

I. CALL TO ORDER – PLEDGE TO THE FLAG

The Special Meeting of the Board of Supervisors of Upper Macungie Township was called to order on May 31, 2022, at 7:00 p.m. in the Fogelsville Fire Station #8, 7850 Lime Street, Fogelsville, PA, 18051. Present were James M. Brunell, Chairman; Sunny Ghai, Vice-Chairman; Kathy A. Rader, Supervisor; Robert R. Ibach, Jr., Township Manager; Kalman A. Sostarecz, Jr., Township Secretary; Peter Christ, Director, Bureau of Fire

Chairman Brunell opened the meeting and asked all present to join him in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

II. ADDITIONS/DELETIONS TO AGENDA

None

III. NEW BUSINESS**A. *Authorizing Wage Adjustment for Planning and Zoning Specialist John Toner***

Mr. Ibach stated that he is proposing a wage adjustment for John Toner, the Township's Planning and Zoning Specialist, to bring his wage to a level that is competitive with other employers.

Motion by Chairman Brunell to adjust the wage of John Toner, Planning & Zoning Specialist, to \$30.77 per hour. Seconded by Supervisor Rader. The motion passed unanimously.

B. *Authorizing Purchase of Information Technology Items*

Mr. Sostarecz stated that the Township is undergoing a transition to a different IT vendor, and the previous vendor removed the firewall appliance, VPN, and VMWare licensing as they were leased as part of their old agreement. These items are critical to the function of the Township and staff recommends the purchase of these items with our new vendor which the Township will own outright.

Motion by Supervisor Rader to authorize the purchase of a SonicWall Firewall, VPN Licenses and Advanced Protection Suite at a cost of \$3,462.50; and VMWare Licensing, Subscription, and Support at a cost of \$11,236.18; all from Eastern Telephone and Communication, utilizing funds from the American Rescue Plan Act. Seconded by Chairman Brunell. The motion passed unanimously.

C. *General Matters Related to the Volunteer Fire Departments of UMT*

Mr. Christ gave a brief update on items from the last meeting at Fogelsville Fire which was in 2021 – there were no outstanding items as all were completed shortly after that meeting.

Lengthy discussion was had regarding the difficulty of recruitment and retention and the state of volunteerism in general. The average age of the members of the fire departments continues to rise and there is a need to get much younger volunteers engaged. Targeting people in different ways is important. Newsletters only reach so many people – look at things like running a hot dog cart at events throughout the township, or reaching out to surrounding colleges. Vice-Chairman Ghai offered to help contact the colleges. Another idea is to offer additional life insurance through Fire Relief after a certain number of years of service. It's currently \$50,000 after 25 years, but perhaps a reduced amount after 5 or 10 years would entice volunteers to maintain their membership.

Discussion was had regarding the possibility of combining the three township volunteer departments under a hybrid model of paid and volunteer, and if there was any advantage to having one fire chief to oversee them all with an assistant at each station. A suggestion was made that a meeting between all three fire departments should be held to discuss.



Mr. Christ stated that Upper Macungie Township has done a lot with recruitment and retention over the years, but it is a fact that volunteerism is waning everywhere – the hybrid model is what the Township will ultimately need to use in his opinion.

III. OLD BUSINESS

None

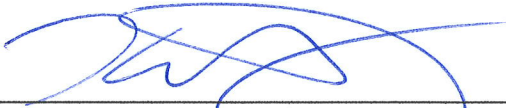
IV. PUBLIC COMMENT/COURTESY OF THE FLOOR

None

V. ADJOURNMENT

There being no other business, **Chairman Brunell made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:07 p.m. Seconded by Supervisor Rader. The motion passed unanimously.**

Submitted by:



Kalman A. Sostarecz, Jr.
Township Secretary

