# 160245

#### I. CALL TO ORDER - PLEDGE TO THE FLAG

The General Business Meeting of the Board of Supervisors of Upper Macungie Township was called to order on March 2, 2023, at 7:00 p.m. in the Municipal Building, 8330 Schantz Road, Breinigsville, PA 18031. Sunny Ghai, Chairman; Kathy A. Rader, Vice-Chairwoman; James M. Brunell, Supervisor; Robert R. Ibach, Jr., Township Manager; Kalman A. Sostarecz, Jr., Assistant Township Manager and Director of Community Development; Jazmin Vazquez, Township Secretary; Andrew V. Schantz, Esq., Solicitor; Michael Sitoski, Chief, UMTPD; Peter Christ, Fire Commissioner; Dave Alban, Township Engineer; Scott Faust, Public Works Director; Bruce Koller, Finance Director; and Mike Kukitz, Recreation Manager.

Chairman Ghai 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 THE AGENDA

None

#### III. MINUTES

#### A. February 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2023

Chairman Ghai stated that he would dispense with the reading of the minutes of the previous meetings unless there was an objection.

Motion by Chairman Ghai to waive the reading of the minutes of the February 2<sup>nd</sup>, meeting and approve them as presented. Seconded by Vice-Chairwoman Rader. The motion passed unanimously.

#### **IV. PRESENTATIONS**

#### A. Phil Armstrong – County Executive

Mr. Armstrong mentioned that there will be an ordinance introduced that will provide a \$150 tax rebate to volunteer firefighters in appreciation for their service. He also mentioned that he has created a position for a Community Liaison that has been filled by Yorman De La Rosa, he will be the first point of contact between the Township and the County Executive. Chairman Ghai asked if there were any plans for regionalization for the Fire Departments. Mr. Armstrong stated that, it is something that has been discussed, but does not foresee this happening in the next couple of



#### VII. RESOLUTIONS

## A. Resolution #2023-08 - Docket #2317 - 1001 Glenlivet Drive, - Preliminary/Final Land Development Plan

Mr. Sostarecz stated that the applicant is proposing to construct a 40,000-sf warehouse building, parking lots, and associated utilities. The proposed warehouse features five loading docks, three required tractor trailer staging spaces, and a tractor trailer lounge space. The UMT Zoning Hearing Board conducted a hearing on August 25, 2021 and approved the special exception. On May 18<sup>th</sup>, 2022, the Planning Commission made recommendations on waivers, deferrals, and Preliminary/Final Plan Approval of the Plan. Mr. Alban stated that there is a large amount of woodlands that are currently on site, and they would not be able to maintain the required 50%,

there is a waiver in the ordinance that does allow for payment of a fee in lieu of tree planting. Supervisor Brunell recommended that the fee be earmarked for the planting of 55 mature trees at Grange Park.

Motion by Supervisor Brunell to approve Resolution #2023-08, granting Preliminary/Final Plan approval to Docket #2317 – 1001 Glenlivet Drive, the granting of waivers numbers 1 & 3, as well as the satisfaction of the woodlands relocation requirement by the developer through the payment of a fee in lieu of tree planting in the amount of \$22,000.00 all conditioned upon the Township Engineer's review letter dated February 24, 2023. These funds will be earmarked for the planting of mature trees at Grange Park. Seconded by Chairman Ghai. The motion passed unanimously.

#### B. Resolution #2023-09 - DCNR Grant Resolution - Russett Park Rehabilitation

Mr. Kukitz stated that he would like a motion approved to authorize the submission of a Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources for the rehabilitation of Russett Park. This would include resurfacing of the basketball courts as well as other improvements. The budget is over what was originally estimated; therefore, this grant will help to offset these costs that would also include a grant matching on behalf of the Township that are required as part of the application process.

Motion by Vice-Chairwoman Rader to adopt Resolution #2023–09, DCNR Grant Resolution for the Rehabilitation of Russett Park. Seconded by Chairman Ghai. The motion passed unanimously.

#### C. Resolution #2023-10 - DCNR Grant Resolution - Park and Recreation Master Plan

Mr. Kukitz stated that he would like a motion approved to authorize the submission of a Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources for the creation of a Master Plan for Grange Park. These plans are typically done every ten years, and the last one was done in 2011. This will be an all-inclusive plan that will include facilities, programing, and more. There will also need to have a grant matching commitment by the Township that is required as part of the application process. Mr. Kukitz also mentioned that he would be applying to a DCED grant to match the DCNR grant, those funds would also be used for the Master Plan.

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Mr. Ibach states that the Township rejected a bid in the year 2022 because it was a high amount. The Township is now requesting to enter a joint bid with LCA, Lower Macungie and Upper Milford Townships. The bid specs and package have been complied by LCA and did the bidding that will be based on unit cost. LCA will do weekly inspections and the Township will reimburse LCA for the work that has been done for that period.

Motion by Chairman Ghai to authorize the use if the Lehigh County Authority's Tease & Seal Sewer Rehabilitation Project Bid in the amount of \$1,000,000.00 Seconded by Supervisor Brunell. The motion passed unanimously.

D. Appointing Matthew Bernard to Upper Macungie Township Community Fund Board of Directors Mr. Ibach stated that this appointment will be to fill a vacancy that was left on the Upper Macungie Township Community Fund Board of Directors after a resignation. The by-laws require that there be a representative of the Township's Park & Recreation Board.

Motion by Chairman Ghai to appoint Matthew Bernard, Chairperson of the Upper Macungie Township Park, and Recreation Board to the Upper Macungie Township Community Fund Board of Directors for a 3-year term ending on 12/31/26. Seconded by Vice-Chairwoman Rader. Motion passed unanimously.

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Mr. Kukitz mentioned that this is an annual event that is held in the Township by the Western Lehigh Chamber of Commerce. The Township is a part of this organization and this year the event will benefit The Sanctuary at Haafsville, that is located within the Township. The event will run over a period of three hour at Grange Park. Hayden Rinde, a representative if the Chamber stated that the event will have alcoholic beverages being served as well as security measures set in place to ensure that no one is overserved. Vice-Chairwoman Rader mentioned that there is a lot of work that has gone into planning this event and that it will be a great event.

Motion by Chairman Ghai to authorize the Western Lehigh Chamber of Commerce Fundraising event, Paws in the Park, on May 7<sup>th</sup>, 2023, at Grange Park. Seconded by Vice-Chairman Rader. The motion passed unanimously.

#### G. Authorizing to Proceed with Filling Two Vacant Police Positions Included in the 2023 Budget

Chief Sitoski that these positions were funded and approved in the 2023 Budget and is requesting that a motion be passed to proceed with the process that would include interviews, background checks and conditional offers of employment. The estimated date that these positions would be filled would be June of 2023.

Motion by Vice-Chairwoman Rader to authorize to proceed with the process of filling two vacant police positions that were included in the 2023 Budget. Seconded by Chairman Ghai. Motion passed unanimously.

#### H. Authorizing Appointment of a Full-Time Police Officer

Chief Sitoski mentioned that he would like to make a final offer of employment to James J. Baker to fill a vacant police officer position. Pending successful completion of all background checks, clearances, and testing.

Motion by Supervisor Brunell to appoint James J. Baker as a full-time police officer at an annual salary of \$75,940.80, pending successful completion of all background checks, clearances, and testing. Seconded by Vice-Chairwoman Rader. Motion passed unanimously.

#### I. Awarding bids for the Sale of Wastewater Pumps and Equipment

Mr. Faust stated that the bids for sale were awarded as follows; (1) 2014 Case Backhoe to Jim Burkey at a price of \$45,300.00, (6) Centrifugal Pumps to Hugo Clement at a price of \$2150.00, (6) 480 Electric Motors to Bill Sterner at a price of \$270.00, and (3) Control Panels to Bill Sterner at a price of \$400.00.

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Secretary Vazquez announced an Executive Session which occurred prior to the meeting at 6:00 p.m. and the topic was legal matters.

#### C. Assistant Township Manager & Director of Community Development

Mr. Sostarecz mentioned that every year the Pennsylvania General Assembly designates a certain week as Local Government Week. This year it will be the week of Monday, April 10<sup>th</sup> through Friday the 14<sup>th</sup>. The Township will be holding an open house event where the different departments of the Township will be participating by providing information on what each department does within the Township. This Open House will be held Tuesday April 11<sup>th</sup> from 4:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. Mr. Sostarecz also recognized Ms. Vazquez for obtaining her master's degree from Southern New Hampshire University in Business Administration.

#### X. PUBLIC COMMENT/COURTESY OF THE FLOOR

Mr. Jeff Kocher and Ms. Susan Jasorka thanked the Upper Macungie Township Police Department for the actions that have been taken regarding their concerns about speeding issues on Adams Road.

Ms. Marine Yutz mentioned her concerns about the 5% discount not being offered to those that make full payment of their sewer and refuse bills. She was also concerned that she did not receive communication that billing was now going to be on a quarterly basis. Mr. Koller stated that there will be a rate study next year, that will allow our sewer to be billed on a flow basis. These readings will be provided quarterly by LCA and the sewer and refuse bills will also follow this billing cycle. The sewer bill will no longer be fixed, you will be billed for the use that is reported. He also mentioned that this was discussed in the Budget Meetings that were held in the month of October. The flow charge would go into effect in 2024.

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other business, Chairman Ghai made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 p.m. upervisor Brunell. The motion passed unanimously.

Submitted by:

Jazmin Vazquez Township Secretary Motion by Chairman Ghai to authorize the advertisement of bids for the 2023 Roadway Paving Projects. Seconded by Vice-Chairman Rader. The motion passed unanimously.

#### G. Authorizing Advertisement of Bids for the 2023 Lawn Mowing Contract

Mr. Faust stated that he requested a motion to proceed with the bidding for the 2023 Retention Pond Lawn Mowing Contract.

Motion by Chairman Ghai to authorize staff to proceed with bidding for the 2023 Retention Pond Lawn Mowing Contract. Seconded by Supervisor Brunell. Motion passed unanimously.

#### IX. BOARD AND STAFF REPORTS

#### A. Treasurer

The total bills from all funds for January 2023 was \$3,541,851.93. Further details appear in the December Treasurer's Report.

Motion by Chairman Ghai to pay the bills for January 2023 in the amount of \$3,541,851.93. Seconded by Vice-Chairwoman Rader. The motion passed unanimously.

#### B. Police

Chief Sitoski stated that their Let it Grow Campaign was great success as they raised \$2,380 that was donated to Parkland C.A.R.E.S. Food Pantry.

#### X. PUBLIC COMMENT/COURTESY OF THE FLOOR

Mr. Jeff Sukal stated that he observed there were 14 DUI arrests during the month of January and inquired if the amount of arrest was due to any initiatives done in January. If this was not the case should there be plans for initiatives in the future. Chief Sitoski stated that the arrests were not due to any initiatives and the Police Department does participate with the Lehigh County DUI Taskforce that plan checkpoints.

Mr. Jeff Kocher stated his concerns about speeding issues on Adams Road. He is aware that the police have done speeding checks in the area but is requesting that a permanent solution be considered between Schantz Road and Main Street in Fogelsville. The posted speed limit is between 20 – 35 mph and there are no stop signs. Vice-Chairwoman Rader acknowledged that the speeding on that road is an issue and mentioned that this is a state road. Mr. Alban stated he can reach out to PennDOT. Supervisor Brunell also requested that the UMPD place a device there to monitor the traffic along the roadway. Vs. Susan Jasorka also stated her concerns with the speeding on this road as a new resident of the Township and was in support of the concerns that were brought forth by Mr. Kocher.

Mr. Kevin Tamester mentioned that when he called the Township phone tree and selected option #9, to reach the Police Department and it was busy. Mr. Ibach stated that the Township would investigate this matter.

#### XI. ADJOURNMENT

There being no other business, Chairman Ghai made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:18 p.m. Seconded by Vice-Chairwoman Rader. The motion passed unanimously.

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