

UPPER GWYNEDD TOWNSHIP BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES

November 9, 2020

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 November 9, 2020, Public Meeting of the Upper Gwynedd Township Board of Commissioners was called to order by President of the Board, Liz K. McNaney at 7:29 PM. This meeting was delayed in starting due to technical difficulties. This meeting is being 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 Zadel	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. Swearing in ceremony of Officer Abdenour Fahem

Deputy Chief Ted Caiola introduced Officer Fahem and said he was born and raised in Algeria before emigrating to the United States in 2009, earning citizenship in 2013. He served in the US Army and completed the Montgomery County Police Academy. Officer Fahem speaks five (5) languages and has worked as a police officer in West Conshohocken and Telford, who both spoke very highly of him.

District Judge Suzan Leonard swore in Officer Fahem.

Mrs. McNaney and the Commissioners congratulated Officer Fahem and welcomed him to Upper Gwynedd.

5. Announcement of Executive Sessions

Ms. Gallagher said the Board of Commissioners met in Executive Session November 2nd to discuss several items of personnel.

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

There were no public comments

Departmental Reports

7. Manager's Report (Sandra Zadell)

As Reported by Sandra Zadell, Township Manager

- WIP Update
Paving has begun on Township Roads as part of the WIP Project, but some roads may not be completed until spring 2021. Updates are posted on the website.

8. Planning and Zoning Report (E. Van Rieker)

As reported by Van Rieker, Zoning Officer

- ZHB 20-07 – WB Homes – use variance request to develop Jeppy Property, Sumneytown Pike for 24 apartment units.
This remains continued indefinitely with nothing new to report at this time.
- 593 Dekalb Pike, Conditional Use Hearing, Tesla Charging Stations. Hearings held on September 14 and 29, 2020.
This was approved by the Board on September 29, 2020. This is subject to a building permit.
- State Street, Roosevelt Court Conditional Use Hearing, 9-lot subdivision. Hearing held on September 29, 2020.
This was approved by the Board on September 29, 2020 with reduced rear yards deferred subject to staff review and issuance of a building permit. A full land development plan still must be filed.

Mr. Rieker announced the Planning Commission Meeting and ZHB meeting have been cancelled for November.

9. Engineering Report (Isaac Kessler)

As reported by Isaac Kessler, Township Engineer

- Sewer Diversion Project Paving
The contractor is working on the replacement of temporary paving for pipe trench areas with final paving to be completed within the next few weeks.
- Road Program
Next year's road program and ADA curb ramps are being coordinated with the Public Works Department.

Mr. Kessler said he is working with the applicant on the Tesla charging station project.

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

10. Motion to approve the Department Reports filed by Township Staff.

Mrs. McNaney announced the Holiday Lights Event on December 4th from 5 – 7 pm. Mrs. Damsker said the basketball courts have been resurfaced and painted and are now reopen.

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

11. Motion to accept the resignation of Barbara McHale and appoint Scott McCartney to the Environmental Advisory Council (EAC) with a term expiring December 31, 2021

Mrs. Hull said Mr. McCartney has lived in Montgomery County his whole life moving to Upper Gwynedd in 2008. His background is in chemical and environmental engineering. She welcomed him to the EAC.

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

12. Motion to approve Resolution 32-2020 – General Municipal Pension System State Aid

Mrs. McNaney said the state provides annual funding to the pension fund.

Hearing no public questions or comments, upon motion by Mrs. Hull, seconded by Mrs. Carter, the motion to approve Resolution 32-2020 was unanimously approved.

13. Motion to authorize Resolution 33-2020, authorizing the auditors to conduct an audit

Hearing no public questions or comments, upon motion by Mrs. Damsker, seconded by Mrs. Simelaro, the motion to approve Resolution 33-2020 was unanimously approved.

14. Motion to approve Resolution 34-2020, the Homestead Exemption for 2021

Hearing no public questions or comments, upon motion by Mrs. Hull, seconded by Mrs. Carter, the motion to approve Resolution 34-2020 was unanimously approved.

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

15. Motion to approve Escrow Release #1 for the Enclave at Gwynwood Farms in the amount of \$68,720.94

Mrs. Hull reported that Caracausa Building and Development is requesting the escrow release. It has been approved by our Township Engineer.

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

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16. Motion to ratify/approve the Merck & Co. waiver request from Chapter 113-1 & 124-5 for extended work Hours for Gate 3 Utility Rack Installation Project. Sundays in November & December 2020

Mrs. Hull said they are installing the remaining sections of steam rack for this project. Mrs. Zadell mentioned that Merck did not work on Sunday, November 8th.

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

17. Motion to ratify the Whites Road Park Easement Agreement

Mrs. Hull said Whites Road Park is in Upper Gwynedd Township but is owned and operated by Lansdale Borough. They are upgrading the playground with attention to special needs children. The Borough is focusing on stormwater management with the addition of an underground rain garden that spills into Gwynedd Ridge Development. This is for a Sanitary Sewer Easement Agreement that was approved by our Sanitary Sewer Engineer and Lansdale Borough.

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

Katherine D. Carter **Public Safety**

18. Motion to ratify/approve the Emergency Declarations dated October 26, November 2, and November 9, 2020

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

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

19. Ratification of Payment #3 to Allan Myers in the amount of \$1,417.50

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

20. Motion to approve the 2020/2021 Snow Plow & Equipment Bid to Horgan Bros.

Mrs. Carter asked for an amount of the bid. Mrs. Zadell said the bid is an estimate based on time and equipment when and if needed and it is estimated at \$7,150.

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

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Martha A. Simelaro Wastewater Treatment

21. Motion to approve payment #12 to PACT One for the Pump Station & Force Main Project in the amount of \$316,419.43 (via roll call vote)

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

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

22. Motion to approve payment #19 to Blooming Glen for the Hydraulic Expansion Project in the amount of \$48,089.88 (via roll call vote)

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

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

23. Motion to approve payment #12 to Eastern Environmental Contractors for the Hydraulic Expansion Project in the amount of \$34,680.35 (via roll call vote)

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

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

24. Motion to approve payment #5 to BSI for the Pump Stations (Electrical) in the amount of \$54,901.00 (via roll call vote)

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

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

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25. Motion to approve payment #1 to BSI for Emergency Flood Repairs in the amount of \$168,051.38 (via roll call vote)

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

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

26. Motion to approve the time extension through December 31, 2020 from Blooming Glen Contractors for the Hydraulic Expansion Project

Mrs. Carter asked about the time extension and payments. Mrs. Zadell said the time extension is due to COVID-19 and the flood at the WWTP. They are still working on the project, so the payment approved is for work completed.

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

27. Motion to approve the Change Order request for additional compensation to PACT One from the Allowance Line Item for mismarked or unmarked utilities in the amount of \$48,925.00 (via roll call vote)

Mrs. Carter asked who made the mistake marking the utilities. Ms. Gallagher said it is a PECO issue but law states that the utility company is not responsible.

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

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

28. Motion to approve the Change Order request for additional compensation to PACT One from the Allowance Line Item for ASCE Level A subsurface utility location in the amount of \$127,222.00 (via roll call vote)

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

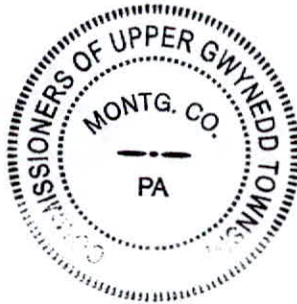
Roll call vote:	President McNaney	Aye
	Vice President Hull	Aye
	Commissioner Simelaro	Aye
	Commissioner Carter	Aye
	Commissioner Damsker	Aye

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Other Business

29. Call for Adjournment

Mrs. McNaney adjourned the meeting at 8:16 pm.



/djl

Respectfully Submitted,

Sandra Brookley Zadell
Secretary

Approved December 21, 2020