

# HATFIELD TOWNSHIP BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS



## REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

**January 22, 2025**

**PLEASE NOTE:** Underlined items contain a link with additional information.

### **I. CALL TO ORDER**

President Tom Zipfel called the January 22, 2025 Regular Meeting of the Hatfield Township Board of Commissioners to order at 7:30 pm.

### **II. ROLL CALL**

Roll call was taken by Aaron Bibro, Township Manager. Present at the meeting were President Tom Zipfel, Vice President Bob Rodgers, Commissioner Jerry Andris, Commissioner Jennifer LoStracco and Commissioner Shahidul Partha. In addition to Township Manager Aaron Bibro, also in attendance were Solicitor John Iannozzi, Assistant Township Manager Scott Hutt, and Chief of Police William Tierney.

### **III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Commissioner Jerry Andris.

### **IV. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Commissioner Partha motioned to approve the agenda, seconded by Commissioner Andris. The motion carried with a 5-0 vote.

### **V. CITIZENS' COMMENTS – AGENDA ITEMS ONLY**

There were no citizens comments.

### **VI. CONSENT ITEMS**

*Motion to Enter Items 1-2 into the Record*

1. [Treasurer's Report – January](#)
2. **Bills Payable:**
  - A. [Paid Bills – \\$59,979.91](#)
  - B. [Unpaid Bills – \\$2,183,049.43](#)

Vice President Rodgers motioned to move the Consent Items into record, seconded by Commissioner LoStracco. The motion carried with a 5-0 vote.

## VII. ACTION ITEMS

1. [Civil Service Rules and Regulations Amendment – Requirement for Sergeant Exam](#)  
**Resolution #25-01**  
*Motion for Approval*

Chief Tierney said we are down three officers in the department and we need to promote one sergeant. We currently have no corporals in the department so we are amending the Civil Service Rules to read ‘the position of sergeant must have at least three years’ experience as a corporal or five years’ experience as an officer within Hatfield Township.’

Commissioner Andris motioned to approve Resolution #25-01, seconded by Vice President Rodgers. The motion carried with a 5-0 vote.

2. Volunteer Board Appointments  
*Motion to appoint the following individuals*

### **Zoning Hearing Board**

Jim Bleakly

Term: 2025 - 2027

### **Planning Commission**

Don McGowan

Term: 2025 - 2028

### **Vacancy Board Chairman**

David Kresge

Term: 2025

### **Parks and Recreation Board**

Jeff Wert

Leslie Erhardt

Term: 2025 - 2029

### **HTMA**

Ralph Harvey

Term: 2025 – 2029

### **Pool Advisory Board**

Jen Ahern

Term: 2025 – 2027

Vice President Rodgers motioned to approve the Volunteer Board Appointments, seconded by Commissioner LoStracco. The motion carried with a 5-0 vote.

President Zipfel thanked all the volunteers who serve the Township as well as the newly appointed and reappointed individuals.

## **VIII. CITIZENS' COMMENTS**

Vinod Bagdwal of 2306 McArthur Drive said he has been a resident of Hatfield Township for 34 years, was welcomed into the community and raised his family here. Recently, he has seen hateful and divisive social media posts targeting Indian Americans and his Hindu American heritage in our Township. Mr. Bagdwal added this is the first time he has experienced this publicly. He is asking the Township Commissioners to publicly denounce these hateful actions through an official statement or a social media post affirming a commitment to diversity and respect for all residents of Hatfield. He also asked the Township to investigate the person responsible for these hateful messages.

Dale Foster, of 1503 Leon Drive said he has known Mr. Bagdwal for over 30 years and is in disbelief how anyone can direct any hate towards him, his family or his heritage.

Jose Benitez of 2660 Towamencin Avenue said he has lived in the Township for 20 years and loves living here. He is supporting his friend Mr. Bagdwal.

Dorothy Moore said what has happened to the Bagdwal family is disgraceful and asked the Commissioners to do something.

Alka Sanwal said she is supporting the Bagdwal family. She is requesting the Commissioners take action regarding the social media posts.

President Zipfel clarified that the posts were not made on a Township website. He said there are a number of residents present at tonight's meeting expressing their concern about the posts.

The Hatfield Township Board of Commissioners renounced any discriminatory or any type of hate speech stating it is unacceptable.

John Sperling said his neighbor found a hearing notice posted on a tree regarding the sale of the movie lots owned by the North Penn School District to Pulte Homes. Mr. Bibro said the Township did not receive any notification of the sale. The Township Solicitor will review it.

Mrs. Landauer announced that former Hatfield Commissioner Tom Landauer is now the Acting Controller of Montgomery County. The Board congratulated him on his new post.

## **IX. ADJOURNMENT**

Commissioner Andris motioned for adjournment, seconded by Vice President Rodgers. The motion carried with a 5-0 vote and the meeting was adjourned at 7:55 pm.