

The regular meeting of the Upper Pottsgrove Township Board of Commissioners was held on Tuesday, February 20, 2018, at the Upper Pottsgrove Administrative Office, 1409 Farmington Avenue, with Commissioners Trace Slinkerd, France Krazalkovich, Martin Schreiber, Renee Spaide and Elwood Taylor present. Also present were Township Solicitor Charles D. Garner, Jr., Police Chief Francis Wheatley, Public Works Director Justin Bean and Township Manager Carol R. Lewis.

**MOMENT OF SILENCE** - Mr. Slinkerd requested a moment of silence in honor of the men and women who have served and are currently serving our country in the armed forces.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** - Those assembled pledged allegiance to the flag.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES – January 16, 2018** – The Board discussed changes to the minutes on page 3: months will be changed to years and RAT will be changed to RIT. They discussed the portion of the minutes where T. Mattingly said he could accomplish the mission; it was agreed that he did say he could. Motion by R. Spaide seconded by F. Krazalkovich to approve the minutes with those changes. Motion by F. Krazalkovich seconded by R. Spaide and unanimously carried to amend the minutes changing Company to Committee.

**PAYMENT OF BILLS** – Motion by R. Spaide seconded by T. Slinkerd and unanimously carried to approve the bills in the amount of \$182,986.68.

**PUBLIC COMMENT** – None.

## **REPORTS**

**TOWNSHIP MANAGER** gave her report. They are working on switching over to QuickBooks. All documentation has been submitted for the Actuarial Studies for the upcoming audit in March. Working with Spy Glass for the Telecommunication Audit which is almost complete. The Pottstown Borough Authority Agreement for sewage treatment revisions has been complete and will be submitted to the Borough; we will be discussing at their April meeting. Met with our representative from Benecon on our healthcare updates and future plans. Will prepare a presentation for an upcoming workshop meeting so we can have the Board's ideas before starting police negotiations. Also met with Public Works Director regarding Kummerer Road and others that need to be done. M. Schreiber questioned about the Veteran's Memorial. C. Lewis reported that she did apply for the grant with the Veteran's Fund and Trust and either way the money won last year will be spent in the allotted amount of time.

**CHIEF OF POLICE REPORT** – Officer Hanna is out on short term disability and should return late spring. He reported on notable arrests and criminal activity. He also reported that SRO Crawford has been working with school officials and students at the Pottsgrove Middle School to research and implement a new student based club called PGMS Student Coalition. This program will run once a week during ninth period and will allow students the time to develop campaigns to address some of the challenges facing middle school students. They are presently working on an anti bullying campaign. C. Lewis advised that the Police Department is going to need a Detective. There are many sensitive cases under investigation at this time and almost all officers are investigating two cases or more. M. Schreiber inquired about the overtime with one officer out. Chief Wheatley reported that Bradley Guldin is taking up most of the slack; about thirty (35) hours

a week. They discussed bringing him back to full time.

**PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR** – Two hundred and thirty five (235) trees were cleaned up from the Arboretum’s Christmas tree recycling program. Pump stations have been down and came back up. Moyer Road will be shut down Wednesday and Thursday for the sewer crossing. E. Taylor commented on the variety of work that the road crew does. R. Spaide interjected that they have been doing a very good job this winter.

**TOWNSHIP SOLICITOR** – The Cable Franchise Agreements will be expiring in the next six to eighteen months. A draft was received which will be open for public comment. C. Garner will review and circulate his comments to the Board. At this time the Board meeting paused in order to conduct the Public Hearing for the proposed Sign Ordinance which was advertised for 7:30 pm.

**PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED SIGN ORDINANCE** – C. Garner explained that the impetus of the Ordinance was to comply with provisions of Reed vs. Gilbert. Sign Ordinances cannot regulate the content of signs in any way. The Ordinance was not advertised in its entirety but was available at the Law Library and the Township should anyone request it. A letter from the Montgomery County Planning Commission is supportive of the changes as well as our local Planning Commission. E. Taylor outlined the recommended changes from the Planning Commission. Motion by F. Krazalkovich to adopt the Ordinance with punctuation and typo changes. The motion was seconded by R. Spaide. Motion by M. Schreiber to table the Ordinance until the punctuation and typo changes were made. There was no second. Roll call vote: R. Spaide voted aye; T. Slinkerd voted aye; F. Krazalkovich voted aye; E. Taylor voted aye; M. Schreiber voted nay. The motion passed. At this time the Board of Commissioners meeting reconvened.

**TOWNSHIP SOLICITOR CONTINUED** – M. Schreiber asked that while he is reviewing the Franchise Agreements he look into Verizon providing channels to the Township and School District.

**PLANNING AND ZONING** – C. Lewis reported that 188 Snyder Road had a hearing on January 11<sup>th</sup> and a thirty (30) day extension was given to the residents to have the garbage and rubbish removed from the property; another hearing has been scheduled.

**COMMITTEE CHAIR REPORTS**

**PLANNING LIAISON** - E. Taylor reported that the Regional Planning Commission will be doing a study of regional traffic. Moyer Road and Route 100 is one of the areas that will be looked at. The Planning Commission discussed the concept for Route 100 and Moyer Road to rezone to allow for age restricted housing. They anticipate that more information will be coming. The traffic analysis would allow us to apply for grants on a regional basis. R. Spaide questioned the rezoning for age restricted housings due to steep slopes and wetlands. E. Taylor advised the Planning Commission is looking at this and that area would be good to be developed for the Township and Sewer Fund. Age restricted is legal and governed by the Fair Housing Act.

**OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION** – They are working on revising the long term plan. This Saturday is electronic recycling from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Hillside Pool. May 19<sup>th</sup> is the Fish Rodeo, September 15<sup>th</sup> is the Archery Hunt and September 22<sup>nd</sup> will be Community Days. They are

relocating this event to the Middle School parking lot. Pottsgrove Recreation Board is looking for somewhere for their swim team as the Pottstown YMCA is closing.

**SEWER AND WATER** - John Bealer reported that there was no February meeting but they will be meeting in March. The expenditures were almost exact to the projections. They will be discussing the five year plan at the next meeting. After the dryer purchase there will be no large projects. I & I efforts are paying off. He reported that flushable wipes are causing real problems as they do not biodegrade and they can jam up the pumps. F. Krazalkovich asked if there was any more discussion about Pottsgrove representation on the Pottstown Borough Authority. J. Bealer reported that they are making progress; not a seat but suggestions are heard.

**FIRE AND AMBULANCE** – M. Schreiber advised that there is only one Ambulance Report as Goodwill is getting new software and did not have theirs ready. The Hanover Drive report shows the time of calls. Deputy 79 was in charge of the scene for the fire and then it changed to Chief 79.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**CONSIDER CONSENTING TO THE HIRING OF A NEW PUBLIC WORKS LABORER** – Motion by F. Krazalkovich seconded by M. Schreiber and unanimously carried to hire the new Public Works laborer pending background checks and drug test at \$19/hour.

**CONSIDER FIRE COMPANY ACTIVITIES** - Motion by F. Krazalkovich seconded by R. Spaide and unanimously carried to authorize the Fire Company activities.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**DISCUSS CONSENTING TO THE APPOINTMENT OF A DEPUTY PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR** - The Board discussed the appointment of a Deputy Public Works Director. They discussed whether it would include a pay raise. M. Schreiber thought that it should but it is not being recommended at this time. M. Schreiber asked what if he doesn't accept the position and F. Krazalkovich replied that he is an at will employee.

**CONSIDER PURCHASE OF NEW SERVER FOR \$7,806.42** – Motion by M. Schreiber, seconded by R. Spaide and unanimously carried to approve the purchase of a server for the Police Department in the amount of \$7,806.42. F. Krazalkovich advised the Board that the vendor the purchase came from was a Co-Stars vendor and although the specs were robust the needs do meet it. He is very happy the price is below cost.

**CONSIDER RECOMMENDATION OF OS&R BOARD TO APPOINT SHERRY PAUP TO FILL THE TERM OF CHRIS DELP** – C. Lewis requested that they table the appointment of Sherry Paup to the Open Space and Rec Board until they fill the alternate position on the Civil Service Commission.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

**DENNIS ELLIOTT** – **Evans Road** – Asked what the Age Restricted area is currently zoned for. E. Taylor replied that it is R-80 and currently our Age Restricted is an overlay district. There has

been no study yet to determine if there are wetlands. D. Elliott advised that Greg Churach has volunteered his services as the electric contractor for the Veterans Memorial. He had a question on three Commissioners serving on the Veterans Memorial and the Sunshine Law. C. Garner said it was a prearranged meeting for agency business. They discussed it from a committee perspective vs. a township perspective. D. Elliott then commented that he talked to Rich Minge that new dwellings going up have footprints digitalized and he said that he would do that. Chief Wheatley had concerns on invasion of privacy; while it's a good concept it should go to Emergency Management not the Police Department. D. Elliott then asked if the Police had adequate protection and fire power. Chief Wheatley said yes; although their day to day vests are not enough to stop a bullet but the other ones are too cumbersome to wear day to day. D. Elliott amended his previous comment about a cleared area around houses for emergency services from 20 feet to 6-8 feet.

**GLORIA PARKER** – Asked if there is a plan if a shooting happens at the high school. Chief Wheatley responded that yes they do have active shooter training for teachers and personnel and have run the training in the high school. This is a challenging school district issue; they are training students to be aware and report things. E. Taylor commented that teachers know the students that have issues. There are things that could be done to help the children that need it but it would cost a lot of money to address the mental health issues.

**F. WHEATLEY** – Advised the Board that for the first time the Pottsgrove's will be running a Police Cop Camp from June 18<sup>th</sup> to June 22<sup>nd</sup>. Three departments will be running it together and it is open for ten and eleven year olds. Each community will have eight kids for a total of twenty four.

**JIM CAPINSKI – 1958 Yarnall Road** – Commented on his Right-to Know request regarding the roads in Gary Heights. C. Lewis provided Section 2005 of the First Class Township Code. He gave another update that the Township has spent over \$94,000 on the courts. A new trial has been ordered.

**COMMISSIONER COMMENTS**

**R. SPAIDE** advised with regards to the Memorial for Armed Services, Mr. Gofus is giving us the memorial at his cost. There is a sign-up sheet in the office and you can contact the staff if you have family members that live in the Township that would like to be included.

**F. KRAZALKOVCH** apologized to his colleagues and neighbors about the meeting contradiction. At the Montgomery County Association of Township Commissioners he brought up the county wide Appeals Board. They partnered with municipalities around them. He suggested the township go to the COG to see about setting up something like this. The legislative updates have not changed. Senator Mensch will try again to get our Act 537 reimbursement into the budget.

**E. TAYLOR** commented on the mission of the Fire Company. One truck will be out of compliance in two years. He then discussed the Ad Hoc Building Committee

**T. SLINKERD** reported they will be having a Working Session on February 27<sup>th</sup> and welcomed the public to join them. He stated that E. Taylor's comments would be discussed at this session.

**Minutes – Board of Commissioners  
Upper Pottsgrove Township**

**February 20, 2018**

The Board adjourned into Executive Session at 8:41 p.m. to discuss personnel and litigation. They reconvened at 9:06 p.m.

**ADJOURNMENT** – Motion by R. Spaide seconded by F. Krazalkovich and unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting at 9:07 p.m.

Submitted,

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Carol R. Lewis, Manager/Secretary/Treasurer