

**MINUTES OF MEETING
MONTGOMERY TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
FEBRUARY 24, 2025**

1. Call to Order: The February 24, 2025 action meeting of the Montgomery Township Board of Supervisors was held at the Montgomery Township Municipal Building, 1001 Stump Road, Montgomeryville, PA. Chairwoman Audrey R. Ware-Jones called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

IN ATTENDANCE:

Chair Audrey R. Ware-Jones
Supervisor Tanya C. Bamford
Supervisor Candyce Fluehr Chimera
Supervisor Beth A. Staab
Township Solicitor John Walko, Esq.
Carolyn McCreary, Township Manager

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:

Police Chief William R. Peoples
Public Works Director Greg Reiff
Director of Planning & Zoning Marianne McConnell
Director of IT Richard Grier
Recording Secretary Deborah Rivas

ABSENT: Vice-Chair Annette M. Long

2. & 3. Pledge of Allegiance and Public Comment: Following the Pledge of Allegiance, Ms. Ware-Jones called for public comment from the audience and there was none.

4. Announcement of Executive Session: Township Solicitor John Walko, Esquire, announced that the Board of Supervisors met in Executive Session earlier this evening at 6:45 p.m. in the Township building to discuss a personnel matter. Mr. Walko stated that the topic discussed is a legitimate subject of an Executive Session under the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania's Sunshine Law.

5. Consent Agenda:

MOTION: Upon motion by Ms. Ware-Jones, seconded by Ms. Bamford, and unanimously carried (4-0), the minutes of the February 10, 2025 Board meeting and the Payment of Bills for February 24, 2025 in the amount of \$583,732.10 were approved as submitted.

Planning and Zoning:

6. Review of Zoning Hearing Board Application: Ms. McConnell identified the hearing application received for the March 5, 2025 Zoning Hearing Board meeting. Application 25020001 is for Ruddy-Allen for 108 Hampton Circle, seeking a variance from the provisions of Section 230-66C(3) and 230-67B(3)(c) in order to construct a 540 square foot addition 20 feet from the rear property line where a minimum of 40 feet is required.

Board consensus was not to enter an appearance for the application, allowing the Zoning Hearing Board to render a decision based on the testimony presented.

Public Works:

7. Authorize Bid Advertisement for 2025 Curb and Curb Ramp Project:

MOTION: Upon motion by Ms. Ware-Jones, seconded by Ms. Chimera and unanimously carried (4-0), the Board authorized the advertisement of the Bid for Concrete Curb and Handicap Ramp Replacement for the 2026 Paving Project utilizing PennBid.

8. Authorize the Purchase of a Replacement 2025 GMC Pickup Truck: Mr. Reiff reported that the Public Works Department is scheduled to replace the 2017 Ford Explorer and is proposing to purchase one 2025 GMC Sierra 3500HP 4WD Crew Cab Pickup Truck and Snowplow from Star Buick-GMC-Cadillac Quakertown as approved in the 2025 Capital Investment Plan.

MOTION: Upon motion by Ms. Ware-Jones, seconded by Ms. Bamford and unanimously carried (4-0), the Board awarded the contract for the purchase of one 2025 GMC Sierra 3500HD 4WD Crew Cab Pickup Truck and snowplow from Star Buick-GMC-Cadillac Quakertown, an authorized vendor under the Co-Stars Cooperative Purchase Program, at a total cost of \$74,600.00 per their quote dated January 8, 2025.

9. Authorize Bid Advertisement for the Traffic Signal Modernization at the intersection of North Wales Road and Harbob Lane: Mr. Reiff reported that included in the 2025 Capital Investment Plan is the Traffic Signal Modernization at the intersection of North Wales Road and Harbob Lane. Specifications have been prepared by Township Engineer, Gilmore & Associates, and are ready and contractors' bids will be solicited utilizing the PennBid website.

MOTION: Upon motion by Ms. Ware-Jones, seconded by Ms. Bamford and unanimously carried (4-0), the Board authorized the advertisement of the bid for the Traffic Signal Modernization at the intersection of North Wales Road and Harbob Lane utilizing PennBid.

Public Safety:

10. Office of State Fire Commissioner Grant Awards: Ms. McCreary reported that the Department of Fire Services and the Fire Department of Montgomery Township applied for the 2024-2025 PA Office of State Fire Commissioner Grant in the Fall of 2024. On February 10, they were notified that both agencies were awarded the \$16,322.02 grant. This grant money will help purchase battery-operated Hurst rescue tools for the new Squad 18, which is expected to arrive in October. The total cost of the tools is \$75,861.00. The remainder of the funds needed to purchase the tools after the grant will be supplied by the Fire Department of Montgomery Township's Relief Association in the amount of \$43,216.96.

MOTION: Upon motion by Ms. Ware-Jones, seconded by Ms. Chimera, and unanimously carried (4-0), the Board approved the PA Office of State Fire Commissioner Grant

Awards of \$32,644.04 for the DFS and FDMT and approve the purchase of the new rescue tools of \$75,861.00 from MES, an authorized COSTARS dealer.

New Business:

11. Township Manager's Report: Ms. McCreary reported that the gymnasium floor replacement project at the Community and Recreation Center is scheduled to commence on Monday, March 3rd and be completed by March 31st, barring no unforeseen conditions.

Ms. McCreary also reported that as stated previously, the Joseph Ambler Inn is for sale. On February 13th, the Township Manager, Planning/Zoning Director, and Solicitor met with representatives of a behavioral health company to discuss the potential sale and change of use of the Joseph Ambler Inn utilizing the buildings that are currently on the property. The property is located in the R-2 zoning district. Ms. McConnell explained what uses are permitted by right on the property.

Lastly, Ms. McCreary stated that she and the Planning and Zoning Director met virtually with a representative of Penn Medicine and their Project Engineer to discuss the following items:

- Pedestrian access that has been removed and the recommended pedestrian crossing at Knapp Road
- Property line encroachments of neighboring property owners
- Blasting during construction
- Possible reduction in the garage parapet wall height from 6 feet to 4 feet

To keep the general public and particularly the neighbors informed, we will set up a dedicated page on our website relating to this project and promote it on social media so people who don't normally go to our website are aware of it.

Under public comment, Richard Fosco of 109 Gwynmont Drive asked why only the houses within 250' of the blasting site were notified by letter. Ms. McCreary responded that blasting is regulated by the PA DEP and their requirement for notification is 250 feet from the blasting site. Mr. Fosco asked if the notice could be extended to 350 feet, and Ms. McCreary explained that the notification was not under the Township's control. Mr. Fosco also requested that the parapet wall be kept at six feet to prevent noise and light. Ms. McCreary indicated that the Township will relay that request to the project engineer. Mr. Fosco also inquired about a berm on the South side as there is one on the North side. Trish Nye of 111 Gwynmont Drive stated that the sidewalk closed sign partially obstructs the view to make a left turn safely. In addition, Ms. Nye stated that the blasting notifications state that 250 feet is required, but 500 feet is optional, and that more communication would be appreciated. Alison Hemmons of 105 Clayton Court stated that residents do not know what is happening and that more communication is needed. Matthew Nye of 111 Gwynmont Drive inquired about the traffic light at Gwynmont Drive and can that decision be revisited with Penn Medicine because their driveway is very close to Gwynmont Drive and someone, especially the children are going to get hurt as that intersection is dangerous. Ms.

McCreary stated that Dekalb Pike is a state road and that PennDOT will not permit a light as it is not warranted. Mr. Nye stated that something bad is going to happen and that residents will be back here when it does. Mr. Fusco asked if there were any other traffic calming options for safety, like humps or flashing lights for the blind curve? Mr. Fusco said that a conversation needs to happen with PennDOT.

12. Department Reports: Monthly reports were submitted by each department for activity in the month of January.

13. Community Liaison Reports: Ms. Bamford reported that the Park Board meeting was canceled. The Sewer Authority discussed basin maintenance as well as the status of the Rose Twig Park Bathroom project. Ms. Staab reported that the EAC did not meet as there was no quorum. The Business Development Partnership developed a plan to reach out to new businesses in the Township. Ms. Chimera reported that the Planning Commission discussed the proposed Cell Tower Text Amendment. Ms. Ware-Jones reported that the Senior Committee has completed its full calendar of seminars for the year. Ms. McCreary reported that after she meets with the Environmental Advisory Committee on Tuesday, she will have met with all of the committees and boards to announce the upcoming The Wall That Heals event in July.

14. Adjournment: Upon motion by Ms. Ware-Jones and seconded by Ms. Staab, the meeting was adjourned at 7:36 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Deborah A. Rivas, Recording Secretary