

**Upper Moreland Township
Board of Commissioners - Regular Meeting
March 1, 2021 Meeting Minutes**

Board of Commissioners Members: Commissioner and President, Kevin C. Spearing; Commissioner and Vice President Charles M. Whiting; Commissioners R. Samuel Valenza, Kip McFatridge, 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.
- II. **Moment of Silent Meditation/Pledge of Allegiance**
- III. **Roll Call:** Commissioner and Board President Spearing, Commissioner and Vice President Whiting; Commissioners Valenza, McFatridge, Scull and Lockard. Also present: Matthew H. Candland, Township Manager, Randall K. Schaible, Assistant Township Manager & Director of Finance, and Sean Kilkenny, Township Solicitor.
- IV. **Presentations/Announcements:**
 - A. Welcome Ward 4 Commissioner, Anthony Prousi:
 - Commissioner Spearing introduced Justice Paul Leo.
 - B. District Justice Paul Leo to conduct Oath of Office and swearing-in of Anthony Prousi, Commissioner, Ward 4:
 - Justice Leo performed the swearing-in ceremony of Anthony Prousi as Commissioner to Ward 4.
 - C. **Motion to Approve** the appointment of Timothy Lynch as Police Sergeant, Upper Moreland Police Department:
 - Police Chief, Andrew Block, introduced Officer Lynch and his family.
 - Commissioner Valenza motioned, seconded by Commissioner Spearing and the Board of Commissioners approved by a vote of 7-0.
 - D. District Justice Paul Leo to conduct Oath of Office and swearing-in of Timothy Lynch:
 - Justice Leo performed the swearing-in ceremony of Timothy Lynch as Police Sergeant.
 - E. Presentation of Proclamation to Timothy A. Troxel, accepting and recognizing his retirement as a Lieutenant from Upper Moreland Township Police Department:
 - Commissioner Spearing read the Proclamation plaque and presented it to Mr. Troxel thanking him for his years of service to the Township.

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- V. **Public Comments** - Nothing to report.
- VI. **Treasurer's Activity Report – February 2021:**
 - Commissioner Spearing reviewed details of the report.
 - The Board of Commissioners unanimously approved the report as submitted.
- VII. **Approval of Minutes - February 1, 2021 Regular Meeting:**
 - Commissioner Spearing commented that Section IV, Item B., was accurately stated, however, the Board of Commissioners will swear-in Bruce Edwards at a future meeting.
 - Commissioner Valenza motioned, seconded by Commissioner Lockard and the Board of Commissioners approved by a vote of 7-0, the minutes as submitted.

VIII. **Committee Recommendations:**

- A. **Finance & Administrative Committee** – The Committee recommends the Board of Commissioners take action on the following:
1. **Appointments/Reappointments:**
 - a. The conditional appointment of Megan Padua as a probationary Police Officer. Such appointment is conditional upon successful completion of medical and psychological examinations and certification from the Municipal Police Officers Education and Training Commission.
 - Commissioner Valenza motioned, seconded by Commissioner McFatridge and the Board of Commissioners approved by a vote of 6-0 (six (6) aye: Commissioners Spearing, Whiting, Valenza, McFatridge, Scull and Lockard; one (1) abstention: Commissioner Prousi).
 - b. The appointment of Tom Hasani on the Parks and Recreation Advisory Council to fill the vacancy left by Alex Zachariah as a representative of Ward 3 and complete the remainder of a two-year term that will expire on May 5, 2021.
 - Commissioner Valenza motioned, seconded by Commissioner McFatridge and the Board of Commissioners approved by a vote of 7-0.
 2. **List of Bills Payable:**
 - Commissioner Valenza made a motion, seconded by Commissioner McFatridge and the Board of Commissioners approved by a vote of 7-0.
 3. **Aqua General Funds Bills:**
 - Commissioner Valenza motioned, seconded by Commissioner McFatridge and the Board of Commissioners approved by a vote of 6-0 (one (1) abstention: Commissioner Spearing, Aqua employee).
 4. **Other Items:**
 - a. **Motion to Approve** the proposal for Fire Services Organizational Review to be provided by Thomas M. Sullivan:
 - Mr. Candland stated that Mr. Sullivan will evaluate the Fire Department, make recommendations to strengthen the Volunteer Fire Department and propose plans for the future.
 - Commissioners Valenza and Spearing explained that Mr. Sullivan is a professional who is experienced with the Township and highly knowledgeable. The consultant fee is approximately \$20,000 and will start in March 2021.
 - Commissioner Valenza motioned, seconded by Commissioner McFatridge and the Board of Commissioners approved by a vote of 7-0.
 - b. **Motion to Approve** applying the Volunteer Service Tax Credit for certain members of the Willow Grove Volunteer Fire Company per Ordinance No. 1715:
 - Commissioner Valenza read the list of members eligible for the Tax Credit.
 - Commissioner Valenza motioned, seconded by Commissioner McFatridge and the Board of Commissioners approved by a vote of 7-0.
 - c. **Motion to Approve** a Tax Settlement between the Township, the School District of Upper Moreland and the tax payer, New Century Associates Group, LP:
 - Commissioner Valenza motioned, seconded by Commissioner McFatridge and the Board of Commissioners approved by a vote of 7-0.
 5. **New Business** - Nothing to report.

- B. **Community Development Committee** - The Committee recommends the Board of Commissioners take action on the following:
1. **Code Enforcement** - Nothing to report.
 2. **Land Development/Subdivision Applications** - Nothing to report.
 3. **List of Upcoming Zoning Hearing Board Applications - March 11, 2021:**
 - Commissioner McFatridge reviewed two applications.
 4. **Other Items:**
 - a. **Motion to Approve** the request from Jim Hersh for a change order to remove rock at the Fair Oaks Park Stormwater Management Basin Project:
 - Commissioner McFatridge commented that a cost estimate item was proposed in the bid specs in the event that rock had to be removed.
 - Commissioner McFatridge motioned, seconded by Commissioner Valenza and the Board of Commissioners approved by a vote of 7-0.
 - b. **Motion to Approve** the Township's share of \$813.11 to hire a consultant that will oversee the recycling composition audit:
 - Mr. Candland stated that the audit is a time-sensitive matter that will take place in mid-March.
 - Commissioner McFatridge motioned, seconded by Commissioner Valenza and the Board of Commissioners approved by a vote of 7-0.
 - c. **Motion to Approve** an agreement with property owner to share costs for road access improvements at 2475 Byberry Road:
 - Commissioner McFatridge explained that the Township will pay for the work and the property owner will pay for materials and share half of the permit fees with the Township.
 - Commissioner McFatridge motioned, seconded by Commissioner Valenza and the Board of Commissioners approved by a vote of 7-0.
 - d. **Motion to Approve Resolution R-2021-09** – Granting an extension of a seasonal Drive-in Movie Theater use with conditions to New Century Associates Group, LP for the outdoor display of motion pictures from April 1, 2021 to November 25, 2021 at the property located at 2000 County Line Road as a result of COVID-19 Pandemic:
 - Commissioners McFatridge and Spearing stated that the movie theater will continue operations outdoors through November 25, 2021 and explained that the extension will allow time for residents to attend a public meeting when a COVID-safe setting is obtainable.
 - Commissioner Lockard acknowledged the benefits of offering entertainment options during the pandemic, but is concerned about residents' issues and cannot support an extension. Commissioner Lockard proposed another condition to restrict cars from idling, which emits noise and exhausts.
 - The Applicant's representative made a commentary on their appraised property value and recent tax settlement in relation to a proposed loss of the movie theater, which would diminish the shopping center's appraised value and affect the School District's collection of revenue. He stated that over the past year, no public complaints, written comments or calls were reported. The Applicant stated that their goal is to move forward with operations and monitor the

concerns of residents by mitigating and minimizing the impact of issues perceived over the next few months.

- Commissioner McFatridge motioned to amend the Resolution to restrict cars to idle no more than two minutes, seconded by Commissioner Valenza and the Board of Commissioners approved by a vote of 7-0.
- Commissioner McFatridge motioned on the Resolution, seconded by Commissioner Valenza and the Board of Commissioners approved by a vote of 6-1 (6 aye: Commissioners Spearing, McFatridge, Valenza, Whiting, Scull, Prousi; 1 nay: Commissioner Lockard).

C. Parks and Recreation Committee:

1. **Motion to Approve Resolution R-2021-08** – Authorizing the submission of a grant application for the 2021 Round of the Montco 2040 Implementation Grant Program:
 - Commissioner Scull explained that today was the deadline to submit the Township's two applications.
 - Commissioner Scull motioned, seconded by Commissioner McFatridge and the Board of Commissioners approved by a vote of 7-0.

D. Public Health & Safety Committee - There are no items for consideration by the Board of Commissioners.

IX. Commissioner Comments:

- Commissioner Whiting reminded the public to wear masks now more than ever for the safety of everyone.
- Commissioner Scull commented that he hopes to receive his COVID vaccination soon.
- Commissioner Spearing welcomed Commissioner Prousi and stated that his new assignments will be on the Community Development Committee and the Historical Commission.
- Commissioner Prousi thanked everyone and stated that it is an honor to be appointed on the Board of Commissioners and be of service to the community.

X. Visitor Comments - Nothing to report.

XI. Adjournment: There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Kathleen Kristire.