

**UPPER POTTS GROVE TOWNSHIP  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
January 20, 2026**

A regular meeting of the Upper Pottsgrove Township Board of Commissioners was held on Tuesday, January 20, 2026 at the West Pottsgrove Administrative Office, 980 Grosstown Road, Stowe, Pennsylvania, with Commissioners Al Leach, Elwood Taylor, Dave Waldt, Cathy Paretti and Tyrone Robinson present. Also present were Solicitor Mark Plachta, Police Chief James Fisher, Public Works Director Jeremy Fenyus and Township Secretary Jeannie DiSante.

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

Motion by D. Waldt, second by E. Taylor unanimously carries to amend the agenda and add Old Business F. to retain outside council.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS**

John Bush, 1256 N. State Street commented on Old Business E asking that State Street remain closed.

**PAYMENT OF BILLS** – The January 20, 2026 bills list was presented for approval. There was a motion by E. Taylor, second by C. Paretti to approve the payment of bills list of \$296,274.34. C. Paretti questioned invoices from Boyle Construction and they were discussed by the board. Other credit cards invoices were discussed. Motion by D. Waldt, second by E. Taylor unanimously carries to pay the bills and send to the auditor.

**REPORTS**

**TOWNSHIP ADMINISTRATION/FINANCE** – Chief Fisher acknowledged the financial report is in their packets and if there are any questions he would try to find the answers for them. For the public, A. Leach sees that last year the township spent two million over budget and would like to know where that money was spent. He has an issue with how the budget is written, pointing out certain line items.

**CHIEF OF POLICE** – Chief Fisher submitted his report and he wanted to thank the Pottstown Police Department for their assist with an apprehension of a male actor that attempted a robbery at Fulton Bank. With their assistance the vehicle was located and the actor identified and arrested. Also, the department is participating in the Montgomery County Consortium testing on February 14<sup>th</sup> along with 18 other departments. He asked the board and residents if you know of anyone interested in a career in law enforcement encourage them to sign up at montcopolice.com. The applications are open until February 4<sup>th</sup> on that website. A. Leach acknowledged this is Chief Fisher's last meeting with Upper Pottsgrove Township and he thanked him for all his hard work and wished him well in his new position.

**PUBLIC WORKS** – J. Fenyus submitted his report and asked if there were any questions. C. Paretti asked if there would be any reason why his report couldn't be available to the public and he said no reason. The board concurred. T. Robinson ask where we stand on salt storage and Jeremy said he has a little over 100 ton and he ordered 150 ton this week. They discussed future road projects and purchasing a "hot box".

**TOWNSHIP SOLICITOR** – Solicitor Mark Plachta informed the Board in the two weeks they have been on board they have been reviewing township contracts and fifteen lawsuits getting a better understanding of the cases. They are working on game plans on all these matters. He also informed the board he researched the Ethics rules and there is no conflict with the new commissioners voting on matters of litigation with the township.

**TOWNSHIP ENGINEERING AND BUILDING & ZONING** – Chief Fisher noted the standard engineering reports are in the packets and the commissioners should pay attention to the zoning issues.

**TAX COLLECTOR** – The Tax Collector submitted the reports and there were no questions.

### **COMMITTEE CHAIR REPORTS**

**OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION** – No report was submitted.

**FIRE AND AMBULANCE** – D. Raudenbush noted the call reports are in the packets and he would like to meet with the board to find out what they wish to see in the reports. A. Leach spoke on the fire tax and what those funds can be used for.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

**PRESENTATION ON APPLICATION #02-2024, 1097 STATE STREET LAND DEVELOPMENT** – Rolph Graf, Director of Development for Landcorp Engineering and licensed engineer in PA. has been involved with the applicant on 1097 N. State Street. He introduced two other people, one representing the client and one who worked on the traffic study. He is here at the invitation of PennDOT. He introduced and explained the project to the new board members and provided details on the N. State Street options of a cul-de-sac or a two-way through street as recommended by PennDOT's traffic study. Based on previous board instructions, a cul-de-sac is what was discussed and he asked confirmation from this board for their final decision. If it is their decision, to put the cul-de-sac in and restrict traffic, it will limit what they can do with Upland Square Drive because there is only so much they can do in that situation. The commissioners concurred that N. State Street remain closed with the addition of a cul-de sac.

**CONSIDER APPROVAL OF EXTENSION REQUEST FOR REVIEW OF #01-2024, 1097 STATE STREET MINOR SUBDIVISION** – Motion by C. Paretti, second by E. Taylor unanimously carries to approve the 90-day extension from February 5, 2026.

**CONSIDER APPROVAL OF EXTENSION REQUEST FOR REVIEW OF #02-2024, 1097 STATE STREET LAND DEVELOPMENT** – Motion by C. Paretti, second by E. Taylor unanimously carries to approve the 90-day extension from February 5, 2026.

**DISCUSS & CONSIDER APPROVAL OF EXTENSION REQUEST FOR REVIEW OF #02-2025, COOLIDGE COMMONS** – Motion by C. Paretti, second by E. Taylor unanimously carries to approve the 30-day extension to March 5, 2026.

**CONSIDER AUTHORIZING THE SOLICITOR TO TERMINATE THE CONTRACTS FOR 2290 GILBERTSVILLE ROAD** – A motion by E. Taylor, second by T. Robinson to authorize Township Solicitor Kilkenny to take the appropriate action required to terminate the contracts associated with the construction of the new township municipal building at 2290 Gilbertsville Road. Motion unanimously carries. E. Taylor commented that we were told for months if we did this it will cost the township millions of dollars.

He read from a social media post the claim, that this action of cancelling contracts will put taxpayers at risk; this is false. The post said if the courts halt progress even temporarily it will cost nine million dollars in contract obligations. The elected commissioners tried for months to get the contracts and

only received them on January 6<sup>th</sup>. He read the contract wording which states if the contract is terminated the amount of the termination fee is none, the township pays only for work that was done. When asked, the Solicitor concurred.

Added to the agenda Old Business F at the beginning of the meeting, a motion by C. Paretto, second D. Waldt unanimously carries to retain outside council for the purpose of controlling the appellate case of Taylor vs. Slinkerd et. al. due to the conflict of the Solicitor Kilkenny Law.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

**DISCUSS & CONSIDER RECOMMENDATION ON ZHB APPLICATION NO. 07-2025, POTTS GROVE HUNT ASSOCIATES** – There was discussion on this matter and the commissioners concurred to stay neutral and defer to the ZHB.

**CONSIDER RATIFYING APPROVAL OF CLEANING SERVICES FOR THE POLICE DEPARTMENT** – Chief Fisher explained the department was in need of a cleaning service and that Michelle Reddick had previously polled the commissioners and received approval to hire Infinity Cleaning Service at \$140./week. Though not necessary, they got two other quotes, one at \$175./week and one at \$200./week. This is to ratify the approval for Infinity Cleaning Service. Motion by T. Robinson, second by E. Taylor unanimously carries to approve hiring Infinity Cleaning Service for the police department at the rate of \$175.00/week.

**DISCUSS VERIZON CABLE FRANCHISE AGREEMENT** - The commissioners discussed this and will address it at the next meeting.

**CONSIDER AUTHORIZING SOLICITOR TO PREPARE AN AGREEMENT WITH MATT DALLAS FOR FINANCIAL CONSULTING SERVICES** – The commissioners discussed this and will address it at the next meeting.

**CONSIDER APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION NO. 795 REAPPOINTING JOHN DAHDAH TO THE ZONING HEARING BOARD** - A motion by E. Taylor, second by T. Robinson unanimously carries to approve Resolution No. 795 reappointing John DahDah to the Zoning Hearing Board.

**DISCUSS CREATING AN OPERATIONS/FINANCIAL PLANNING COMMITTEE & A NEW MUNICIPAL BUILDING COMMITTEE** – A. Leach explained this relates to New Business I – Consider rescinding Resolution No. 703. The board discussed creating this committee looking ahead at the budget being proactive, instead of one person doing the entire budget without input from the board or anyone else. The committee would report to the board. The commissioners agreed. Also, the commissioners discussed and agreed to a new municipal building committee.

**DISCUSS NEW EMPLOYEE STRUCTURE** – A. Leach noted Chief Fisher is acting interim Township Manager and is leaving the end of the month. The Board discussed hiring, appointing or getting a temp person to do only administration and office work and let the employees do their work. The commissioners concurred to discuss this in executive session with the possibility of action.

**DISCUSS FUNDING THE POTTS TOWN PUBLIC LIBRARY & ADDITIONAL FUNDING FOR THE ALTHOUSE ARBORETUM** – The commissioners continued their discussion on funding these entities. C. Paretto thinks the budget has to be taken into account because the Board is committed to many township costs coming up with personnel and contracts. \$30,000 is a lot of money.

E. Taylor said the township has the money that can be used for these contributions and it will not make a big effect on its balance. A. Leach said consider opening the budget and raising taxes ¼ millage. More discussion was on the money banked for a new building and opening the budget for the donations. There were public comments as well. A. Leach asked who was in favor of opening the budget and all concurred.

**CONSIDER RESCINDING RESOLUTION NO. 703** - There was additional discussion on board members being on the suggested new committees. In order to move forward with the creation of two new committees this resolution needs to be rescinded. A motion by E. Taylor, second by A. Leach to rescind Resolution No. 703 carries 3 to 1. Rollcall vote: E. Taylor – aye, A. Leach – aye, C. Paretti – aye, D. Waldt – nay, T. Robinson – abstained.

**CONSIDER COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS** – A motion by C. Paretti, second by E. Taylor unanimously carries to reappoint Earl Wagner to the Property Maintenance Code Appeals Board for 3 years and Gary Novack to the Open Space and Recreation Board for 4 years, then also appoint Seth Thomas to the Open Space & Recreation Board for 4 years, Al Leach to the Pottsgrove Regional Recreation Board for 2 years and Dave Waldt to the Pottstown Metropolitan Regional Planning Committee for 2 years.

E. Taylor brought to the Board’s attention that the township lost members on the Emergency Management (EMC) team as well as Township Treasurer, flood Plain Administrator and Pension Fund Administrator. A. Leach asked Chief Fisher for a recommendation and he suggested possibly reach out to the fire company to see if there is interest for the EMC. The board asked if some in the police department would take his place. Chief Fisher said Al Werner is currently the Deputy EMC and to be the EMC you must go through a lot of training, possibly 100 hours of training and courses to be a certified professional.

**OTHER PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Julie Schneeweis 330 Summer Grove Lane commented her disapproval of over-development, which she often states and on the interest earned on the 10 million in the bank and on voting on terminating the building contracts. E. Taylor corrected her on the contract terminations and said he is against over-development and is for planned development.

Richard Kummerer, 1303 Farmington Avenue commented on the rights of landowners and on needing more information on zoning events in the township so residents can make arrangements to attend. A. Leach commented the township needs a new website to make updated information easier to post and easily accessible to the residents.

Martin Schreiber, 138 Rose Valley Road thanked the Board for having interactive meetings and for considering funding the library. He commented on the posting of the bills on the board meeting 12-29-2025 which was cancelled. A. Leach said prior Board President had full authorization to sign checks until the end of the year.

Seth Thomas, 248 E. Moyer Road thanked the board for their support of open space and having community involvement is important. He also thanked public works for their efforts in the open spaces.

**COMMISSIONER COMMENTS**

T. Robinson thanked the residents for attending the meeting and asked them to encourage their neighbors to do the same.

D. Waldt thanked the residents for attending and their patience as it will take a while for the new board to get up and running and be efficient.

C. Paretti asked the residents to have patience with the new board.

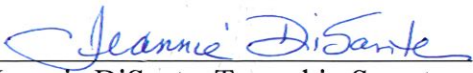
A. Leach attended the parks and recreation meeting and reported that the swimming lessons accommodate 22 residents including one adult and 2 children under 3 years old and the adult commented his excitement about learning to swim and can now swim with his children. Volleyball has 13 members meeting on Tuesday nights at Ringing Rocks. They will be promoting the summer playground open June 15<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> to Pottsgrove residents. There is also a community band and they are looking for people to join. There is also youth basketball and they are looking for more activities to keep our community involved. A. Leach would like to get the township doing more community activities. He also confirmed that the township office at 1441 Laura Lane will be open to the public on Monday February 2, 2026 at 8:00 AM and a room will be made available for tax collections.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION** – The commissioners convened into Executive Session at 9:48pm to discuss personnel with the possibility to take action.

The commissioners reconvened at 10:10 PM and took no action.

**ADJOURNMENT** – The meeting was adjourned at 10:11 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Jeannie DiSante, Township Secretary