

MINUTES

Upper Saucon Township Board of Supervisors
Regular Meeting
Monday, February 22, 2016 – 6:30 P.M.
Township Municipal Building

Members Present: Stephen Wagner, Chairman
Patrick M. Leonard, Vice Chairman
Dennis E. Benner
Brian J. Farrell
Philip W. Spaeth

Staff Attending: Thomas F. Beil, Township Manager
Robert E. Kassel, Jr., Assistant Township Manager
Thomas Dinkelacker, Township Solicitor
Charles Unangst, P.E., Township Engineer
Patricia Lang, Director of Community Development

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Wagner called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m., in the Public Meeting Room of the Upper Saucon Township Municipal Building, 5500 Camp Meeting Road, Upper Saucon Township, Lehigh County, PA.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mr. Wagner asked all in attendance to stand and recite the “Pledge of Allegiance.”

NOTIFICATION

Mr. Wagner announced that all public sessions of the Upper Saucon Township Board of Supervisors are electronically recorded. The recordings are maintained as part of the record of the meeting until the minutes are transcribed and approved by the Board.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chairman Wagner made the following announcements:

- The Environmental Advisory Council has partnered with the Penn State University Master Gardeners for a Rain Barrel Workshop to be held on Saturday, April 23, at the Community Park. Sessions will be held at 9:00 a.m., 10:15 a.m. and 11:30 a.m.
- There will be an electronic recycling event on Saturday, April 23, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at the Southern Lehigh Public Library.
- Prescription Drug Take Back Day is scheduled for Saturday, April 30, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Upper Saucon Police Department. Residents can drop-off their unwanted, unneeded or expired prescription or non-prescription drugs for safe disposal.

SUBDIVISIONS & LAND DEVELOPMENTS

None

MINUTES

Reorganization Meeting of January 4, 2016

Motion made by Mr. Leonard and seconded by Mr. Benner to approve the minutes of the Reorganization meeting of January 4, 2016.

The motion was approved by a vote of 5 to 0.

ORDINANCES

None

RESOLUTIONS

Resolution No. 2016-10 – Accepting Portion of Roberts Road as Part of Township Road System

Motion made by Mr. Benner and seconded by Mr. Leonard to adopt Resolution No. 2016-10 accepting that portion of Roberts Road south of Remington Drive as part of the public road system of the Township to be hereinafter maintained and supervised by the Township.

The motion was approved by a vote of 5 to 0.

MOTIONS

None

CORRESPONDENCE & INFORMATION ITEMS

None

DIRECTION/DISCUSSION ITEMS

Review Agenda for Zoning Hearing Board meeting on March 7, 2016

Mr. Beil reviewed the four appeals on the docket for the March 7, 2016 Zoning Hearing Board meeting. It was determined all four appeals involve routine matters that can be handled by the Zoning Hearing Board without input from the Board of Supervisors.

Mr. Benner observed many residents seem to be filing zoning appeals asking for relief from the slope requirements in the Zoning Ordinance. He suggested the number of appeals on this one issue might be an indication the slope requirements are flawed and need to be amended.

The Board directed the Planning and Zoning Committee to review the slope requirements in the Zoning Ordinance and to offer recommendations on possible amendments to the slope requirements.

Sanitary sewer connection policy recommended by Municipal Authority

The Board referred this issue to the Public Works Committee for further review.

Doris Clegg of 4137 Bunker Hill Drive suggested the Board work with a local bank to find ways of making it easier for cash-strapped homeowners to finance the cost of connecting to public sewer.

Proposal by Hanover Engineering to update Township's Transportation Impact Fee Study

Jim Milot of Hanover Engineering presented a proposal to update the Township's Transportation Impact Fee Study. He said the cost to update the Study would not exceed \$75,000.

Mr. Beil said there is a benefit to having Hanover Engineering do the Study since they currently serve as Township Engineer and are familiar with the Township's traffic issues.

Motion made by Mr. Benner and seconded by Mr. Leonard to authorize Hanover Engineering to update the Township's Transportation Impact Fee Study for a total cost not to exceed \$75,000.

The motion was approved by a vote of 5 to 0.

Options to improve intersection of Preston Lane and driveways leading to Southern Lehigh High School and Middle School

Jim Milot of Hanover Engineering discussed options for improving the intersection of Preston Lane and the High School / Middle School driveways. It was the consensus of the Board that a single-lane roundabout is the best option for improving the flow of traffic at this

intersection. The Board was in favor of moving forward with the roundabout concept and directed Messrs. Beil and Milot to discuss this concept with the School District.

Options to improve intersection at Route 309 and Lanark Road

Jim Milot of Hanover Engineering reviewed the proposed traffic improvements at the intersection of Route 309 and Lanark Road. The improvements include a dedicated left turn lane for vehicles turning from westbound Lanark Road onto southbound Route 309 and a dedicated left turn lane for vehicles turning from eastbound Lanark Road onto northbound Route 309.

Mr. Beil explained the improvements were scaled back from the original design in order to fit within the Township's budget limitations. The total cost of the scaled back project is \$1,200,000 with the Township contributing \$500,000, the School District contributing \$500,000 and the developer of the Cherney tract contributing the remaining \$200,000.

The Board had a favorable reaction to the proposed intersection improvements and authorized the Township Engineer to move forward with finalizing the design and obtaining the necessary permits.

2017-2021 Capital Improvements Program (5 year Capital Budget)

Mr. Beil explained the 5 year capital budget was prepared by Township staff with input from department heads and the Board of Supervisors. He said the capital budget reflects the Board's past practice of placing a high priority on road improvement projects and park projects.

Mr. Beil reviewed the capital budget in detail with the Board.

A discussion ensued as to whether the Township should consider borrowing money to fund the various road improvement and park projects identified in the capital budget. The Board expressed support for borrowing approximately \$2,000,000 for road improvement projects and \$1,000,000 for building a new park.

Messrs. Beil and Kassel were fairly confident the Township could borrow up to \$3,000,000 without raising taxes, provided the local economy and tax base remain stable.

Mr. Kassel said he would invite the Township's bond consultant to a future meeting to discuss the various borrowing options which are available to the Board.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

None

BILLS, PAYROLL, AND COMMISSIONS

Motion made by Mr. Leonard and seconded by Mr. Benner to authorize payment of the Prepaid Invoice List and Warrant List #02222016 dated 02/19/2016.

The motion was approved by a vote of 5 to 0.

ADDITIONAL BUSINESS

None

COURTESY OF THE FLOOR

None

EXECUTIVE SESSION

None

ADJOURNMENT

Motion made by Mr. Benner and seconded by Mr. Leonard to adjourn the meeting.

The motion was approved by a vote of 5 to 0.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:52 p.m.

Secretary

