

**UPPER POTTS GROVE TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
February 2, 2026**

A reorganization meeting of the Upper Pottsgrove Township Board of Commissioners was held on Monday, February 2, 2026 in the West Pottsgrove Administrative Office, 980 Grosstown Road, Stowe, Pennsylvania, with Commissioners Al Leach, Elwood Taylor, Dave Waldt, Cathy Paretto present and Tyrone Robinson attending via phone. Also present were Solicitor Rebecca Geiser, Police Chief Al Werner and Township Secretary Jeannie DiSante

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

Commissioner Leach announced there was held an Executive Session on January 30, 2026 to discuss personnel matters with no action taken.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS – none at this time.

OLD BUSINESS

MOTION TO APPROVE THE CONTRACT TO HIRE SGT WERNER AS THE NEW CHIEF OF POLICE – A motion by D. Waldt, second by C. Paretto unanimously carries to approve the contract to hire Sgt. Werner as the new Chief of Police of Upper Pottsgrove Township. A. Leach administered the Oath of Office to Al Werner as Chief of Police of Upper Pottsgrove Township. Former Chief Jim Fisher standing with Chief Werner said it has been an honor to wear this badge I am about to present to you alongside several men and women of this department. This badge represents trust, responsibility and commitment bigger than any one person. Today I pass it to a leader I trust, someone who understands the weight of this role and the importance of carrying our values forward. I know this department is in strong hands. Chief Fisher explained to those in attendance that Chief Werner comes over with 24 years with the department, a bachelor's and master's degree, he has done pretty much every investigation a police officer can come across within a department. He has served in numerous roles so I have no doubt he will be successful. So with that, Chief Fisher said it was his honor to present Chief Werner with his Chief Badge.

MOTION TO APPROVE HIRING CHUCK GARNER AS SPECIAL COUNCIL FOR ENDING THE APPEAL ON 2290 GILBERTSVILLE ROAD – A motion by C. Paretto, second by E. Taylor unanimously carries to approve hiring Charles Garner, Esq. as Special Council for ending the appeal on 2290 Gilbertsville Road.

MOTION TO APPROVE FORMATION OF A FINANCIAL/BUDGETING COMMITTEE – A motion by C. Paretto, second by T. Robinson unanimously carries to approve forming a Financial/Budgeting Committee.

MOTION TO APPROVE FORMATION OF A MUNICIPALITY BUILDING COMMITTEE – A motion by E. Taylor, second by T. Robinson unanimously carries to approve forming a Municipality Building Committee.

DISCUSSION OF THE 2026 BUDGET, INCLUDING ANY ADDITIONAL FUNDING TO BE AWARDED FOR THE POTTSTOWN REGIONAL LIBRARY AND/OR ALTHOUSE ARBORETUM

– E. Taylor explained how, with the attorney, the board can open a budget. He spoke on the total of \$30,000 in funds not contributed in the last number of years in which the State of PA would contribute \$9,500/year. He feels it is appropriate the township returns its fair share to the library. He said it can be paid out of the township’s huge reserve account or budgeted as a line item. Solicitor Geiser explained to open the budget the timeline for advertising exactly what will be changed and scheduling a special meeting is very tight verses amending the budget which can be done at any time throughout the year. There was continued discussion and public comment on the library and Althouse Arboretum donations, the budget, and the municipal building funds. There is a motion by E. Taylor, second by T. Robinson to approve donating \$30,000 to the Pottstown Library. Rollcall vote is Elwood Taylor – aye, T. Robinson – aye, D. Waldt – aye, A. Leach – aye, C. Parette – nay. Motion carries 4-1.

The board briefly discussed donations to the Althouse Arboretum then there was a motion by A. Leach, second by T. Robinson and unanimously carried to table this agenda item.

NEW BUSINESS

DISCUSS THE NEED FOR A NEW UPPER POTTSBORO WEBSITE – A. Leach noted this was discussed at the last meeting. All commissioners agreed to begin researching other website developers and obtaining quotes.

DISCUSS THE POSITION OF LIVE STREAMING BOC MEETING – There was discussion on looking into live streaming the commissioner meetings. The board discussed various options such as Facebook Live which is not interactive and no comments are taken; PCTV who comes into the meetings and sets up streaming and it is interactive however, there is a fee. The board is in agreement to not open the meetings up to online public interaction and to begin to gather information, ease of access, costs on Facebook Live or similar social media where residents can watch live meetings at home.

DISCUSS UPDATING TOWNSHIP ORDINANCE – A. Leach explained in discussing the search for a township manager it became apparent that the ordinance governing that position needed to be updated. This led to question how many other ordinances should be looked at to be updated. This will not include the zoning ordinances. There is a lengthy process to do this including the attorney to research and write an updated ordinance, there is advertising and public comment time. The commissioners were in agreement to move forward on this matter.

MOTION TO APPROVE CLEANING CONTRACT FOR NEW TOWNSHIP OFFICE – A motion by E. Taylor, second by C. Parette unanimously carries to approve the cleaning contract for the township administration offices biweekly at the cost of \$175.00 per cleaning.

OTHER PUBLIC COMMENTS

James Capinski, 1958 Yarnall Road commented on the township lawsuits and township buildings.

George Finnigan, 23 Cooledge Avenue commented on the township’s responsibility to maintain his road with snow plowing.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

C. Paretti explained her nay vote on the library donation.


A. Leach commended Jeremy and the public works crew for the tremendous job they did on the huge snow amounts they moved and cleaned up throughout the 70+ roads in the township using 100+ tons on salt during a straight 24 hours. They deserve all respect.

EXECUTION SESSION – The Commissioners convened into Executive Session to discuss personnel and matters at 8:19 PM. They reconvened at 9:07 PM with the following action:

A motion by C. Paretti, second by E. Taylor unanimously carries to approve hiring Dan Weand as temporary Township Manager and direct the solicitor to prepare a contract to be approved at a later date.

ADJOURNMENT – The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 PM

Respectfully submitted,


Jeannie DiSante, Township Secretary