

**Upper Moreland Township  
Board of Commissioners - Regular Meeting  
September 13, 2021, 2021 Meeting Minutes**

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

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 Lockard, McFatrige, Scull and Valenza. Absent: Commissioner Prousi. Also present: Matthew H. Candland, Township Manager, Randall K. Schaible, Assistant Township Manager & Director of Finance, and Alex Baumler, Township Solicitor.

IV. **Presentations/Announcements:**

- A. Commissioner Spearing asked everyone to remember the victims and families of the 9/11 attacks that took place 20 years ago.
- B. Commissioner Spearing announced that the Board of Commissioners met in an Executive Session to discuss legal and real estate matters.
- C. Presentation of a Proclamation to Kevin Moffett in recognition of his honorable discharge from the Upper Moreland Township Police Department:
  - Commissioner Spearing presented a Proclamation and offered congratulations and thanks for 18 years of service to Officer Moffett.
  - Chief Block spoke about Officer Moffett's dedication to the community and offered congratulations with a retirement badge.
- D. Recognizing members of the Upper Moreland Township Fire Department - Volunteer Fire Chief Chuck Jones discussed and presented the following:
  - An extrication occurred during a vehicular accident on June 29, 2021, and on behalf of Holmatro Rescue Equipment distributed a letter of recognition, certificate and a pin for their assistance to: Paul Nowell, Lauren Jones, Davin Rucker, Javier Rucker, Charles Jones, III, John Juel, Brian Drennen, Tim Focht, Dante Newman, and Rich Drennan.
  - Training completion certificates to: Brian Focht, Lauren Jones, and Ed O'Neill.
  - A Lifesaving Award to Dante Newman for performing the Heimlick maneuver on a baby in distress at the firehouse.
  - Thanked all members of the Fire Company and encouraged new members to join.

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V. **Public Comments:**

- Karen Houck, a resident of Deer Run Road, requested that the flagpole fly the thin blue line and red line American flag representing law enforcement officers and firefighters, and a flag representing the Public Works Department in recognition of all who have provided rescue and disaster cleanup from the recent storms.

**VI. Treasurer's Activity Report – August 2021:**

- Commissioner Spearing read details from the report.
- Commissioner McFatridge motioned, seconded by Commissioner Valenza and the Board of Commissioners approved by a vote of 6-0, the report as submitted.

**VII. Approval of Minutes - August 2, 2021 Regular Meeting:**

- Commissioner Valenza motioned, seconded by Commissioner McFatridge and the Board of Commissioners approved by a vote of 6-0 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 - Nothing to report.**

**2. List of Bills Payable:**

- Commissioner Valenza motioned, seconded by Commissioner McFatridge and the Board of Commissioners approved by a vote of 6-0.

**3. Aqua General Funds Bills:**

- Commissioner Valenza motioned, seconded by Commissioner McFatridge and the Board of Commissioners approved by a vote of 5 (one (1) abstention: Commissioner Spearing, Aqua employee).

**4. Other Items:**

**a. Motion to Approve Resolution R-2021-29 – Authorizing the reimbursement of a prior expenditure of funds from the proceeds of a tax-exempt bond or bonds to be issued for the financing of certain capital project:**

➤ Commissioner Valenza read details from the Resolution.

- Commissioner Valenza motioned, seconded by Commissioner McFatridge and the Board of Commissioners approved by a vote of 6-0.

**b. Motion to Approve Resolution R-2021-30 – Authorizing the purchase of the property located at 301 Woodlawn Avenue:**

➤ Commissioner Valenza read details from the Resolution.

➤ Commissioners McFatridge and Spearing stated that this purchase was a Township-wide issue involving many parties and kept confidential until a decision was reached.

➤ Mr. Candland explained that settlement is scheduled the end of September, a construction fence will be installed, demolition will commence in Spring of 2022, and cleanup and improvements to follow in 2023.

- Commissioner Valenza motioned, seconded by Commissioner McFatridge and the Board of Commissioners approved by a vote of 6-0.

**c. Motion to Approve contributing up to \$10,100, matched by the Upper Moreland Free Public Library Board of Trustees, towards the voice activated fire alarm system for the Upper Moreland Township's Library building:**

- Commissioner Valenza motioned, seconded by Commissioner McFatridge and the Board of Commissioners approved by approved by a vote of 6-0.

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- d. **Motion to Approve** the Ratification of the Collective Bargaining Agreement between Upper Moreland Township and Teamsters Local 107 White Collar Employees:
    - Commissioner Valenza motioned, seconded by Commissioner McFatridge and the Board of Commissioners approved by approved by a vote of 6-0.
  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 - September 2021:**
    - Commissioner McFatridge read three applications to be presented at the meeting on September 9, 2021.
  4. **Other Items:**
    - a. **Motion to Approve** the Fair Oaks Basin Change Order #3:
      - Pat Stasio, Director of Parks and Recreation, reported that drainage at the basin has improved between May, June and July with underdrain adaptations.
      - Jim Hersh, Gilmore & Associates, stated that he was pleased that the basin did not breach during Hurricane Ida, which received beyond the amount of rain it was designed to handle in such a short period of time.
      - Commissioner McFatridge motioned, seconded by Commissioner Spearing and the Board of Commissioners approved a Change Order in the amount of \$8,000 by a vote of 6-0.
    - b. **Motion to Approve** the Fair Oaks Basin plan for seeding and plant plugs:
      - Mr. Stasio explained the planting materials that will be installed to prevent seeds and plugs from erosion.
      - Dr. Lynnette Saunders inquired about the planting timeframe, the seed mix and plugs. Kim Flanders, McCloskey & Faber, P.C. replied that the seed mix is listed on the original drawings and plugs are based on the availability of species to match the seed mix. If new plants are added, they will be native. Planting could occur in the Fall.
      - Commissioner Lockard inquired about the amount of water and sediment the basin can manage. Mr. Hersh estimated that 1,100,000 gallons of water can be collected and disbursed at a measured pace, and approximately 45,000 lbs. of sediment per year can be prohibited from depositing downstream.
      - Commissioner McFatridge motioned, seconded by Commissioner Spearing and the Board of Commissioners approved by a vote of 6-0.
    - c. **Motion to Approve** the bid award for the Library ADA Improvements:
      - Commissioner McFatridge motioned, seconded by Commissioner Spearing and the Board of Commissioners approved by a vote of 6-0.
- C. **Parks and Recreation Committee** - There are no items for consideration by the Board of Commissioners.

**D. Public Health & Safety Committee** - The Committee recommends the Board of Commissioners take action on the following:

1. **Motion to Approve** the ratification of the Declaration of a Weather Emergency due to the remnants of Hurricane Ida:
  - Commissioner Spearing commended Emergency Services for their aid throughout the community. The Declaration will assist with reimbursement and funding to restore damaged property and areas of the Township.
  - Commissioner McFatridge commended Paul Purtell, Director of Code Enforcement, and the Police Department for management of the emergency situations that occurred.
  - Commissioner Whiting motioned, seconded by Commissioner McFatridge and the Board of Commissioners approved by a vote of 6-0.
2. Hurricane Ida Remnants – After Event Report:
  - Mr. Candland commended Mr. Purtell, Police Chief Andy Block and their departments' staff on an outstanding job.
  - Mr. Purtell discussed the following:
    - Montgomery County issued a Federal Emergency Declaration, which allows residents and business owners to apply for funding to recover losses. Information is posted on the County's and Township's websites.
    - The Township's Office of Emergency Management along with the Code Enforcement office have been evaluating properties that received damage from the storm. If your residence or business property received damage such as flooding of the interior, structural or other damage to any building (s), interior or exterior, please contact the Code Enforcement office at 267-607-1032/1033 for an evaluation.
    - The Disaster Recovery Center location will be posted once it is available.
    - There were a few residents displaced and a shelter was set up at the high school.
  - Commissioner McFatridge thanked Mr. Purtell for expediting the numerous steps on the recovery process.
  - Commissioner Scull inquired about making claims to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) versus private insurance. Mr. Candland advised that claimants should initially exhaust all of their private insurance options before applying to FEMA.
  - Commissioner Whiting praised Mr. Purtell, Chief Block and Mr. Candland for their communications and management efforts.
  - Chief Block stated that the Police received over 61 calls relating to water rescues, discussed details of four significant situations, and reminded the public not to drive through flooded roads.
  - Commissioner Whiting stated his support on Chief Block's budgetary request for additional police and fire personnel.
  - Commissioner Spearing commented concerns about roadway access to hospitals. Chief Block stated that the FEMA Urban Search and Rescue Task Force teams were deployed from Schwenksville and Towamensin, because they offer the best information when the emergency system is overwhelmed.

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- Chief Block stated that he will provide the Board of Commissioners with an evaluation and recommendations for planning future emergency events.
- The Board of Commissioners directed the Township Departments to provide a report on the best and worst results from the storm including recommendations for improvements.
- Commissioner Whiting thanked Mr. Candland for his work on the storm recovery.

**IX. Commissioner Comments:**

- Commissioners Scull and Valenza directed Mr. Candland to post a notice on the website asking for public assistance to report clogged storm drains to the Township's Public Works Department.
- Commissioner Spearing commented that the Public Works Department worked on cleaning out of several storm drains two days prior to the storm.
- Commissioner Scull commended the Police Department and Public Works Department for their work during the storm emergency.
- Commissioner Scull noted that flooding occurs along Frazier Avenue at Evens Circle and at Quigley Avenue.
- Commissioners Spearing and Whiting commented that every individual has a COVID-19 responsibility and encouraged mask wearing, vaccination and respect for others.
- Commissioner McFatrige commended the Public Works Department for collecting beyond the normal amount of trash loads, which contained debris from the storm damage.
- Commissioner Valenza recommended that residents drill a hole in their trash cans to drain rain water and eliminate weight.
- Commissioner Valenza commended the Township for purchasing Woodlawn School.
- Commissioner Lockard thanked the Emergency Responders for their work and encouraged the public to get vaccinated.

**X. Visitor Comments - Nothing to report.**

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

Respectfully submitted by Kathleen Kristire.