

# UPPER GWYNEDD TOWNSHIP BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

## BOC BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES

November 21, 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 November 21, 2022, Public Meeting of the Upper Gwynedd Township Board of Commissioners was called to order by President of the Board, Denise M. Hull at 7:01 PM. This meeting was recorded and visually taped.

### 2. Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Tom Alvarez, a member of the Environmental Advisory Committee (EAC).

### 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
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 and E. Van Rieker, Zoning Officer 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 labor relations.

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

Mrs. Hull said at a prior meeting, Fred Hencken asked about the strings attached to a grant with DCNR. Mrs. Zadell responded with an email to him about the requirements of the DCNR funding. [Click here for the DCNR grant conditions.](#)

Fred Hencken asked if there is a Township Ordinance that requires trash haulers to provide leaf pick up service. Ms. Gallagher said it is required by Chapter 160, chapter 26 of the code of UGT regarding leaf and yard waste. He also asked if the survey respondents were all residents as some of the precincts seem to include nonresidents. Mrs. Zadell will follow up with the survey company to get clarification. Mr. Hencken also questioned why we would further deplete our reserve budget to purchase the Martin Tract as open space.

Carl Smith had observations about the survey and said 40% of the questions were regarding the Martin Tract. He is concerned about the financial impact of purchasing the open space. He asked if there will be further surveys. Mrs. Hull replied there are none planned at this time.

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Linda Smith said people are concerned about 1836 S. Broad Street and that it appears to be a multifamily transient home with vehicles and trash on the porch. She asked what code enforcement is doing about it. Mrs. Hull said the codes department is aware of the issue and the Township is working on it. Mrs. Zadell said we are working on the external code issues, and we are doing what can be done within our means.

Mark Connelly said he is pleased about the Power Line Trail as it will bring positive results to the community.

Caroline Reyes also expressed concerns about 1836 S. Broad Street and said there is a lot of trash and feels it is more of a boarding house. Mrs. Hull said the codes department is actively working on this issue. When there are code violations, our officer sends letters and meets with residents to try to resolve the issue before issuing violations.

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

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

- A. Staff Department Reports
- B. Public Meeting Minutes of October 18, 2022
- C. Merck & Co. waiver request from Chapter 113-1 & 124-5 for Extended Daily Hours including weekends from December 5, 2022 – July 31, 2023, for WP63A Area Site Work.
- D. Merck & Co. waiver request from Chapter 113-1 & 124-5 for Sunday work from November 27, 2022 – April 30, 2023, for WP50 LVV DPM.
- E. Fire Escrow release for 408 Carmichael Dr. in the amount of \$25,081.19
- F. Escrow release #2 to Wheatley Walk in the amount of \$508,156.00
- G. Authorization to advertise the 2023 Holiday & Meeting Calendar
- H. Approval of the sale of the Township's old phone system
- I. Payment #2 to James Morrissey for the 2022 Roads Program in the amount of \$70,062.65

Mrs. McNaney said Parks and Rec recently had an event for those that are visually impaired. She said the day was amazing for the children and their families. She and Commission Carter were in attendance. She also said the VMSC provides a valuable service for the Township.

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

#### 7. Motion to approve Resolution 30-2022 authorizing the auditors to conduct an audit for 2022

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

#### 8. Motion to approve Resolution 31-2022, the Homestead exemption for 2023

Mrs. Hull said this is a \$30,000 reduction in property tax assessment.



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Fred Hencken said the Homestead has been \$30,000 for over 10 years and asked if it can be increased. Mrs. Hull said we can discuss it for the 2024 budget.

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

9. Motion to approve Resolution 34-2022, Act 57 – waiver of tax penalty fees for new property owners

This allows new property owners that have not received their tax bill in time to receive the discounted price and to avoid any penalties.

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

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

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

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

10. Motion to reject the bid for Residential Leaf and Yard Waste from JP Mascaro

Mrs. McNaney said we reviewed the information provided by Mascaro, but we should reject the bid at this time. We can revisit it in the future.

Mrs. Carter commented that we need to educate and communicate to our residents that we are entitled to twice a year leaf and yard waste pick up by our trash collectors.

John Gannon asked if we explored having a section of our open space to drop off leaves for composting. Mrs. Zadell said having that type of space usually becomes a dump site for anything, not just leaves. Mrs. McNaney said Upper Moreland has a designated space for leaves and we are looking into other options.

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

11. Motion to authorize the advertisement of the 2023 Roads Program

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

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12. Motion to approve Resolution 35-2022, the application for the Multimodal Transportation Fund grant for the construction of the Sumneytown Pike Bridge Replacement Project.

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

13. Motion to approve the Payment to Asphalt Paving Contractors for the 2022 Microsurfacing Project in the amount of \$64,232 (via roll call vote)

Hearing no public questions or comments, upon motion by Mrs. McNaney, 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

### Martha A. Simelaro Wastewater Treatment

14. Motion to approve the 2023 Dense Soda Ash bid to Paragon Integrated Services Group in the amount of \$22.85 per 50 lb. bag and reject the bid by George Coyne Chemical Co. due to the bid exception

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

15. Motion to approve Resolution 33-2022, Merck 537 Plan

This increases Merck's wastewater flow from the West Point site to Lansdale's WWTP from .5M gallons of flow per day to .72M gallons of flow per day.

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

16. Motion to approve Change Order #2 to BSI for the Flow Diversion Pump Station adding \$23,470 to the contract price.

Mrs. Carter asked what the change order is for to which Mrs. Simelaro said this change order rectifies some of the WIP issues that we are addressing.

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



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### Other Business

17. Motion to approve the November 2022 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

18. Motion to approve the November 2022 Paid 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 Paid Invoices was unanimously approved.

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

19. Call for Adjournment

Chief Duffy gave an update on Officer Lynch who was recently injured on the job from someone resisting arrest that attacked the officer. He is recovering from his injuries but will be out for a while. He wished Officer Lynch a speedy recovery. Officer Lynch is a full time crime prevention officer at Upper Gwynedd.

Beth Miller said she is very upset about Officer Lynch and said he represents community policing. She passed on her well wishes to him and his family.

Mrs. Hull wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving and adjourned the meeting at 7:51 pm.



Respectfully Submitted,

Sandra Brookley Zadell  
Secretary

**Approved December 20, 2022**

/djl