

**TOWNSHIP OF LOWER MERION
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

**59th BIENNIAL REORGANIZATION MEETING
MONDAY, JANUARY 4, 2016**

JODY L. KELLEY, TOWNSHIP SECRETARY

MINUTES

Call to Order – The 59th Biennial Reorganization Meeting of the Board of Commissioners of the Township of Lower Merion convened at approximately 7:05 p.m., on the above date, in the Township Administration Building, 75 E. Lancaster Avenue, Ardmore, PA, Jody L. Kelley, Township Secretary, presiding. Members of the Board present were Commissioners Bernheim, Churchill, Durbin, Gelber, Gordon, Grimes, Manos, McElhaney, McGuire, Rogan, Rosenzweig, and Zelov. Commissioner O’Neill was seated after taking her oath of office. Commissioner Lindner was excused.

The Opening Prayer was given by The Rev. Carolyn C. Cavaness, M.Div., Pastor, Bethel AME Church of Ardmore.

Welcoming Remarks - Township Secretary Jody L. Kelley welcomed former Commissioners, Township residents, families of the newly appointed Commissioners and Township staff to the Board of Commissioners Reorganization meeting.

Administration of the Oath of Office - Montgomery County Magisterial District Judge, The Honorable Karen E. Zucker administered the Oath of Office to Commissioner-elect Tiffany O’Neill representing Ward 11 who was duly elected on November 3, 2015. Ms. O’Neill was presented with her Badge of Office by Township Manager McNeely.

Administration of the Oath of Office - Montgomery County Magisterial District Judge, The Honorable Karen E. Zucker also administered the Oath of Office to Commissioner Joshua L. Grimes representing Ward 2 who was duly elected on November 3, 2015. Mr. Grimes was presented with his Badge of Office by Township Manager McNeely.

Administration of the Oath of Office - Montgomery County Magisterial District Judge, The Honorable Karen E. Zucker administered the Oath of Office to the following incumbent Commissioners who were duly elected on November 3, 2015:

Ward 1 - Daniel S. Bernheim

Ward 7 - Elizabeth S. Rogan

Ward 3 - Paul A. McElhaney

Ward 9 - George T. Manos

Ward 5 - Cheryl B. Gelber

Ward 13 - C. Brian McGuire

This 59th Biennial Session of the Board of Commissioners will also include the following Commissioners who were duly elected on November 5, 2013:

Ward 4 - Steven K. Lindner

Ward 10 - V. Scott Zelov

Ward 6 - Philip S. Rosenzweig

Ward 12 - Brian A. Gordon

Ward 8 - Anna Durbin

Ward 14 - Rick Churchill

Public Comment - Mrs. Kelley advised that the Floor was open to provide the opportunity for the public to address the Board on matters relating to agenda items. Hearing no response, the floor was closed.

Nominations for Office of President of the Board of Commissioners - Mrs. Kelley noted that the next order of business for the Board was to elect a President and Vice President. She opened the floor for nominations for the Office of President of the Board of Commissioners and recognized **Mr. Manos**.

Mr. Manos spoke in support of a resolution nominating two individuals for alternating terms of President and Vice President. He noted the qualifications of Paul McElhaney and Daniel Bernheim to lead the Board of Commissioners.

Mr. Manos motioned for approval of the following Resolution: **Resolved that Paul A. McElhaney is hereby elected President of the Board of Commissioners effective immediately, to serve in that capacity until the end of the day January 1, 2017, which is also the effective date of his resignation as such President; and**

That Daniel S. Bernheim, Esq., is hereby elected President of the Board effective January 2, 2017, to serve in that capacity until the biennial reorganization of the Board on the first Monday of January, 2018, or until such time as his successor is elected and qualified; and

That Daniel S. Bernheim, Esq., is hereby elected Vice President of the Board effective immediately, to serve in that capacity until the effective date of his election and qualification as President of the Board; and

That in the event of the death, resignation or permanent disability of Paul A. McElhaney prior to January 1, 2017, Daniel S. Bernheim, Esq., shall thereupon become President of the Board; and

That Paul A. McElhaney, is hereby elected Vice President of the Board effective January 2, 2017, to service in that capacity until the biennial reorganization of the Board in 2018 or until such time as his successor is elected and qualified.

Mrs. Gelber seconded the nomination. She spoke in favor the split term of management and her support of Commissioners McElhaney and Bernheim.

Mr. McGuire noted that he also supported the nomination made by Mr. Manos and thanked Ms. Rogan for her service as Board President.

Mr. Zelov spoke in support of Mr. Bernheim as Vice President and to his work on the many committees he chaired. He also thanked Ms. Rogan for her service as Board President.

Mr. Grimes shared his thoughts on reaching the compromise and supported the nomination.

Mr. Gordon spoke in support of the resolution.

Mr. Rosenzweig noted his support of the nominations of President and Vice President.

Mrs. Kelley asked if there were any more nominations, hearing none, she asked for a motion to close the nominations.

Mr. McGuire motioned to close the nominations, seconded by **Mr. Gordon**. **The Secretary declared the nominations closed and called for the vote. All voted aye for the election of President and Vice President unanimously.**

Administration of the Oath of Office - Montgomery County Magisterial District Judge, The Honorable Karen E. Zucker administered the Oath of Office to the newly-elected President of the Board of Commissioners, Paul A. McElhaney.

President McElhaney spoke to the following issues that his presidency will work on:

- Development of new capital financing policy
- Advancement and growth with the police and community
- Comprehensive Fire Service Plan
- Passage of the Comprehensive Plan
- Substantial updating of zoning code
- Historic Preservation Efforts
- Develop Storm Water Management
- Infrastructure
- Level of services

Administration of the Oath of Office - Montgomery County Magisterial District Judge, The Honorable Karen E. Zucker administered the Oath of Office to the newly-elected Vice President of the Board of Commissioners, Daniel S. Bernheim.

Vice President Bernheim spoke to the quality of residents in the Township and thanked the Board for their support and looked forward to working with President McElhaney.

Approval of Resolutions for Appointments:

- a) Resolution appointing Chairperson of the Township's Vacancy Board.

RESOLVED, that in accordance with Article V, Section 530 of the First Class Township Code Maryam W. Phillips is appointed as Chairperson of the Township's Vacancy Board. This Board consists of the fourteen members of the Board and a registered voter of the Township who shall be appointed by the Board of Commissioners at the Township's first meeting each calendar year or as soon thereafter as practical and who shall act as Chairperson of the Vacancy Board.

Mr. McElhaney motioned for approval, seconded by Mr. Manos, with all voting aye. Motion carried unanimously.

- b) Resolution appointing Township Engineer

RESOLVED, that in accordance with Article XIII, Section 1301, of the First Class Township Code and Article III, Section 506 of the Code of the Township of Lower Merion, Edward P. Pluciennik is hereby appointed as the Township Engineer of the Township of Lower Merion to serve for a term of two years, and until his successor qualifies.

Mr. McElhaney motioned for approval, seconded by Mr. Manos, with all voting aye. Motion carried unanimously.

- c) Resolution appointing Township Solicitor

RESOLVED, that in accordance with Article XII, Section 1201, of the First Class Township Code and Article III, Section 506 of the Code of the Township of Lower Merion, Gilbert P. High, Jr., Esq., is hereby appointed as the Township Solicitor of the Township of Lower Merion to serve for a term of two years, and until his successor qualifies.

Mr. McElhaney motioned for approval, seconded by Mr. Manos, with all voting aye. Motion carried unanimously.

Administration of the Oath of Office to the Township Engineer - Montgomery County Magisterial District Judge, The Honorable Karen E. Zucker administered the Oath of Office to Township Engineer Edward P. Pluciennik.

Administration of the Oath of Office to the Township Engineer - Montgomery County Magisterial District Judge, The Honorable Karen E. Zucker administered the Oath of Office to Township Solicitor, Gilbert P. High, Esq.

Extension of Township Manager's Employment Agreement – President McElhaney motioned for approval, in accordance with Article XV, Section 1502 of the First Class Township Code, extending the appointment and terms of the Employment Agreement dated April 16, 2014 for Township Manager Ernie B. McNeely pending negotiation of new employment agreement provisions, seconded by Mr. Gordon, with all voting aye. Motion approved.

Adjournment – President McElhaney called upon Vice President Bernheim for the reading of the Resolution to Adjourn: RESOLVED that this 59th Biennial Reorganization Meeting of the Board of Commissioners of the Township of Lower Merion stands adjourned. A special meeting of the Board will be held on Wednesday, January 6, 2016 at approximately 8:30 p.m. The next stated meeting of the Board will be held on Wednesday, January 20, 2016 at approximately 7:30 p.m. All meetings will be held at the Township Administration Building, 75 E. Lancaster Ave., Ardmore, PA.

Meeting adjourned at 8:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

**Gina Pellicciotta
Assistant Township Secretary**