

MINUTES

Upper Saucon Township Board of Supervisors
Regular Meeting
Monday, September 26, 2022 – 6:30 P.M.
Township Municipal Building

Members Present: Brian J. Farrell, Chairman
Philip W. Spaeth, Vice-Chairman
John G. Inglis, III
Dennis Benner
Stephen Wagner

Staff Attending: Thomas F. Beil, Township Manager
Joseph Geib, Assistant Township Manager
Richard Somach, Township Solicitor
Charles Unangst, P.E., Township Engineer
Patricia Lang, Director of Community Development
Thomas Nicoletti, Chief of Police

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Farrell called the meeting to order at 6:30 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

Chairman Farrell asked all in attendance to stand and recite the "Pledge of Allegiance."

NOTIFICATION

Chairman Farrell 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

SUBDIVISIONS & LAND DEVELOPMENTS

Mount Trexler Manor Cottages – Preliminary / Final Land Development Plan – Resolution No. 2022-25

Motion made by Mr. Benner and seconded by Mr. Wagner to adopt Resolution No. 2022-25 conditionally approving the Preliminary / Final Land Development Plan of Adam Devlin to improve the existing personal care facility known as “Mount Trexler Manor” by constructing 5 cottages to provide living spaces for existing residents.

Matt Longenberger of Bohler Engineering was present on behalf of Mount Trexler Manor.

Conrad Paulus, Deacon at Saint Joseph Church, had various questions regarding Mount Trexler Manor and the proposed cottages. Mr. Beil responded to Mr. Paulus’ questions.

Mr. Longenberger responded to questions from the Supervisors.

A discussion ensued regarding the need for additional security measures at the Mount Trexler Manor facility.

Police Chief Thomas Nicoletti said Mount Trexler Manor would have to submit a security plan that would need to be approved by the Township. He said the number of police calls generated by Mount Trexler Manor seem to be in line with the number of calls generated by other similar facilities in the Township.

Judy Bloeser of 6500 Limeport Pike had various questions regarding the proposed cottages at Mount Trexler Manor. Messrs. Beil and Longenberger respond to Ms. Bloeser’s questions. Ms. Bloeser expressed concerns about residents from Mount Trexler Manor trespassing on her property and using her bushes as a bathroom facility.

JoAnn Burke of 4971 St. Joseph’s Road said she has no issues with Mount Trexler Manor and the residents living there are not threatening.

Dana Eldridge of 4971 St. Joseph’s Road said she has no issue with Mount Trexler Manor’s current proposal. She said the residents of Mount Trexler Manor need our help, not our disdain.

George Bloeser of 6500 Limeport Pike expressed various concerns with Mount Trexler Manor. He said the facility should have its own security force to lessen the burden on Township police and better control residents leaving the facility. He also had concerns about the adequacy of Mount Trexler Manor’s on-lot sewage disposal system.

Ms. Eldridge questioned whether Mount Trexler Manor really needs its own security force. She commented that Mount Trexler Manor is not a secure facility and residents living there should not be treated like prisoners.

Mr. Beil said there is nothing in the Township regulations that would require a security force for this type of facility.

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

MINUTES

None

ORDINANCES

None

RESOLUTIONS

Resolution No. 2022-26 – Authorizing Tax Collector to Waive Property Tax Penalties in Certain Situations Consistent with Act 57 of 2022

Motion made by Mr. Spaeth and seconded by Mr. Inglis to adopt Resolution No. 2022-26 authorizing the Tax Collector to waive penalties charged for non-payment of real estate taxes if the taxpayer provides proof that they failed to receive a tax notice during their first year of occupancy.

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

MOTIONS

None

CORRESPONDENCE & INFORMATION ITEMS

Memo dated September 26, 2022 from Thomas Young, Director of Finance – 2023 Minimum Municipal Obligation for Township Pension Plans

Mr. Beil reviewed a memo dated September 26, 2022 from Thomas Young, Director of Finance, concerning the 2023 Minimum Municipal Obligation for the Township Pension Plans. Mr. Beil said the memo is for the Board's information only and no action is required at this time.

DIRECTION / DISCUSSION ITEMS

Resident request for ordinance requiring dogs to be leashed when on streets, sidewalks and other public grounds (current State law requires dogs to be under reasonable control)

Mr. Beil and Solicitor Somach reviewed this matter with the Board. A discussion ensued regarding the need for a dog leash ordinance. Police Chief Nicoletti said the current State dog law was sufficient in his opinion. None of the Board members expressed support for an ordinance.

Review Agenda for Zoning Hearing Board meeting on October 3, 2022

Mr. Beil reviewed the four appeals on the docket for the October 3, 2022 Zoning Hearing Board meeting. He noted the Board of Supervisors previously authorized the Township Solicitor to oppose one of the appeals on the docket, that being Wawa's appeal for additional signage at 6690 Route 309. It was determined the other three appeals involve routine matters that can be handled by the Zoning Hearing Board without input from the Board of Supervisors.

Cancellation of Board of Supervisors meeting scheduled for October 10, 2022 due to lack of agenda items

It was the consensus of the Board to cancel the meeting originally scheduled for October 10, 2022.

Proposed amended bylaws for Southern Lehigh Public Library

Chairman Farrell referred this matter to a Special Committee consisting of himself and Supervisor Inglis. It was noted there were no objections to the formation of the Special Committee. The Special Committee will review the Library's proposed bylaws in more detail and make a recommendation to the full Board.

BILLS, PAYROLL, AND COMMISSIONS

Motion made by Mr. Wagner and seconded by Mr. Benner to authorize payment of Prepaid Invoice List Dated September 23, 2022 for Check Issue Dates: 9/13/2022 – 9/26/2022 and Warrant Detail Invoice List dated September 23, 2022 for Report Date: 9/26/2022.

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

ADDITIONAL BUSINESS

None

COURTESY OF THE FLOOR

George Bloeser of 6500 Limeport Pike wanted to clarify that he is not asking the Township to require Mount Trexler Manor to have a security force. He said Mount Trexler Manor would be doing the right thing by employing its own security force, noting that many hospitals and medical facilities choose to have security personnel.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At approximately 7:31 p.m., the Board met in Executive Session to discuss a personnel matter involving employee pay and benefits.

At approximately 7:59 p.m., the Board returned from Executive Session

ADJOURNMENT

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

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

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:00 p.m.


Secretary

