

UPPER GWYNEDD TOWNSHIP BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

BOC BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES

March 21, 2023

This meeting was held in person at the Township and live streamed on our website at www.uppergwynedd.org

1. Call to order

The March 21, 2023, 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 VMSC Captain, Raisa Wheeler.

3. Roll Call

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

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

Assistant Township Manager, Megan Weaver and Zoning Officer E. Van Rieker were absent.

4. Announcement of Executive Sessions

Ms. Gallagher said the Board met in Executive Session prior to this meeting to discuss matters of potential litigation.

5. Women's History Month Presentation by Beth Sturman, Executive Director of Laurel House

Mrs. Hull announced that we are recognizing the brave women of the Upper Gwynedd Police Department, Upper Gwynedd Fire Department, North Penn Fire Department, and Volunteer Medical Services Corps. The Township has seventy-nine (79) women serving us every day and we are grateful for their service to our community. The first responders present were introduced by Police Chief David Duffy, UG Fire Chief, Eric Geiger, NP Deputy Chief Frank Baxter and VMSC Deputy Chief Lori Dusza.

UGPD

Ofc Dana Hallam

Ofc Alisa Buonanno

UGFD

QRS Lieutenant Michelle Infusino

FF/EMT Kylie Barco

FF Sarah Mendoza

Jr FF Audrey Kerney

FF/EMT Ashley Mellinger

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NPFD

Jessica Smith
Jenna Thomas

VMSC

Lori Dusza, Deputy Chief
Raisa Wheeler, Captain
Rebecca Robinson, Captain
Abigail Akins, Lieutenant
Amanda Gurecki, EMT
Diane Kirk, EMT
Melanie Sorgini, EMT
Nancy Walsh, EMT
Patti Kostrubiak, EMT
Connie Glorioso, EMT/ Dispatcher
Rachel Bermes, Paramedic

Presentation by Beth Sturman, Executive Director of Laurel House

Ms. Sturman said Laurel House was founded in 1980 by a group of women who started a phone line regarding a variety of issues and found an overwhelming amount of the calls that came in were from women experiencing domestic abuse. They founded the program that began with a small house in Norristown and six (6) response teams. They go to private houses and hospitals to see victims and recognize that men can also be victims of domestic violence as well. The Laurel House assists with the legal aspect of domestic abuse, and they go out into the public and schools to educate the community. Counseling is free and confidential for anyone that is concerned about possible domestic violence. Their Safe Haven House opened in Upper Gwynedd in June.

6. Fire Department Building Study Presentation – see attached report

Presenter Chief Robert Hedden of the PA Governors Center for Local Government was introduced by Yvonne Lemelle of DCED.

Chief Hedden reviewed the processes used in the study and gave an overview of the current location and three (3) possible additional proposed fire station locations.

- o Allentown Rd. & Sumneytown Rd. West Corner. Parcel 560000112003
- o Allentown Rd. & Sumneytown Rd. East Corner. Parcel 560008317105
- o 1671 West Point Pike. Parcel 560002557006

He suggested the first thing that should be done is to explore the possibility of a regional fire department with neighboring municipalities. They will return to complete a regional fire study if that is a possibility. The second recommendation is to eliminate the West Point Pike location because it is in a FEMA flood plain. Chief Hedden said evaluation of each of the proposed locations was based upon the noted methodologies and reveals that the West Corner of Allentown Rd. and Sumneytown Pike is the optimum site for a fire station. This 11.8-acre location, also noted as Parcel 560000112003, is zoned R-1 and would require either a Zoning Map Amendment by the Upper Gwynedd Commissioners or a Use Variance by the Zoning Hearing Board. The location is optimum as it is nearly centrally located for response efficiency and geographical coverage. The size of the parcel will allow for design, planning and construction of a contemporary fire station for the future needs and demands of the community of Upper Gwynedd. The original Fire Building was built in 1942 with subsequent renovations throughout the years and is well-maintained.

Tabitha Geiger asked, should regionalization of the fire departments occur in 5-10 years whether the recommended fire house location would still be appropriate. Chief Hedden said a study can occur collectively with your regional partners regarding an appropriate location.

Dan Wallace commented that he agrees with the location and said regionalization is the way to go in the future.

Dan Mathe asked how many first responders live in the Township. Chief Geiger said the majority of first responders live in our response area.

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

Carl Smith commented on the political ideologies of the Board. He asked if this Board supported the efforts by getting funds for the Pennbrook Project. Mrs. Hull responded no. Mrs. McNaney said the Board does not support a letter sent by Joe Clement and UGT has not given formal support for this project. We will keep you in the loop of any land development in the township and there will be a presentation next month.

Linda Smith asked about the status of Pennbrook Parkway. Mrs. Hull said the developer (Walters Group) is making a presentation at the April Worksession meeting. Mrs. Zadell also said she reported on this at the Worksession meeting. Mrs. Smith said she does not want high density in the Township. She also asked about the status of the Martin Property. Mrs. Hull said there is no update. She asked about 1836 S. Broad St. Mrs. Hull said our Codes Department is working on this issue. Mrs. Zadell said we cannot enforce the color of a house, and there is a code violation process that we have to follow so we don't infringe on personal property rights. We are continuing to work with the property owner. Mrs. Hull said we are continuing to work on it and progress has been made. Mrs. Smith asked if they are complying with R2 zoning. Mr. Rieker is working with our codes department. Mrs. Zadell said we cannot enter people's homes without their permission. Ms. Gallagher said we cannot require them to give us a list of who is living in the home. UGT defines family as any number of persons living and cooking together as a single non-profit and non-transient housekeeping unit. Mrs. Zadell will send her the full report on what has been done through codes and zoning. Mrs. Smith also asked if there are strings attached to the grants we are applying for. Mrs. Zadell said we received grants for Haines Run and there are no strings attached to affordable housing with these grants.

Carolyn Rheas also has concerns about the Broad St. property.

Ian Horowitz said the fire presentation was informative. He said fire safety is a grave concern and we should explore regionalization for the betterment of the community.

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

8. Motion to approve Consent Items A – F (via roll call vote)

- A. Staff Department Reports
- B. Public Meeting Minutes of February 13, 2023
- C. Public Meeting Minutes of February 21, 2023
- D. Resolution 03-2023; Disposition of Specific Township Records
- E. Approval of the Merck waiver request from Chapter 113-1 & 124-5 for extended work hours at B81 Utility Rack Steam Piping Cleaning Project. Saturday work beginning at 8 am until completion. Weekends of April 1-2 or April 8-9, 2023 (one weekend only)
- F. Approval to Close out Gwynedd Walk development at Cottage Avenue

Hearing no public questions or comments, upon motion by Mrs. Simelaro, seconded by Mrs. Damsker, the motion to approve consent items A-F was unanimously approved.

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

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Katherine D. Carter, Vice President
Public Safety

Ruth S. Damsker
Zoning/Planning/Code Enforcement

9. Motion to approve Resolution 08-2023 West Point Walk/Moyer Blvd. Final Land Development Plans subject to the conditions set forth in the resolution.

Ms. Gallagher said there are several waivers the developer requested and are part of the resolution. The tree removal fee will be \$22,250 that was agreed on today.

Greg Landis on behalf of Merck requested that a construction barrier be placed so that nothing exits to the storm basin. Mrs. Zadell said this is required by the County Conservation District.

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

Liz K. McNaney
Public Works/Parks/Recreation

10. Motion to approve the proposal from WBCM, LLC in the amount of \$14,625 for a secondary engineering review for the Sumneytown Pike Bridge Replacement Project

This is the bridge between Royal Farms and Boston Style Pizza that goes over Wissahickon Creek. Mr. Kessler said this is a requirement of PennDOT for bridge structure reviews outside of the designer.

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

11. Motion to approve the 2023 Liquid Fuels Road Program Bid to James D. Morrissey in the amount of \$1,015,394.80 for the base bid and alternate bids #2, #3 and #5

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

12. Motion to approve the purchase of a 2023/24 Ford F600 1-Ton Dump Truck with Spreader for a total amount of \$120,012

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

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Martha A. Simelaro Wastewater Treatment

13. Motion to approve the 2023-2025 Sludge Hauling Bid to HydroTech Environmental, LLC in the amount of \$.0856 per gallon

We received three (3) bids for sludge hauling and this our current sludge hauler.

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

14. Motion to approve the Cured in Place Pipe (CIPP) Lining on South Broad Street in the amount of \$21,140

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

Other Business

15. Motion to approve the March 2023 Open Invoices (via roll call vote)

Hearing no public questions or comments, upon motion by Mrs. Carter, seconded by Mrs. Simelaro, 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

16. Motion to approve the March 2023 Paid Invoices (via roll call vote)

Hearing no public questions or comments, upon motion by Mrs. Simelaro, seconded by Mrs. Damsker, 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

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17. Adjournment

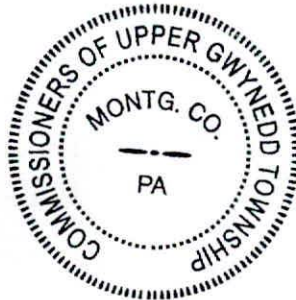
Mrs. Hull gave a shout out for another grant we received for Haines Run in the amount of \$946,981 in grant funding. She thanked Dominick Falcone from RVE and Manager, Sandra Zadell.

Mrs. Hull adjourned the meeting at 8:34 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sandra Brookley Zadell
Secretary

Approved April 18, 2023



/djI