

**Upper Moreland Township  
Board of Commissioners - Regular Meeting  
January 13, 2020 Meeting Minutes**

**Board of Commissioners Members:** Commissioner and President, Kevin C. Spearing; Commissioner and Vice President Charles M. Whiting; Commissioners R. Samuel Valenza, Joseph A. Lavallo, Kip McFatrige, Nicholas O. Scull and Cheryl Lockard

I. **Call to Order:** The Regular Meeting of the Board of Commissioners of Upper Moreland Township was called to order by the President of the Board of Commissioners, Kevin C. Spearing at 7:00 p.m.

II. **Moment of Silent Meditation/Pledge of Allegiance**

III. **Roll Call:** Commissioner and Board President Spearing, Commissioners Scull, Lavallo, McFatrige, Whiting, Valenza and Lockard. Also present were Matthew H. Candland, Township Manager, and Sean Kilkenny, Township Solicitor.

IV. **Presentations/Announcements:**

A. Commissioner Spearing stated that the Board of Commissioners met in an Executive Session prior to the Regular Meeting to discuss personnel and real estate matters.

B. Review of the Draft Comprehensive Plan by Mike Narcowich and Claire Warner - Montgomery County Planning Commission (MCPC):

- Mr. Narcowich stated that tonight's discussion is a follow up from last month's Community Development Committee meeting regarding the chapter on transportation and recommendations to develop the Welsh Road interchange, while continuing to explore configurations of the Willow Grove interchange.
- Commissioner Spearing thanked Matt Edmonds and the Montgomery County Planning Commission for their extensive efforts on this topic. He stated that it would be a strong benefit to prioritize the Willow Grove interchange before the Welsh Road interchange. Mr. Candland stated that Upper Dublin Township supports the priority of projects be: Willow Grove interchange, Virginia Drive and then Welsh Road.
- Matt Edmond, Transportation Section Chief at MCPC, stated that the Willow Grove interchange will be indicated as the primary priority and Welsh Road be the secondary priority.
- Commissioner Spearing commented that during a County-wide Turnpike study, the Township requested that the corridor east of the Willow Grove interchange be included.
- Mr. Edmond stated that the Turnpike has proposed to widen their main line from Bensalem to Mid-County and they are looking at alternatives to increase traffic capacity with a hard shoulder running, but the bridges would first need to be widened. A study is required in Bucks County to add interchanges and slip ramps.
- Commissioner Valenza commented that there was a lack of follow up regarding an extra southbound lane and he supports the concept to consider five lanes on County Line Road in Montgomery and Bucks County.
- Mr. Edmond stated that two letters were drafted by MCPC to Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission (DVRPC) requesting improvements to Willow Grove interchange be included in the Transportation Incentive Program (TIP). He stated that Willow Grove interchange is a priority in the region's long-range plan for funding and is eligible to be moved to the TIP.

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- Commissioner Lavalley inquired if new developments in Horsham Township and Upper Dublin Township, north of Welsh Road, have been included in any studies. Mr. Edmond stated that a 2-1/2 year study will be completed by July 2020 that reviews an interchange for Welsh Road in Upper Dublin.
- Commissioner Valenza inquired on how the Township can expedite the concept with Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission (DVRPC). Mr. Edmond stated that there are nation-wide budget issues and the interstate highways take priority for yearly funding.
- Commissioner Spearing inquired on multimodal grants used for improvements to state highways. Mr. Edmond stated that as a result of Act 89 passed in 2013, two smaller grant programs were created: a multimodal fund administered by PennDOT with focus on state road projects, and a multimodal fund administered by the Commonwealth Financing Authority with focus on economic development. Both are good candidates for the Township to apply with a 20% match.
- Commissioner Spearing inquired if the County reviews multimodal applications. Mr. Edmonds explained that municipalities must complete a form on MCPC's website, which is reviewed for consistency with the Comprehensive Plan.
- Commissioner McFatridge commented about MCPC's partial lane reconstruction on County roads and inquired on whether the paving will be completed. Mr. Edmonds stated that this is an issue, which the Roads & Bridges Department is working on, but they are currently behind schedule. He suggested that Mr. Candland contact Tom O'Brien of the engineering team to discuss the outstanding issues. Mr. Edmond stated that he can also be contacted and be an advocate with the Roads & Bridges Department, if necessary.
- Mr. Narcowich stated that he has directed the Graphics Section to incorporate the list of specific changes requested at the December 9, 2019 Regular Meeting and he will add the changes from tonight's discussion as well. A revised version of the Draft Comprehensive Plan will be available to the Board of Commissioners before the end of January.
- Commissioner Spearing commented on a potential stormwater fee and recommended that Upper Moreland-Hatboro Joint Sewer Authority (UMHJSA) is an ideal model for an independent stormwater authority, which helps build infrastructure.
- Mr. Kilkenny stated that stormwater impact fees, originally imposed by State law, were initially placed in second-class township code, which has now been expanded. He will share a memo provided to other municipalities with Mr. Candland.
- Mr. Candland inquired if there had been a discussion with the County on a regional approach for stormwater management. Mr. Kilkenny stated that the Wissahickon area has 17 municipalities that have banned to work together on stormwater impact fees, which is a constant process and approach for a watershed.
- Commissioner Spearing stated that the Township is not a participant in the Wissahickon Watershed, but the Township's ordinance was amended to be compliant with the Wissahickon Watershed.
- Karen Houck, Chair of the Revitalization Task Force, inquired on the short-term role of the Task Force and, if they can receive copies of the final Comprehensive Plan, with emailed pdf updates through the process. Mr. Narcowich stated that he will make the

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final version available to the Board of Commissioners within ten days, and a printed version after the Plan has been adopted, since it is approximately 300 pages.

- Commissioner Spearing commented that the Board of Commissioners will be reviewing comprehensive plans submitted by Hatboro, Horsham, Upper Dublin, and Lower Moreland.
- Commissioner McFatrige commented that the Plan needs to be distributed for review and comments that will result in adoption. Mr. Narcowich stated that it will be distributed to municipalities, the School District and various agencies.
- Commissioner Scull commented that the history section has not been written. Mr. Narcowich stated that it has been rewritten and included.
- Brian Shannon, a resident, suggested that on page 148 there should be a reference on upgrading the status of Blair Mill Road, changing it from a secondary minor to a higher-class status.
- Mr. Shannon suggested that on page 155, the County's reference stops at the Welsh Road interchange, and it should include reference about Blair Mill Road, Computer Road and Twining Road improvements.
- Mr. Shannon commented that it will be costly for the Turnpike to build an interchange and suggested adding language to the Plan that supports installing alternative slip ramps.
- Mr. Narcowich and Mr. Edmond stated that the Township needs to review PennDOT's road classification map and update its secondary roads for consistency, which will avoid any future conflicts when improvements are proposed.
- Commissioner Spearing disagreed that Blair Mill Road is a minor arterial road. Mr. Edmond recommended that the Township could lobby at the State level for the reclassification at a later date.
- Mr. Shannon reiterated that a statement should be included in the Plan that the Township is attempting to upgrade the status of the roads.
- Ms. Houck requested that the Task Force be permitted to also use the Plan as a marketing document to attract the right type of economic development in the right location.
- The Board of Commissioners agreed to move forward the draft Comprehensive Plan with amendments for distribution to neighboring municipalities, the School District and agencies for comments.

**REGULAR MEETING**

**V. Public Comments:**

- Francis Carver, 3045 Davisville Road, inquired on the availability of attachments mentioned in the meeting agenda. Commissioner Spearing stated that attachments can be found in the Public Meeting Book binder and can also be reviewed in the Township Manager's office.

**VI. Treasurer's Activity Report – December 2019:** The Treasurer's Activity Report was approved by a vote of 7-0 as submitted.

**VII. Approval of Minutes:**

- A. December 2, 2019 Special Budget Meeting, Public Hearing & Regular Meeting:** The minutes were amended in Section V. Resolution R-2019-36 - Authorizing Budget Transfers in 2019 Budget, to read: "...seconded by Commissioner McFatridge...", and the minutes were approved by a vote of 7-0.
- B. December 9, 2019 Special Meeting (YMCA):** The minutes were amended in Section IV, last bullet point, to read: "...approved by a vote of 5-1...", and the minutes were approved by a vote of 7-0.

**VIII. Committee Recommendations:**

**A. Finance & Administrative Committee**

1. **Appointments/Reappointments** - nothing to report.
2. **List of Bills Payable** - The Board of Commissioners approved by a vote of 7-0 in favor, the List of Bills as submitted.
3. **Aqua General Funds Bills** - The Board of Commissioners approved by a vote of 6-0 in favor; and one (1) abstention (abstention by Commissioner Spearing, Aqua employee).
4. **Other Items:**
  - a. **Motion to approve Resolution R-2020-01** – Authorizing the acquisition by purchase or condemnation of portions of certain parcels of land at the intersection of Davisville and Byberry Roads, for intersection improvements.
    - Mr. Carver, a resident, commented on attachments missing in a copy of the agenda. Commissioner Spearing stated that the Resolution is public information and can be viewed at any time by visiting the Township office or by submitting a Right-To-Know Request form.
      - Commissioners Valenza and Spearing stated that the Resolution was discussed during previous Committee meetings. Commissioner Spearing stated that the Resolution was available on Friday and today for public review, prior to tonight's meeting.
    - Commissioner Valenza motioned, seconded by Commissioner McFatridge and the Board of Commissioners approved by a vote of 7-0, **Resolution R-2020-01** authorizing the acquisition by purchase or condemnation of portions of certain parcels of land at the intersection of Davisville and Byberry Roads, for intersection improvements.
  - b. **Action on bids for Police building renovation.**
    - Mr. Candland stated that the bids received were over budget and recommends that they not be approved.
    - Commissioner Lavalley inquired about the contract's bid form and separation of prices between general construction, electrical, mechanical and plumbing. Mr. Candland stated that there was a separation of prices; however, the bids received were over budget.
    - Chief Michael Murphy stated that estimates for HVAC mechanical and plumbing were inflated for the minimal amount of work to be done.
    - Commissioner Lavalley inquired on the next steps with the bids. Mr. Candland explained that there will be a meeting with Arthur Adams, Architect at

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AHAdams&Company, to determine whether going out to bid again will generate the same prices, which would result in a discussion to adjust the budget at a future Committee meeting.

- Commissioner Valenza motioned, seconded by Commissioner McFatrige and the Board of Commissioners rejected the bids by a vote of 7-0 for the Police building renovation.
  - The Board of Commissioners directed Mr. Candland to ensure that Matt Hocker, Director of Information Systems and Facilities, and Arthur Adams, Architect, be present for the discussion at a future Community Development Committee meeting.
5. **New Business** - nothing to report.

**B. Community Development Committee**

1. **Code Enforcement** - nothing to report.
2. **Land Development/Subdivision Applications** - nothing to report.
3. **List of Upcoming Zoning Hearing Board Applications:**
  - Commissioner Lavalle read one application that will be heard at the January 23, 2020 Zoning Hearing Board Meeting at 7:30 p.m. in the Upper Moreland Township Building.
4. Other Items:
  - a. **Motion to approve Resolution R-2020-02** – Authorizing Crown Castle NG East, LLC to replace an existing Lamp Post with a new Smart Pole for collocation of wireless infrastructure with Fiber Optic cable and Small Cell technology.
    - Commissioner Lavalle motioned, seconded by Commissioner McFatrige and the Board of Commissioners approved by a vote of 7-0, **Resolution R-2020-02** authorizing Crown Castle NG East, LLC to replace an existing Lamp Post with a new Smart Pole for collocation of wireless infrastructure with Fiber Optic cable and Small Cell technology.
  - b. **Motion to approve Resolution R-2020-03** – Authorizing the distribution of the Draft Comprehensive Plan for review and comment.
    - Commissioner Lavalle motioned, seconded by Commissioner McFatrige and the Board of Commissioners approved by a vote of 7-0, **Resolution R-2020-03** authorizing the distribution of the Draft Comprehensive Plan as amended for review and comment by neighboring municipalities, the School District, agencies and the public.

**C. Parks and Recreation Committee** - nothing to report.

**D. Public Health & Safety Committee**

1. **Motion to approve** a proposal from McMahan Associates, Inc. to provide Traffic Signal Design services as part of the ARLE Grant for improvements at Horsham and Blair Mill Roads.
  - Commissioner Whiting motioned, seconded by Commissioner McFatrige and the Board of Commissioners approved by a vote of 7-0, a proposal from McMahan Associates, Inc. to provide Traffic Signal Design services as part of the ARLE

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Grant for improvements at Horsham and Blair Mill Roads.

2. **Motion to accept** Chief S. Michael Murphy's retirement and his retirement agreement.
  - Commissioner Spearing stated that Chief Murphy will retire as of April 30, 2020, thanked him for his service to the Township and wished him all the best.
  - Commissioner Spearing motioned, seconded by Commissioner McFtridge and the Board of Commissioners approved by a vote of 7-0, to accept Chief S. Michael Murphy's retirement and his retirement agreement.

IX. **New Business** - nothing to report.

X. **Commissioner Comments:**

- Commissioner Lavalley stated that the Korean War Memorial, located within Memorial Grove Park on Kenas Road in Montgomery Township, is under construction and a ribbon cutting ceremony will be held on May 30, 2020 at 11:00 a.m. with keynote speakers including State and local officials.
- Commissioner Valenza stated that he met with residents on Tuesday night, January 7, 2020, at the Gloria Dei Community to present the Davisville Road detour, and he thanked McMahan Associates for their assistance with meeting materials.

XI. **Visitor Comments** - nothing to report.

XII. **Adjournment:** There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Kathleen Kristire.