

# UPPER GWYNEDD TOWNSHIP BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

## BOC BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES

December 18, 2023

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 December 18, 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 Commissioner Ruth Damsker.

### 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
Megan Weaver	Assistant Township Manager
Lauren Gallagher	Township Solicitor
Nicholas Cross	Township Engineer
David Duffy	Chief of Police
Nathan Crittendon	Finance Director

Zoning Officer Van Rieker was absent.

### 4. Announcement of Executive Sessions

Ms. Gallagher said there were no Executive Sessions to report.

### 5. Recognition of Peg Poirier for 20 years of service to the Township (unable to attend)

Mrs. Carter said Peg is a very dedicated employee with a strong work ethic. She gets to the station and starts early every day. Peg's duties include report management, Youth Aid Panel referrals, call intake, and alarm permit management. Peg also handles hearings and other court related issues, which are important and complex tasks. Peg is a role model to others, and we look forward to more years of her service to the Township!

### 6. Power Line Trail Presentation

Chris Stanford of Michael Baker International presented the Power Line Trail (PLT). The Township received a grant for a feasibility study for seven miles of the Power Line Trail (PLT) which runs east/west through the Township. The proposed trail will be for walking and biking and will span the course of a decade or so until completion. The trail begins at Morris Road and continues to the Septa Stony Creek Branch, then continues to a trail connection at Moyer Blvd to the existing trail at Parkside Place then moving up to Dodsworth Preserve and crossing Septa again (Lansdale/Doylestown Line) at Dickerson Rd. then a safe routes to school connection at the elementary schools then crossing Hancock Rd., DelVal University and up to Welsh and Dekalb reaching the 202 Parkway.

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### Power Line Trail

- Feasibility Study Completed in 2023
- Township staff conducted neighborhood outreach meetings for the PLT
- Agreement with PECO approved
- SEPTA agreed to allow crossing under Stony Creek branch using existing bridge
- Need additional study for crossing the SEPTA Lansdale/Doylestown Line
- PennDOT MTF grant application submitted for Pennbrook Gwyn Nor SRTS- November 2023

Mr. Stanford also spoke about the Liberty Bell Trail (LBT) which crosses the Township north to south. The proposed trail covers eleven miles. Parts of the trail will be shared with the Power Line Trail.

### Liberty Bell Trail

- LBT North Feasibility Study Completed in 2022
- LBT South Feasibility Study completed in 2023
- Working with PEC to advance connection to Norristown Farm Park and Schuylkill River Trail in Norristown
- Investigating grant opportunities

William Jackson said he supports the trail and is looking forward to completion. He suggested providing a new name for the trail that is more "Upper Gwynedd". He also suggested not running the trail so close to the creek (north of Sumneytown Pike) as he is concerned with flooding. Mr. Stanford said there are two bridge crossings because the trail needs to be as far away from PECO infrastructure as possible and other roadway options will require more right of way acquisitions and will have higher costs to develop the trails. Mr. Jackson asked if the SEPTA connection at Dickerson is just a trail connection or bike connection. Mr. Stanford replied it is a trail connection.

Mark Connelly asked if where the trail will go if it goes down Beaver St? Mr. Stanford said we have to look at this more as this is a relatively new "ask" from SEPTA. Mr. Connelly also noted that parts of the trail are in North Wales Borough and Lansdale and asked if it is an issue dealing with other municipalities. Mr. Stanford said there should be no issues as UGT has good working relationships with both municipalities.

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

Greg Landis on behalf of Merck thanked Commissioner Simelaro and Commissioner Damsker for their service to the Township.

Tom Dunn thanked the Commissioners and Township Manager for the follow up on the issue he brought up at the last meeting.

Judy Vose encouraged the Board to speak with the Natural Lands Trust about securing land. She presented a petition in support of biking infrastructure. She is requesting dedicated bike lanes and easement trails. She also commented about biking in the southern section of the township as some of the crossings are dangerous.

### **Denise M. Hull, PRESIDENT**

#### **Finance/Personnel/Administration**

### 8. Motion to approve Consent Items A-H (via roll call vote)

- A. Staff Department Reports
- B. Public Meeting Minutes of November 13, 2023
- C. Public Meeting Minutes of November 21, 2023
- D. Budget Meeting Minutes of October 23, 2023
- E. Budget Meeting Minutes of November 1, 2023
- F. Payment #1 for the Facilities Upgrade Project to SB Conrad in the amount of \$10,980
- G. 2024-2026 Skelly's Carnival Contract
- H. Merck waiver request from Chapter 113-1 & 124-5 for Sunday work hours on WP07 for the Antibiotic Waste Collection Project. Sunday work between January 6 – March 31, 2024

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

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

9. Motion to approve Resolution 30-2023: Supplemental Budget Appropriations

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

10. Motion to approve the Hough Recycling Contract Renewal for 2023, 2024 and 2025

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

11. Motion to approve the agreement with Urban Edge Analytica to complete a Goal Setting Workshop in early 2024 in the amount of \$2,500

Hearing no public questions or comments, upon motion by Mrs. Carter, seconded by Mrs. Damsker, the motion passes 4 – 1 with Mrs. McNaney casting the nay vote.

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

Mrs. Carter thanked the police for their donations to the Toys for Tots campaign and for the UGFD for their Santa Run and their sensory Santa events this past weekend.

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

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

Ms. Weaver said PAR Recycle Works offers jobs to those just out of prison. This company has been doing our e-recycle events. The tote we have is free of charge and we have recycled over 700 lbs. of e-waste in the first 2 weeks.

Mrs. McNaney said our sewer rates are rising \$75 per year but we are still one of the lowest treatment plants in the area.

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**Martha A. Simelaro**

### **Wastewater Treatment**

12. Motion to approve the quote by Utility Services Group for cleaning and televising sewer mains and laterals in the amount of \$250,000

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

William Jackson asked if this includes the lining of the pipes. Mrs. Zadell said the next item is for the lining and seals. He asked about the material of the product and if there are any concerns about plastic and the lifespan of the product used in the lining process. Mrs. Zadell replied the product is approved by the EPA and DEP and its lifespan is 50 years.

13. Motion to approve the quote by Advance Rehabilitation Technology for the Manhole Lining and Chimney Seals in the amount of \$141,000

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

14. Motion to approve the final payment to Blooming Glen Contractors for the Chemical Feed Flood Repairs in the amount of \$18,979.41 (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

15. Motion to approve the final payment to Blooming Glen Contractors for the Emergency Declaration Project in the amount of \$351,705.00 (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**

16. Motion to approve the December 2023 Open 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 Open Invoices was unanimously approved.

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

## UPPER GWYNEDD TOWNSHIP BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

17. Motion to approve the December 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

18. Call for Adjournment

Mrs. Hull read a statement about Commissioner Simelaro and Commissioner Damsker. On behalf of the Board, staff and residents, the outgoing commissioners were presented with crystal plaques commending them for their service to the Township.

Mrs. Carter thanked Commissioners Simelaro and Damsker for their mentorship over the last four years.

Mrs. McNaney thanked Mrs. Damsker for mentoring her through the years. She said it's been a pleasure getting to know Mrs. Simelaro and appreciates her input to the Board and community and added the Township is at a better place because of you both.

Mrs. Simelaro said the past 4 years have been some of the most rewarding in her life. She thanked the staff of Upper Gwynedd for their dedication to the community and gave a special thank you to the WWTP as she is their liaison. She said the commitment and dedication of the staff to that state of the art operation is unsurpassed. Mrs. Simelaro also thanked the residents as they have been foremost on her mind these past four years. Her final thank you was to her fellow commissioners who have made the last four years worthwhile, meaningful and fun.

Mrs. Damsker said she has been fortunate to have served the residents the past four years and has mixed emotions about leaving. She said UGT is blessed to have such dedicated staff that work at the Township.

Mrs. Hull thanked the residents and the Board for serving as President of the Board these past two years and looks forward to passing the baton onto the new president. She invited everyone to the Reorganization Meeting on January 2, 2024 at 7 pm.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 pm.



/djl

Respectfully Submitted,

Sandra Brookley Zadell  
Secretary

Approved January 8, 2024