

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS REORGANIZATION MEETING
JANUARY 3, 2022 | 7:00 P.M.

MINUTES

1. Administration of the Oath of Office – The Honorable Denise Bowman

Judge Denise Bowman swore in Tax Collector Ray Chapman, Auditor Kristi Ann Morris, Auditor Matthey Tharakan and Supervisor Dana Kane

2. Administration of the Oath of Office – The Honorable Brian T. McGuffin

Judge Brian McGuffin swore in Supervisor Bernadette Hannah.

3. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

Supervisor Dawn Quirple called the meeting to order at 7:15 p.m. and led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. Roll Call

Ms. Quirple called roll with the following members in attendance: Bernadette Hannah, Dana Kane, Mike Ksiazek, Anna Payne (via Zoom) and Dawn Quirple. Also in attendance were Township Manager Stephanie Teoli Kuhls, Township Solicitor Jim Esposito and Township Engineer Isaac Kessler.

5. Organization of the Board of Supervisors:

A motion was made by Ms. Payne, seconded by Ms. Quirple to elect Mike Ksiazek as Chairperson. The motion carried on a 5-0 vote.

A motion was made by Ms. Quirple, seconded by Mr. Ksiazek to elect Anna Payne as Vice Chairperson. Motion carried on a 5-0 vote.

A motion was made by Ms. Payne, seconded by Mr. Ksiazek to elect Dawn Quirple as Secretary. Motion carried on a 5-0 vote.

6. Consideration of appointing Curtin & Heefner as Township Solicitor.

A motion was made by Ms. Quirple, seconded by Ms. Payne, to appoint Curtin & Heefner as Township Solicitor. Motion carried on a 5-0 vote.

7. Consideration of appointing David Truelove of Hill Wallack as Labor Attorney.

A motion was made by Ms. Payne, seconded by Ms. Quirple to appoint David Truelove of Hill Wallack as Labor Attorney. Motion carried on a 5-0 vote.

8. Consideration of appointing Paul Lang of Parlow & Lang as Township Conflict Attorney.

A motion was made by Ms. Quirple, seconded by Ms. Payne, to appoint Paul Lang of Parlow & Lang as Township Conflict Attorney. Motion carried on a 5-0 vote.

9. Consideration of appointing Remington Vernick Engineers as Township Engineer.

A motion was made by Ms. Quirple, seconded by Ms. Payne, to appoint Remington Vernick Engineers as Township Engineer. Motion carried on a 5-0 vote.

10. Consideration of appointing Phil Wursta of Traffic Planning & Design as Township Traffic Engineer.

A motion was made by Ms. Quirple, seconded by Ms. Payne, to appoint Phil Wursta of Traffic Planning & Design as Township Traffic Engineer. Motion carried on a 5-0 vote.

11. Consideration of authorizing Township Manager's Employment Agreement.

A motion was made by Ms. Quirple, seconded by Ms. Payne, to approve the Township Manager's Employment Agreement.

Andy Warren of Shadybrook questioned the Township Manager's salary and asked if it was in line with other Bucks County Managers. Ms. Quirple provided information regarding surrounding municipal manager salaries, noting Ms. Teoli Kuhls' salary was in line with comparable managers. Motion carried on a 5-0 vote.

12. Consideration of appointing the Township Manager to the positions of Treasurer and Assistant Secretary and Chief Administrative Officer to Pensions.

A motion was made by Mr. Ksiazek, seconded by Ms. Quirple, to appoint the Township Manager to the positions of Treasurer and Assistant Secretary and Chief Administrative Officer to Pensions.

Andy Warren of Shadybrook asked if the Township Manager received additional compensation for these positions. Mr. Ksiazek replied no.

Motion carried on a 5-0 vote.

13. Consideration of appointing the Finance Director as Assistant Treasurer.

A motion was made by Ms. Quirple, seconded by Ms. Payne to appoint the Finance Director as Assistant Treasurer. Motion carried on a 5-0 vote.

14. Consideration of establishing and authorizing advertisement of 2022 public meetings of the Board of Supervisors.

A motion was made by Ms. Quirple, seconded by Ms. Payne to establish and advertise the 2022 public meeting dates of the Board of Supervisors. Motion carried on a 5-0 vote.

15. Consideration of establishing bond limits in the amount of \$1.5 Million for Treasurer, Assistant Treasurer, and Township Manager for the faithful performance of the duties of said offices.

A motion was made by Ms. Quirple, seconded by Ms. Payne to establish bond limits in the amount of \$1.5 Million for Treasurer, Assistant Treasurer, and Township Manager for the faithful performance of the duties of said offices. Motion carried on a 5-0 vote.

16. Consideration of appointing a Chairperson to the Vacancy Board for 2022.

A motion was made by Ms. Payne, seconded by Ms. Quirple, to appoint Helene Ratner as Vacancy Board Chairperson.

Ms. Kane asked for additional information regarding Ms. Ratner's background. Mr. Ksiazek noted that Ms. Ratner was a life-long resident of Middletown Township as well as an active member of the Parks and Recreation Board.

Andy Warren of Shadybrook noted his opinion that the position should not be held by an individual involved in local politics, that it should be a more neutral person.

The motion carried on a 4-1 vote with Ms. Kane in opposition.

17. Consideration of appointments to Boards and Commissions.

Planning Commission

A motion was made by Mr. Ksiazek, seconded by Ms. Quirple, to reappoint Richard Nuttall to the Planning Commission for a 4-year term to expire on 12-31-25. Motion carried on a 5-0 vote.

A motion was made by Ms. Payne, seconded by Ms. Quirple, to appoint Tom Tosti to the Planning Commission for a 4-year term to expire on 12-31-25.

Ms. Kane asked if Mr. Tosti would be able to maintain neutrality as the Chair of the Bucks County Planning Commission. Mr. Ksiazek noted his opinion that serving as Chair of the County Planning Commission was an asset and advantage.

Andy Warren of Shadybrook expressed his opinion that appointments to Boards and Commissions should draw from a larger audience.

Motion carried on a 4-1 vote with Ms. Kane in opposition.

Financial Advisory Committee

A motion was made by Mr. Ksiazek, seconded by Ms. Payne, to reappoint Bill Appleton and Norman Bing to the Financial Advisory Committee for a 4-year term to expire on 13-31-25. Motion carried on a 5-0 vote.

A motion was made by Ms. Payne, seconded by Ms. Quirple, to appoint Irene Boyle to the Financial Advisory Committee for a 4-year term to expire on 12-31-25. Motion carried on a 5-0 vote.

Human Relations Commission

A motion was made by Ms. Payne, seconded by Ms. Quirple to appoint Charles Alfonso, Jennifer Wilytyer and Matthew Wilytyer to the Human Relations Commission for a 2-year term to expire on 12-31-23.

Andy Warren of Shadybrook questioned the appointments.

Mr. Ksiazek explained that there were at total of three applications received for the three vacancies. Ms. Kane noted that there is a need for residents to volunteer to serve on Boards and Commissions.

Motion carried on a 5-0 vote.

Historic Preservation Commission

A motion was made by Mr. Ksiazek, seconded by Ms. Quirple, to reappoint George Dranginis, Mary Durkin and Roberta Laney to the Historic Preservation Commission for 3-year terms to expire 12-31-24. Motion carried on a 5-0 vote.

Zoning Hearing Board

A motion was made by Mr. Ksiazek, seconded by Ms. Quirple, to reappoint Kevin Strouse to the Zoning Hearing Board for a 5-year term to expire 12-31-26.

Ms. Kane requested feedback from Ms. Teoli Kuhls and Mr. Esposito on Mr. Strouse's involvement in the board. Both noted that he was an active and engaged member with thoughtful comments and questions.

Andy Warren of Shadybrook noted his opposition to the appointment.

Motion carried on a 5-0 vote.

Environmental Advisory Council

A motion was made by Mr. Ksiazek, seconded by Ms. Quirple, to reappoint Kevin Deeney, Lauren Lareau, Andrew McAloon and Peter Tantala to the Environmental Advisory Council for 3-year terms to expire 12-31-24. Motion carried on a 5-0 vote.

Parks and Recreation Board

A motion was made by Mr. Ksiazek, seconded by Ms. Payne, to reappoint William Fuller, Daniel Giacomelli and Missy Kitzmiller the Parks and Recreation Board for 3-year terms to expire 12-31-24. Motion carried on a 5-0 vote.

Citizens Traffic Commission

A motion was made by Mr. Ksiazek, seconded by Ms. Payne, to reappoint Chris Haughy to the Citizens Traffic Commission for 3-year terms to expire 12-31-24.

18. Consideration of approving January 3, 2022 Bills List in the amount of \$674,972.95.

A motion was made by Ms. Quirple, seconded by Ms. Payne, to approve the January 3, 2022 Bills List. Motion carried on a 5-0 vote.

19. Consideration approving the minutes of the December 20, 2021 meeting of the Board of Supervisors.

A motion was made by Ms. Quirple, seconded by Ms. Kane, to approve the minutes of the December 20, 2021 meeting. Motion carried on a 5-0 vote.

20. Public Comment

Barbara Duke of Buttonwood Ave. questioned the actions of Ms. Teoli Kuhls in her investigation into a complaint made against Chief Bartorilla and the police department. Ms. Teoli Kuhls explained that Ms. Duke's complaint was investigated and no wrong-doing was found.

Pat Mallon of Cottonwood Drive suggested that the Board of Supervisors consider launching an awareness campaign to generate interest in the Board and Commission vacancies.

Christopher Nowakowski of Alberts Lane made comments about extremist and hate-based posts recently made on social media. He highlighted several posts made by recently-sworn-in Auditor Kristi Ann Morris that were anti-Semitic, conspiracy-based and including misinformation.

Karen Hall supported the comments made by Mr. Nowakowski, calling the posts made by the elected official, "an abomination."

21. Other Business

Ms. Kane noted her excitement for starting her 6-year term. She expressed her appreciation to those who have helped her in the transition and recognized the township manager for her efforts in being connected and available for assistance.

Ms. Hannah also thanked the Board and Township Manager and noted her excitement to serve. She expressed appreciation to her family, and especially her daughters, and highlighted the importance of serving your community.

Mr. Kessler thanked the board for his reappointment, congratulated the two newly-elected Supervisors and wished everyone a Happy New Year.

Mr. Esposito also congratulated the board and expressed appreciation for the appointment as Solicitor, noting that it was his pleasure to serve Middletown Township.

Ms. Teoli Kuhls thanked the Board for their vote of confidence and expressed her enthusiasm for continuing to serve the residents of Middletown Township. She then introduced new Director of Planning and Zoning, Jim Ennis, highlighting his background and welcoming him to the Township team.

Ms. Quirple congratulated Ms. Kane and Ms. Hannah and shared her excitement to serve on a Board with four women members. She wished everyone a Happy New Year.

Ms. Payne reiterated the welcome to Ms. Kane and Ms. Hannah, wished everyone a Happy New Year, and welcomed Mr. Ennis to the community.

Mr. Ksiazek thanked and congratulated Mr. Kessler and Mr. Esposito on their reappointments and recognized Ms. Teoli Kuhls as an excellent manager. He welcomed Ms. Kane and Ms. Hannah and noted that he is looking forward to working with this fantastic board. He then closed by thanking all the residents who volunteered to serve of boards and commissions.

22. Adjournment

A motion was made by Ms. Quirple, seconded by Ms. Payne to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 p.m.