

UPPER GWYNEDD TOWNSHIP BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

BOC BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES

May 22, 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 May 22, 2023, Public Meeting of the Upper Gwynedd Township Board of Commissioners was called to order by President of the Board, Denise M. Hull at 7:05 PM. This meeting was recorded and visually taped.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Girl Scout Alicia Simrak.

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
Martha A. Simelaro	Commissioner
Ruth S. Damsker	Commissioner
Sandra Zadell	Township Manager (via phone)
Lauren Gallagher	Township Solicitor
Isaac Kessler	Township Engineer
David Duffy	Chief of Police
Nathan Crittendon	Finance Director

Commissioner Liz McNaney, 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 personnel and potential litigation.

5. Recognition of Chief David Duffy for 15 years of service to the Township

Mrs. Carter said Chief Duffy began his career in law enforcement in 1987. He worked as a police officer on a special patrol squad in the city of Wildwood, NJ. In 1988, Duffy was hired as an officer in the Chalfont Borough Police Department, Bucks County, PA. In 1989, Chief Duffy was then hired as a police officer in the Doylestown Township Police Department, Bucks County, PA. Duffy was promoted as the first corporal in the department and was later promoted to Sergeant. Duffy was then hired and served as Chief of Police in Newberry Township in York County from 2003 to 2008. In 2005, Newberry Township PD became the 30th agency in the state to earn Accreditation through the PA Commission on Law Enforcement Accreditation under his tutelage. Chief Duffy has earned associates and bachelor's degrees in criminal justice. He earned his master's degree in public safety administration from Saint Joseph's University in Philadelphia. He graduated from the 219th Session of the FBI National Academy. Chief Duffy began his duties as Chief of the Upper Gwynedd Township Police Department on March 10, 2008, and has held that position for the last 15 years. Chief Duffy also holds a first-degree black belt in karate. In addition to his police service, Chief Duffy has held many adjunct positions over the years in teaching

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and consulting. Although his duties as chief limit his adjunct endeavors, he remains active in several professional law enforcement associations. When he is not on duty, Chief Duffy enjoys working out and spending time with his family.

Deputy Chief Ted Caiola states that it has been a privilege and honor to work with Duffy over the last 15 years and credits the Chief in developing the Mission Statement (To perform police services in a highly professional and ethical manner, in partnership with the community we serve and to whom we are accountable) and Core Values (Dedication, Integrity, Fairness and Courage) of our department.

Sgt. Bob Pro asserts that Chief Duffy exemplifies a positive and professional public appearance and is always focused on the Upper Gwynedd "community first".

Ofc. Dana Hallam is appreciative that Chief Duffy hired her and has given her the opportunity to develop and flourish her skills that she brought to the department. She is thankful the Chief has allowed her to enhance these skills by allowing her to take on roles that a newly hired officer would not be afforded to do in other departments.

Mrs. Carter said he serves an integral part assisting her in her liaison position with the police department. Chief Duffy said he loves every part of his job and his most favorite is going out on patrol throughout the community which keeps him working side by side with his officers and gives him an opportunity to connect with the community.

6. Recognition of Alicia Simrak for receiving the Girl Scout Gold Award

Mrs. Hull said resident Alicia Simrak has been awarded numerous recognitions including the Girl Scout Bronze Award, Girl Scout Silver Award, Service to Girl Scouting Bar, Leader in Action, Girl Scout Program Aide and Camp Program Aid. She is being honored tonight for earning the Girl Scout Gold Award which is the highest award you can earn. Ms. Simrak is not only active in the Girl Scouts, but is a member of the National Honor Society, participates in horse riding, softball, basketball, spring Bambino Buddy Baseball youth group and Sunday school, as well as art club, Reading Olympics, the Dungeons and Dragons Club and was president of the yearbook club. She has earned distinguished honor roll, the President's Award for Educational Excellence, and a literacy award.

Her Gold Award project was to educate the community about the declining bat populations so she created four bat boxes so the bats could have a safe place to roost. This will help prevent them from contracting diseases such as white-nose syndrome which has significantly reduced the bat population. She also made an educational brochure about why bats are important to the environment. The four bat boxes are distributed throughout the community including one at Parkside Place.

7. Presentation by George Choe of the Jaisohn Center

Mr. Choe spoke in honor of Asian Pacific Islanders Heritage month. The Jaisohn Center was named after its founder Philip Jaisohn an activist and physician who began the center in 1975 to promote humanity through a broad range of medical and healthcare, and social services. He spoke about the services offered to include home health care, wellness center, health insurance, mental health services and vaccination services. He said over 14% of the population in Montgomery County is Asian. The Jaisohn Center covers the eight main language groups in the County. They are planning the Jaisohn Community Wellness Plaza which is a \$7M+ project for the population to find mainstream service providers. He said UGT is a role model of a diverse community.

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

Carl Smith commented about the policies of the federal government. He also made comments regarding housing and affordability as well as the subsidies offered by the Walters Group. He asked if the Board is "content to allow the government that is (sic) intentionally caused a problem and now they're coming with a new version of the

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past alternatives that have always failed. Are you content to allow that entity to do that or do you actually have alternates, things that we could consider?"

Linda Smith asked about the validity of the survey for the comprehensive plan based on a comment that Mrs. McNaney made. Mrs. Hull said we spent a lot of time trying to get residents to take the survey and struggled to get them to respond. Mrs. Hull said the survey is valid. Mrs. Smith commented about the cancellation of the public workshops during the summer months. She asked about the RFP for open space. Mrs. Hull said this is for the parks and recreation department.

Mike Nestle said he is seeing changes in the community and is concerned about efforts to increase density.

Betsy Marple commented about how much she loves living in Upper Gwynedd. She said the proposed development will attract the wrong people.

Samuel Wampole is concerned about using the last bits of land for further development.

Mark Connelly said he is happy the Township is recognizing the gay community with the Pride Proclamation and thanked the BOC for recognizing his community. He also spoke about the proposed (Walters Group) development and asked those who don't want the development to state what they want to see the property used for as it has been vacant for some time. He is in favor of affordable housing and said a number of residents would benefit from this type of housing.

Glenn Hatfield commented about the positives of open space. He said the proposed change of zoning expands the use of the TOD and can open the door for other similar projects. He asked about the text amendment and when we will see it. Mrs. Hull said the Planning Commission will be reviewing the Walters Group project. Ms. Gallagher said the text amendment is still a work in process and is not currently ready.

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

9. Motion to approve the second amendment to the standard lease agreement between Upper Gwynedd Township and Unisite, LLC subject to the final approval by the Township Solicitor

This allows additional easement access to the cell towers without disturbing township property.

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

10. Motion to approve the Proclamation for Pride Month

Mrs. Hull read the Pride Month proclamation.

Glenn Hatfield asked about any programs that are associated with this proclamation. Mrs. Hull said we have a pride flag raising ceremony planned.

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

11. Motion to approve the Proclamation for Juneteenth Day

Mrs. Hull said this recognizes June 19th as Juneteenth Day.

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

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12. Motion to approve the advertisement of the bid for the Building Security Upgrade Project

Mrs. Hull said these upgrades will increase the safety of our staff and visitors

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

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

- A. Staff Department Reports
- B. Public Meeting Minutes of April 10, 2023
- C. Public Meeting Minutes of April 18, 2023
- D. Lansdale YMCA 5K Race on Saturday, September 23rd from 5 pm – 9 pm
- E. Encroachment Agreement for 524 Sumneytown Pike Ultimate Right of Way
- F. Escrow Release #5 (final) for 111 State Street: Roosevelt Court
- G. Payment #2 for the Newport Lane Basin Retrofit Project in the amount of \$42,637.35
- H. Purchase of a Zero Turn Mower from Turf Equipment in the amount of \$15,590.53
- I. Purchase of the 2023 LED Marquee Board from Stewart Signs

John Davis asked if 111 State Street will be developed. Mrs. Hull said that parcel will not be developed. Mr. Kessler said when the Land Development was originally submitted, it was named 111 State Street but is now called Roosevelt Court.

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

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

Katherine D. Carter, Vice President **Public Safety**

14. Motion to accept the PCCD grant in the amount of \$65,530 for police technology expenses

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 approve the Merck Waiver Request from Chapter 113-1 and 124-5 for afterhours installation and construction of a new water main at the West Point Campus from May 30th – June 2nd
June 5th – June 9th has been added.

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

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Liz K. McNaney

Public Works/Parks/Recreation

16. Motion to approve Resolution 11-2023: Piggybacking with Whitpain Township for Microsurfacing

This motion is to switch from Ralumac to NovaChip for Microsurfacing. We will do less roads because of the increased cost.

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

17. Motion to approve the Request for Proposal (RFP) for a comprehensive Recreation, Park and Open Space Plan

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

18. Motion to approve Resolution 12-2023 authorizing the application to the CFA Greenways, trails and Recreation Program in the amount of \$250,000 for the Castle Refurbishment Project

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

19. Motion to approve Resolution 13-2023 authorizing application to the CFA Flood Mitigation Program in the amount of \$63,699 for the Jacks Lane Streambank Restoration Project

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

20. Motion to approve Resolution 14-2023 authorizing the application to the CFA Watershed Restoration Project

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

Martha A. Simelaro

Wastewater Treatment

21. Motion to approve Addendum #1 to the Sewage Facilities Construction, Operation, Maintenance and Reimbursement Agreement with Merck

Mrs. Simelaro said this project began in 2007 and includes an updated cost schedule.

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

22. Motion to approve the purchase of Wiper Cylinders and Sensor Assemblies from Trojan Technologies in the amount of \$23,505

Mrs. Simelaro said this is for the Ultra Violet disinfectant system that is used at the Wastewater Treatment Plant.

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

Other Business

23. Motion to approve the May 2023 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 Simelaro	Aye
	Commissioner Damsker	Aye

24. Motion to approve the May 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 Simelaro	Aye
	Commissioner Damsker	Aye

25. Adjournment

Mrs. Damsker said she has lived in Montgomery County her whole life and moved to UGT to be closer to her children. She reminded residents that the County provided grants for open space. Through these grants, it enabled the installation of the Perkiomen Trail which was part of a \$150M referendum on open space. She spoke about all the programs offered here at the Township as part of the Parks and Recreation Department. She said the Board works very hard to make improvements to the community and it saddens her that some residents think the Board doesn't want to make the community a better place.

Mrs. Carter thanked all the emergency services teams and recognized Emergency Services Week.

Mrs. Hull adjourned the meeting at 8:20 pm.



Respectfully Submitted,

Sandra Brookley Zadell
Secretary

Approved June 20, 2023