public Meeting Minutes of April 19, 2022
  - E. Approval of Escrow Release #1 for 111 State Street, Roosevelt Court in the amount of \$97,530.75
  - F. Approval of the 2022 Concession Stand Lease Agreement with Boston Style Pizza

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

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

### 8. Motion to approve the Proclamation declaring June 19<sup>th</sup> as Juneteenth Day in Upper Gwynedd Township

Mrs. Hull read the entire Proclamation for Juneteenth Day. Mrs. Hull said she is proud and honored to officially recognize Juneteenth as an important day in our nation's history.

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

Mr. Borneman asked if it is necessary for the Township to pass this proclamation if the state has already done so to which Mrs. Hull replied yes, we feel it is a new enough recognition that it is important for our Township.

Mrs. Hull said the North Wales Library is hosting an event to celebrate on June 17<sup>th</sup>.



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9. Motion to approve the Phone System upgrade for the Administration Building

Mrs. Hull said this will be a tremendous savings for the Township

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

10. Motion to appoint Alex Dyke from Gilmore and Associates as the engineer for Upper Gwynedd Wastewater Operations beginning June 1, 2022, subject to final approval of the terms and conditions of appointment by the Solicitor.

In 2020, the Township issued an RFQ for engineering services. We recently interviewed three of them with regard to wastewater engineering services. We believe Gilmore and Associates will be able to provide a full scope of services we will need as we continue to expand our operations at the plant and in the collections system.

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

11. Motion to adopt the Township's Flag Flying Policy

Ms. Gallagher said the Supreme Court recently issued an opinion on *Shurtleff v Boston* providing guidance to municipalities regarding flag flying on Township property.

### Flag Flying Policy

Commemorative flags may be flown by Upper Gwynedd Township in association with a ceremony, resolution, or other occasion, as directed by the presiding officer. The display of flags is not intended to create a public forum for free expression by the public, but instead reflect an expression of the Township, as directed by the Board of Commissioners via ordinance, resolution, proclamation and/or administrative action.

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

Mrs. Hull announced we will be raising the Pride Flag on June 1<sup>st</sup> at 5:30 and invited residents to attend.

## Katherine D. Carter, Vice President Public Safety

12. Commissioner Carter's Fire Department Report

Mrs. Carter said April was a busy month. She went with members of the Fire Department to inspect the construction of the new fire trucks in South Dakota. Members of the "New Truck Committee" are FC Eric Geiger, DC Greg Rosato, Amande Hoade, Joe Gordon, Zach Griffiths and Steve Simpson. Mrs. Carter was in awe of how knowledgeable the "New Truck Committee" was on every aspect of the construction, from the equipment, the finances and the change orders. She added, the team represented Upper Gwynedd well and were great stewards of the funds given to them to secure the new trucks.

FC Geiger said we had a virtual walkaround of the trucks today and the 124 items on the punchlist have been addressed. We expect to receive delivery of the trucks in early June. He thanked the Board for their support.

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13. Recognition of Officer Fred Lynch (unable to attend)

Mrs. Carter said Officer Lynch was recently recognized by the Department of Pennsylvania Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States and given the "John Radko Award" for "unveiling adherence to the highest ideals of law enforcement in maintaining, preserving and protecting the lawful rights of all citizens.

Mrs. Carter also recognized K-9 Officers Fury and Officer Gunner. K-9 Fury helped find a fugitive and K-9 Gunner helped locate a 5-year-old child.

14. Motion to approve Resolution 15-2022, authorizing the sale of the old fire apparatus to Upper Gwynedd Fire Department

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

### **Ruth S. Damsker** **Zoning/Planning/Code Enforcement**

15. Motion to ratify the advertisement of Ordinance 2022-03, amending the Zoning Map Classification for 375 Morris Road from LI to IN and to set the hearing date for Tuesday, June 7, 2022 at 7:00 pm

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

### **Liz K. McNaney** **Public Works/Parks/Recreation**

16. Motion to approve the Bid for Equipment Rental for Stormwater Projects to Floyd G. Hersh Inc. in the amount of \$309,800

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

17. Motion to approve Resolution 16-2022, piggybacking with Whitpain Township for the 2022 Microsurfacing Project

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

### **Martha A. Simelaro** **Wastewater Treatment**

18. Motion to ratify the contract with Riordan Materials Corporation for the BioMag System Upgrades in the amount of \$1,667,500.00 through COSTARS contract # 016-104

This was a budgeted item at \$2M but the bid came in a little lower than expected.

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



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19. Motion to approve the purchase of radios and a digital repeater from CoStars Vendor #0000537627 in the amount of \$43,495 (via roll call vote)

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

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

### Other Business

20. Motion to approve the May 2022 Open Invoices (via roll call vote)

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

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

21. Motion to approve the May 2022 Paid Invoices (via roll call vote)

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

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

22. Call for Adjournment

Mrs. McNaney said she has been getting emails about lost dogs. She reminded everyone that there are forms on the Police Department website for a dog registry. She added that Unity for Kindness Day was attended by 750 – 1000 people and it was such a great event and thanked the Mrs. Prebis and Mrs. Getty for their efforts and added that yesterday's golf outing was also a great event. The winning foursome were former Commissioner, Tom Duffy, Ken Weirman, John Tierney and Tim Karamis.

Mrs. Hull adjourned the meeting at 7:55 pm.



Respectfully Submitted,

Sandra Brookley Zadell  
Secretary

Approved June 21, 2022