

UPPER GWYNEDD TOWNSHIP BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

BOC BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES

January 17, 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 January 17, 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 Deputy Chief, Ted Caiola.

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
Liz K. McNaney	Commissioner
Ruth S. Damsker	Commissioner
Sandra Zadell	Township Manager
Megan Weaver	Assistant Township Manager
Nicole Feight	Township Solicitor
Isaac Kessler	Township Engineer
David Duffy	Chief of Police
Nathan Crittendon	Finance Director

Commissioners Katherine Carter and Martha Simelaro and Zoning Officer E. Van Rieker were absent.

4. Announcement of Executive Sessions

Ms. Feight said there were no executive sessions.

5. Police Commendations

Chief Duffy welcomed everyone and said the mission of the Police Department is to perform police services in a highly professional and ethical manner in partnership with the community we serve. To carry out our mission, we follow four (4) core principles, Dedication, Integrity, Fairness and Courage with Community First as our motto.

- Officer Brant Whisler was presented with the Meritorious Service Medal for his leadership during a critical and dangerous active shooting incident and his performance that significantly exceeded standards and enhanced the reputation of the police department.
- Officer Mike Romanowicz was recognized for his efforts with the recruitment of our new officers and with the field training program.
- Officer Minjoo Kim received an official commendation involving a complex domestic incident that included harassment, blackmail, distribution of material containing sexual content, stalking, theft by extortion and others which led to an arrest and conviction. Officer Kim treated the victims with care and compassion throughout the process making sure they received the services they needed

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6. Recognition of Officer Matt Toro for 10 years of service to the Township

Officer Matt Toro was recognized for 10 years of service to the Police Department. He is a field training officer, a drug recognition expert with the County and is on the County Drug Task Force. Officer Toro is canine unit handler and has received numerous commendations including a Meritorious Service Medal and Officer of the Year in 2018.

7. Swearing in Ceremony

Chief Duffy said the UGT Police Department became an accredited department in 2005 under the direction of former Chief Robert Freed and have maintained that accreditation since. We were recognized as a Premier Agency in 2020. Chief Duffy added that Chief Freed designed the police badge used by the department. He said that the badge represents many things including authority and power to enforce the law, protection, and trust. He explained to the new officer candidates the expectations of the vigorous field training they will begin on their first day.

Mrs. Hull gave the background of each officer candidates. Judge Suzan Leonard administered the oath to each candidate.

New officers:

Andrew Profit is a resident of Jenkintown. He graduated from Temple University in 2019 with a bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice. He graduated from the Montgomery County Police Academy on December 14, 2022.

Alisa Buonanno is a resident of Harleysville. She graduated from Quakertown High School in 2017 and Temple University Police Academy in November of 2020. She was hired as a part-time police officer in Telford Borough in December of 2020 and has been working there since.

Andrew Cikanovich is a resident of Towamencin Township where he lives with his wife and three young sons. He has an associate's degree in criminal justice from Montgomery County Community College, a bachelor's degree in criminal justice from Neuman University, and he is a graduate of the Montgomery County Police Academy. Andrew worked as a police officer for Philadelphia Housing Authority from 2013 to 2017 and South Whitehall Township since 2017.

Chief Duffy said we have the privilege of swearing in 3 new sergeants. Mrs. Hull gave a background of each new sergeant. Judge Suzan Leonard administered the oath to each sergeant.

Promotion to Sergeant:

Harrison Colcher has been with Upper Gwynedd Township since 2002. He has served in the patrol division and has been an Officer in Charge since 2009. Colcher has been a member of the entry team of Montgomery County SWAT, Central Region, since 2008. He was a Field Training Officer from 2005 to 2020. Colcher currently serves as a rapid response coordinator for the department and has served on the County Drug Task force and as a member of the bicycle unit. Colcher is the recipient of several official commendations, three Meritorious Service Medals and the Medal of Valor.

William Moriarty has been with Upper Gwynedd Township since 1999. He has served in the patrol division and has been an Officer in Charge since 2001. Moriarty has been a member of the Montgomery County Major Incident Response Team - Bike Unit, since 2004. He serves as a defensive tactics instructor and the Motorcycle Unit Coordinator. Moriarty is the recipient of several official commendations, two Meritorious Service Medals and the Medal of Valor. He was nominated by his fellow officers as the 2019 Officer of the Year.

Robert Pro has been with Upper Gwynedd Township since 2008 and has served in the patrol and detective divisions. He has been an Officer in Charge since 2018, Field Training Officer since 2016, and as the Department's Traffic Safety Officer since 2010. Pro is the recipient of several official commendations and the Medal of Valor. He was nominated by his fellow officers as the 2011 Officer of the Year.

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Judge Leonard offered words of wisdom to the new officers regarding the powers they have been given as officers of the law.

Chief Shane Wheeler of the VMSC spoke to the new sergeants and gave advice to lead by humility and be true to the person you are today.

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

Carl Smith commented that this year's election of commissioners will be contested. He also made comments on eminent domain and the Martin Tract.

Linda Smith, asked about the status of the Pennbrook Parkway property. Mrs. McNaney said there is no news on the property. She asked about the Martin property as the tenant was asked to leave by Mr. Martin. Mrs. Hull said there is no news. Mrs. Smith also asked about the Sumneytown Tavern property. Mrs. Zadell said at the last meeting she shared that there is a demolition permit for the property and assumes it is in preparation for a sale.

Mark Connelly, asked about the Dickerson Road project. Mrs. Zadell said there was an issue with some of the utility wires, but we are working through the process and work should resume soon.

Glen Hatfield, commented on Township projects and asked if there is a list of the projects and also asked if what is being spent is typical to what has been spent in the past. Mrs. Zadell said the projects are listed in the budget that is posted on the website and said she will find out what was spent in the past.

Denise M. Hull, PRESIDENT Finance/Personnel/Administration

9. Motion to approve the Proclamation designating the month of February as Black History Month in Upper Gwynedd.

Mrs. Hull read the Black History Month Proclamation.

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

10. Motion to approve Consent Items A – H (via roll call vote)

- A. Staff Department Reports
- B. Public Meeting Minutes of December 12, 2022
- C. Public Meeting Minutes of December 20, 2022
- D. Grant application for the WeConservePA 2023 Regional Trails Workshop Grant
- E. Escrow release for the Shoppes at Upper Gwynedd in the amount of \$19,566.66
- F. New Parks & Recreation Advisory Board member, Robert Morse
- G. Amended contract for Skelly's Amusements for 2023
- H. Full Spray of Chimney Seal Linings and Manholes by CoStars Vendor ART in the amount of \$137,950

Mrs. McNaney said she is excited for Rob Morse to be a part of the Parks and Rec Advisory Board.

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

Roll call vote:	President Hull	Aye
	Commissioner McNaney	Aye
	Commissioner Damsker	Aye

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Katherine D. Carter, Vice President
Public Safety

Ruth S. Damsker
Zoning/Planning/Code Enforcement

11. Motion to approve Resolution 01-2023 – Updated Fee Schedule

Mrs. Damsker reported that two minor changes have been made to the fee schedule: the grading permit section and a reduction of the police report fee.

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

12. Motion to approve Resolution 02-2023 – Updating the Escrow Fee Schedule for SALDO

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

13. Motion to approve the agreement between Merck & UGT for encroachment onto Jones Avenue ultimate right of way, clear sight triangle at West Point Pike and Stormwater Easement.

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

Liz K. McNaney
Public Works/Parks/Recreation

Martha A. Simelaro
Wastewater Treatment

Other Business

14. Motion to approve the January 2023 Open Invoices (via roll call vote)

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

Roll call vote:	President Hull	Aye
	Commissioner McNaney	Aye
	Commissioner Damsker	Aye

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15. Motion to approve the January 2023 Paid Invoices (via roll call vote)

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

Roll call vote:	President Hull	Aye
	Commissioner McNaney	Aye
	Commissioner Damsker	Aye

16. Adjournment

Mrs. Hull adjourned the meeting at 7:52 pm.



Respectfully Submitted,

Sandra Brookley Zadell
Secretary

Approved February 21, 2023

/djl