

**UPPER POTTS GROVE TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
January 5, 2026**

A reorganization meeting of the Upper Pottsgrove Township Board of Commissioners was held on Monday, January 5, 2026 in the library at the Pottsgrove Middle School, 1351 N. Hanover St, Pottstown, Pennsylvania with Commissioners Dave Waldt, Cathy Paretti, Commissioners elect Elwood Taylor and Tyrone Robinson present. Commissioner elect Al Leach attended via phone. Also present were Manager Michelle L. Reddick, Police Chief James Fisher and Township Secretary Jeannie DiSante.

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

OATH OF OFFICE

District Justice Maurice Saylor administered the Oath of Office to Tyrone Robinson and Elwood Taylor in their elected positions as Commissioners for Upper Pottsgrove Township. Al Leach took the Oath of Office at Judge Saylor's office in December.

NOMINATION FOR THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD

Michelle Reddick opened the floor for nominations for President of the Board of Commissioners. Dave Waldt nominated Al Leach, seconded by Tyrone Robinson as President of the Board of Commissioners of Upper Pottsgrove Township. Al Leach accepted the nomination. There were no other nominations and Cathy Paretti made a motion, seconded by Dave Waldt to close nominations. Michelle Reddick closed the nominations. The votes to elect Al Leach as President of the Board of Commissioners: Cathy Paretti – aye, Dave Waldt – aye, Tyrone Robinson – aye, Elwood Taylor – aye, Al Leach – aye. The election passes on a vote of 5 to 0.

NOMINATIONS FOR THE VICE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD

Michelle Reddick opened nominations for Vice President of the Board of Commissioners. Al Leach nominated Elwood Taylor, as Vice President of the Board of Commissioners of Upper Pottsgrove Township. Dave Waldt nominated Cathy Paretti, as Vice President of the Board of Commissioners of Upper Pottsgrove Township. Tyrone Robinson seconded the nomination of Elwood Taylor, as Vice President of the Board of Commissioners of Upper Pottsgrove Township. Al Leach seconded the nomination of Cathy Paretti, as Vice President of the Board of Commissioners of Upper Pottsgrove Township. The votes to elect Elwood Taylor as Vice President of the Board of Commissioners: Elwood Taylor – aye, Tyrone Robinson – Aye, Al Leach – aye. Election passes on votes of 3 to 2.

M. Reddick turned the meeting over to Vice President E. Taylor as President A. Leach was not physically present.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS

Jim Capinski, 1958 Yarnall Road asked if residents can ask questions at any time throughout the meeting. E. Taylor said yes.

Martin Schreiber, 138 Rose Valley Road congratulated the new Board members and he prefers the position of President of the Board be referred to as Chair of the Board so as not to bestow too much control.

NEW BUSINESS

DISCUSS & CONSIDER APPOINTMENT & AGREEMENT FOR TOWNSHIP SOLICITOR

– E. Taylor presented information on Kilkenny Law noting the firm agreed to take the position at \$50.00 less per hour than the current solicitor. There was a motion by E. Taylor, seconded by T. Robinson to appoint Kilkenny Law as Township Solicitor. D. Waldt noted prior to being elected, all board members met with two law firms in search of a solicitor. During discussions with Kilkenny Law it was revealed that they represent the three new commissioners in a lawsuit about Gilbertsville and Moyer Road, which is not an issue however, their fee is one dollar (\$1.00). A question was asked by D. Waldt whether the three commissioners received any money from Kilkenny Law firm. Each of the new commissioners answered no. D. Waldt sees this as a conflict of interest in future discussions and asked how this firm can represent the township in this situation. Attorney Mark Plachta, speaking for Kilkenny Law said they do represent the three council members as they approached the firm with a legal question. Any advice the firm will give to the Board will be what is consistent with the law without any bias. C. Paretti commented that she does see an abundance of conflict of interest as they do have a responsibility to their clients so how does the board deal with the litigation on Gilbertsville Road when three of the board members will not be able to vote due to attorney/client privilege. She understands there is no law against this however, there is an abundance of ethical issues as is covered in the PA Board of Ethics. Rollcall votes on the motion to appoint Kilkenny Law as Township Solicitor: A. Leach – aye, E. Taylor – aye, T. Robinson – aye, C. Paretti – nay, D. Waldt – nay. Motion carries 3-2.

NEW BUSINESS

DISCUSS & CONSIDER ACCEPTING CHIEF FISHER'S LETTER OF RESIGNATION – E.

Taylor noted Chief Fisher would be happy to speak to the Board. Chief Fisher congratulated the new Commissioners and he appreciated the opportunity to make a brief comment. He read part of his letter where he said it was a privilege to serve the members of Upper Pottsgrove Township and to lead the dedicated men and women of this department. He is deeply grateful for the trust and support of the Board of Commissioners and the administration throughout his tenure. Together he believes all worked to strengthen public safety, support our officers and serve the community with professionalism and integrity. He expressed his sincere appreciation to the Board, Manager, township personnel and community partners for their collaboration and support. He is proud of the work accomplished and confident the department will continue to move forward in service of the community. Once again he stated he is thankful for the opportunity to serve.

E. Taylor ask the new Solicitor to prepare a letter of acceptance that would describe the mutual obligations and asked when that would be forthcoming. The solicitor asked for clarification as to what the board wishes and said they will need to look at Chief Fisher's contract to prepare a letter as soon as possible. Motion by D. Waldt, seconded by C. Paretti and unanimously carried to accept Chief Jim Fisher's letter of resignation conditioned on the attorney preparing an acceptance letter.

DISCUSS & CONSIDER APPROVAL OF THE LEASE FOR 1441 LAURA LANE FOR THE ADMIN. OFFICES – E. Taylor explained the need for space for the administration staff to work due to the condition of the existing building and for the public to visit . There will be future discussion concerning that building. The Board reviewed and discussed a one-year lease on the building with an option of an additional one year lease. M. Reddick explained an addendum to include some furniture, desks, chairs, filing cabinets left in the building . The landlord will rent these items at an extra cost of \$3,500/year if they are of use to the administration.

A motion D. Waldt, second by C. Paretto unanimously carried to approve the lease for 1441 Laura Lane for administrative offices with an addendum to rent some furniture on the premises. D. Raudenbush, 2030 Needhammer Road reminded the Board that the fire company still occupies the building at 1409 Farmington Avenue and are also dealing with mold conditions. G. Novack, 1433 N. Hanover Street said he is curious if Richard Mingey owns the building that will be leased to the township and is the township in litigation with him. E. Taylor said yes.

DISCUSS & CONSIDER APPROVAL OF PROPOSAL FOR THE RECRUITMENT OF TOWNSHIP MANAGER

- E. Taylor explained the search for a new township manager in the wake of M. Reddick's resignation. Lafayette College Mayner Center submitted a proposal offer to assist in recruiting a township manager/treasurer. Their comprehensive service overview document outlines their services and E. Taylor read through it and noted it is a \$13,000.00 plus mileage & travel expense offer and is expected to take 3-4 months. A motion by C. Paretto, second by T. Robinson unanimously carried to approve the proposal offer for the recruitment of a township manager/treasurer from Lafayette Mayner Center at the cost of \$13,000.00 plus mileage and travel expenses.

OLD BUSINESS

DISCUSS & CONSIDER RESCINDING RESOLUTION NO. 703 – E. Taylor read the resolution and explained the intent. There was a motion by A. Leach, second by E. Taylor to rescind the resolution. C. Paretto said she is not entirely in favor of rescinding the resolution and noted her objection to a double vote. She said A. Leach is interested in serving on the Pottsgrove Regional Recreation Committee, the by-laws allow it and he is listed on the external appointment list before the Commissioners at this meeting. She noted all those listed on the external appointments list are not affected by this resolution. There was further discussion on rescinding the resolution among the Commissioners, Solicitor and in public comments. The Board concurred to table rescinding Resolution No. 703.

NEW BUSINESS

DISCUSS & CONSIDER APPOINTMENTS/REAPPOINTMENTS - E. Taylor read out the appointment considered for approval at this meeting. On a motion by C. Paretto, second by A. Leach the attached appointments highlighted in yellow were unanimously approved.

OLD BUSINESS

DISCUSS & CONSIDER RESCINDING RESOLUTION NO. 749 – E. Taylor read the resolution and C. Paretto commented on what she understands it was meant to be and believes it should go away. E. Taylor explained this was intended to create a new municipal complex that was focused at the Smola property for a while and extended onto the Gilbertsville property. He stated they are anxious to make sure this sort of disappears and nothing complicates their resolution of those things in the coming days and weeks. Motion by D. Waldt, second by T. Robinson unanimously carries to rescind Resolution No. 749.

Julia Schne, 330 Summer Grove Lane asked what “go away” means about Resolution No. 749 and what happens to the money already invested. E. Taylor said this has nothing to do with that, it is about taking away the authority of one person making all those decisions. James Capinski, 1958 Yarnall Road commented on an email he sent to former solicitor concerning the legality of Resolution No. 749 and violation of Section 1802 of First Class Township Code.

NEW BUSINESS

DISCUSS & CONSIDER MEETING SCHEDULE FOR 2026 – Motion by C. Paretto, second by A. Leach unanimously carries to approve the meeting schedule for 2026.

OLD BUSINESS

DISCUSSION & POTENTIAL ACTION ON THE GILBERTSVILLE ROAD PROJECT LITIGATION

DISCUSSION & POTENTIAL ACTION ON THE SMOLA FARM PROJECT LITIGATION

DISCUSSION & POTENTIAL ACTION ON THE DEFAMATION CASE

E. Taylor explained these last three items on the agenda concern litigation that the township lost. They do not go away and the previous Board continues to prosecute these cases and are in various stage of appeal. This Board needs to make decisions on how to proceed. Hundreds of thousands of dollars have been spent prosecuting these cases and they need to stop the money from going out. Since the election they tried to get information from the township, with little success, to make good decisions on how to move forward. He asked for an executive session to get legal counsel on these three issues. Motion by C. Paretto, second by D. Waldt unanimously carried to add an execution session to this evenings agenda to discuss litigation issues with possible action before adjournment.

OTHER PUBLIC COMMENTS

Cathy Sigcowski, 2010 Gross Road asked the Board to reconsider funding the Pottstown Library. The commissioners replied that it is being considered.

Julie Schnavite (?), 330 Summer Grove agreed to donating to the library, future “go away” issues need to be explained better, concerns about further development on Pine Ford Road.

James Capinski, 1958 Yarnall Road thanked the fire company for the Santa run and thanked the commissioners for taking questions. He also said the township now has 9 million dollars to spend on combining all three Pottsgrove Townships into one at the new Lower Pottsgrove building eliminating a lot of personnel expense.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

C. Paretto commented she liked Mr. Capinski’s idea.

T. Robinson thanked the residents for coming to the meeting and asked them stay involved.

EXECUTION SESSION – The Commissioners convened into Executive Session to discuss litigation matters at 7:45. The Commissioners reconvened at 8:42 with the following action:

DISCUSSION & POTENTIAL ACTION ON THE GILBERTSVILLE ROAD PROJECT LITIGATION – The commissioners concurred to table any action on this matter.

DISCUSSION & POTENTIAL ACTION ON THE SMOLA FARM PROJECT LITIGATION –

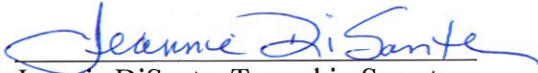
Motion by C. Paretti, second by T. Robinson unanimously carries to authorize the Township Solicitor Kilkenny Law to act on behalf of the Upper Pottsgrove Commissioners in the case of Murray vs Slinkard Docket No. 294-VD-2025 and to begin any and all process required to end litigation and withdraw any appeal for the township in this case as expeditiously as possible.

DISCUSSION & POTENTIAL ACTION ON THE DEFAMATION CASE -

Motion by C. Paretti, second by T. Robinson unanimously carries to authorize the Township Solicitor Kilkenny Law to act on behalf of the Upper Pottsgrove Commissioners in this defamation case, negotiate a resolution and settle the matter. D. Waldt asked if the township can stop payment of current legal fees. The Solicitor said they need time to review the case before stopping fee payments. It is noted that A. Leach did not participate in the Executive Session or any motions thereafter.

ADJOURNMENT – The meeting was adjourned at 8:46 PM

Respectfully submitted,


Jeannie DiSante, Township Secretary

Upper Pottsgrove Township
 Appointment List
 January 2026

Civil Service Commission (CSC, § 12-1 UPT Ord)				
Position	Term	Position Holder	Date Appointed	Term Ends
Civil Service Commission	6 yrs	OPEN		
Civil Service Commission	6 yrs	Ken Reber	Dec 2021	Dec 2027
Civil Service Commission	6 yrs	Tyrone Parker	Dec 2023	Dec 2029
Civil Service Commission Alternative	6 yrs	OPEN		

Open Space & Recreation Board (OS & R, § 38-2 UPT Ord)				
Position	Term	Position Holder	Date Appointed	Term Ends
Open Space & Recreation Board	4 yrs	OPEN		
Open Space & Recreation Board	4 yrs	Mark McKinnie	Aug 2023	Dec 2026
Open Space & Recreation Board	4 yrs	Sherry Paup	Dec 2023	Dec 2027
Open Space & Recreation Board	4 yrs	Seth Thomas	Dec 2024	Dec 2028
Open Space & Recreation Board	4 yrs	Gary Novack	Jan 2026	Dec 2029

Zoning Hearing Board (ZHB)				
Position	Term	Position Holder	Date Appointed	Term Ends
Zoning Hearing Board	3 yrs	John DahDah (Chairman)	Jan 2026	Dec 2028
Zoning Hearing Board	3 yrs	Robert Anthony	Jan 16, 2024	Dec 2026
Zoning Hearing Board	3 yrs	Bill Hewitt	Jan 27, 2025	Dec 2027
Zoning Hearing Board Alternate	3 yrs	OPEN		

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Planning Commission				
Position	Term	Position Holder	Date Appointed	Term Ends
Planning Commission	4 yrs	Earl Wagner	Jan 27, 2025	Dec 2028
Planning Commission	4 yrs	Chris Mullen	Jan 27, 2025	Dec 2028
Planning Commission	3 yrs	Wayne Weaver	Jan 27, 2025	Dec 2027
Planning Commission	3 yrs	Matt Hartzell	Jan 27, 2025	Dec 2027
Planning Commission	2 yrs	Manny Cartagena	Jan 27, 2025	Dec 2026

Property Maintenance Code Appeals Board				
Position	Term	Position Holder	Date Appointed	Term Ends
Property Maintenance Code Appeals Board	3 yrs	OPEN		
Property Maintenance Code Appeals Board	3 yrs	Earl Wagner	Dec 2024	Dec 2025
Property Maintenance Code Appeals Board	3 yrs	Open		

Upper Pottsgrove Township
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 January 2026

Special Township Appointments				
Position	Term	Position Holder	Date Appointed	Term Ends
Vacancy Board	One yr.	John Ungerman	Jan 2026	Dec 2026
Emergency Management Coordinator	At Will			
Fire Marshal	At Will	Charles Ritschard	Jan 2024	Indef
Township Secretary	At Will	Jeannie DiSante	Jan 2024	Indef
Township Treasurer	At Will			
Flood Plain Administrator	At Will			
Pension Fund Administrator	At Will			
Deputy Tax Collector	At Will	Dave DeLong	Jan 2024	Indef

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Professional Services				
Position	Term	Position Holder	Date Appointed	Term Ends
Solicitor	At Will	Kilkenny Law	Jan 2026	Indef
Litigation Counsel	At Will			
Litigation Counsel	At Will			
Solicitor, Judicial Boards (CSC,ZHB,PM CAB)	At Will	Bob Brant Law Associates	Jan 2026	Indef
Auditor	3 yrs	Herbein	Contractural	Audit Years 2024-2027
Engineer	At Will	LTL	Jan 2026	Indef
Engineer	At Will	CVE	Jan 2026	Indef
Pension Fund Investment Advisor	At Will	CBIZ	Jan 2026	Indef
Actuarial	At Will	Foster & Foster	Jan 2026	Indef
Animal Control Officer	At Will	Jon Daywalt	Jan 2026	Contractual (2026-2027)

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 Appointment List
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External Appointments				
Position	Term	Position Holder	Date Appointed	Term Ends
Pottstown Area Regional Recreation Committee	2 yrs.	Mark McKinnie	Jan 2026	Dec 2027
Pottstown Area Regional Recreation Committee Alternate	2 yrs.	Vacant	Jan 2026	Dec 2027
Pottsgrove Regional Recreation Board	2 yrs.	Albert Leach	Jan 2026	Dec 2027
Pottsgrove Regional Recreation Board	2 yrs.	Michelle Thompson	Jan 2026	Dec 2027
Pottstown Metropolitan Regional Planning Committee	2 yrs.	Wayne Weaver	Jan 2026	Dec 2027
Pottstown Metropolitan Regional Planning Committee	2 yrs.	Dave Waldt	Jan 2026	Dec 2027