

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING MINUTES

April 6, 2026

The regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners of the Township of Upper St. Clair, duly advertised and posted in accordance with law, was called to order at 7:30 PM on Monday, April 6, 2026, at the Township of Upper St. Clair Municipal Building, Board of Commissioners' Meeting Room, Upper St. Clair, PA. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all present.

PRESENT: Commissioner Burlingame President
 Commissioner Graves Vice President
 Commissioner Herrod
 Commissioner Madden
 Commissioner Pardini
 Commissioner Plutko
 Commissioner Thomas

 Mark S. Mansfield Assistant Township Manager
 Kristen L. Burch Director of Finance
 Adam A. Benigni Director of Community Development
 Irving S. Firman Township Attorney
 Michael J. Galet, P.E. Township Engineer
 Autumn Gibson Recording Secretary

EXCUSED: Matthew R. Serakowski Township Manager

PUBLIC: Approximately 13 people attended.

RECOGNITIONS

Commissioner Herrod presented a Proclamation to Mr. Chris Gmiter, Library Director, in recognition of National Library Week, April 19 - 25, 2026. Library Staff members Shylu Venkatesh and Karen Hathaway were also in attendance.

Mr. Gmiter, thanked the Board and expressed his Staff's pride in working with Township Staff, the Board of Commissioners and the community.

Commissioner Burlingame thanked Mr. Gmiter and his staff for everything they do in our community.

REVIEW OF BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' REGULAR MEETING MINUTES OF March 2, 2026

Commissioner Plutko moved to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of March 2, 2026. This was seconded by Commissioner Thomas and carried with a 7-0 voice vote.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Matt Amick, 192 Devonwood Drive, expressed many residents on Devonwood Drive, Truxton Drive and Blairmont Drive share his concerns regarding the safety of their children due to high school students driving too fast. He expressed frustration over having to contact the police and school district transport manager multiple times regarding these issues. He noted in past years, there have been cars that crashed into trees where the roundabouts are, which were replanted and then hit again.

Mr. Amick stated that the residents who signed the petition and joined him in attendance this evening have shown up to support the children and their safety. Mr. Amick stated they are not here to petition the calming measure; however, he raised concerns regarding the recent speed study conducted during Murdstone Road's closure, noting that the community supports existing traffic policies, but believes this study was flawed. Mr. Amick requested clarity regarding future measures, including the effectiveness of newly installed speed signs. Mr. Amick stated the community would like to know what the Township's plan is and he thanked his neighborhood for their support.

Commissioner Burlingame asked if there were any comments or questions from the board.

Commissioner Burlingame thanked Mr. Amick stating that things get done when people stand up and talk to the Board on numerous occasions. He thanked everyone for coming out and supporting these issues. He asked Mr. Benigni to address their questions.

Mr. Benigni stated that a few speed recording signs have been put up, and although it's spring break, this data will be reviewed against additional data collected after a month to compare school and non-school periods to assess any differences.

Mr. Frank Gaudio, 2163 Blairmont Drive, asked Commissioner Herrod's opinion regarding these issues since this neighborhood is in his Ward. Mr. Gaudio inquired what Commissioner Herrod's definition of speeding is. In response, Commissioner Herrod referred to when he previously met with Mr. Amick and observed the neighborhood. He stated it is hard to judge what's going on in 15-20 minutes and that the traffic experts and police signs that take computerized speed to clock every car traveling the road will have the real numbers to know if it is speed.

Discussion ensued between Mr. Benigni, Mr. Gaudio and Commissioner Pardini regarding the definition of speeding and the Township's traffic calming policy. Mr. Gaudio asked how the Township determines the placement of signs. In response, Mr. Benigni stated that the signs already in place will catch speeds coming from both directions of the hill.

Mr. Gaudio noted that speed at the crest of the hill is at its slowest, while speed increases as one descends due to gravity, suggesting that signs posted at the hill's crest fail to capture the faster speeds reached at the bottom. Speed increases as you go down the hill and both are capturing speed at the crest of the hill is obviously different than capturing speed at the bottom of the hill.

Commissioner Pardini, stated he would support posting a police officer on Devonwood Drive at the given school traffic times over spending additional money to conduct another traffic study.

Mr. Amick, stated that a police officer sat in his driveway; however, it only solves the issue for a certain timeframe and only influences the behaviors of current drivers. Mr. Amick expressed concern over drivers who start a year from now, starting these issues will be recreated as new student drivers travel to school.

Continued discussion ensued between Mr. Amick and Commissioner Pardini regarding how drivers would respond to increased police presence. Mr. Amick emphasized the importance of implementing measures to address speeding in a neighborhood with many children, specifically suggesting speed bumps or stop signs. Mr. Amick stated that he believes the focus should be on ensuring safer driving conditions for residents over solely relying on police enforcement as a long-term solution.

Mr. Matt Lanz, 191 Devonwood Drive, stated he lives across the street from Mr. Amick. Mr. Lanz stated he has shared many videos of drivers speeding up Devonwood Drive from Murdstone Road and suggested repositioning the speed traps to the opposite direction to catch drivers coming down Murdstone Road. Mr. Lanz stated that speeds pick up on this stretch where the tree has been taken out multiple times. He agreed with Mr. Amick that drivers slow down when they approach the crest of the hill; however high speeds coming down Murdstone Road are very dangerous.

Mr. Lanz, expressed concerns about conducting a new study and requested the Township take action to put a stop sign at the top of Hycroft Drive. Mr. Lanz stated the neighborhood is getting busier with new babies being born and children running. Mr. Lanz emphasized his concerns for safety of the children and requested the Township take action to keep them safe.

Ms. Anne Kulli, 2044 Murdstone Road, stated she has three children. Ms. Kulli inquired about the cost of a traffic study compared to the cost of placing a stop sign or speed bump. Ms. Kulli expressed concerns over spending the time and money to conduct another study and to utilize police officers in a neighborhood driveway when their time could be better spent elsewhere. Ms. Kulli stated she cares about everyone's neighborhood just as much as her own and she expects something to be done about unsafe driving in any community neighborhood.

Ms. Kulli expressed concerns over the safety of the neighborhood, noting that a tree has been struck multiple times, highlighting a risk to children. She mentioned a former resident who marked the tree with reflective dots after every time the tree had been hit. Ms. Kulli criticized a comment suggesting children's safety is secondary to driver convenience and voiced her willingness to advocate for solutions, like a stop sign or speed bump, by collecting funds from neighbors. She demanded clarity on costs and the nature of the underlying issue.

Commissioner Burlingame stated this is not a cost issue. Each year we get countless requests for speed bumps, stop signs, and traffic calming measures throughout the Township. We must have some level of criteria to administer, otherwise they will be everywhere.

Continued discussion ensued between Ms. Kulli and Commissioner Burlingame regarding concerns over excessive speed bump requests and their effectiveness in neighborhoods with children. Ms. Kulli expressed again that she would be willing to seek financial contributions from the community.

Mr. Cliff Rowe III, 2119 Blairmont Drive, stated he has three children and like many people in his neighborhood he would like to know why the Township will not place a speed bump. Mr. Rowe indicated he understands why they cannot be placed on Route 19; however, as taxpayers, his neighborhood is asking the Township to support the safety of their children. Mr. Rowe indicated he feels as though the Township is pushing back. In response Commissioner Burlingame stated that the Board is not pushing back; however, the initial study did not call for speed bumps.

Mr. Amick, asked if the signs are tracking speed and volume, stating that volume is one of the traffic calming criteria their neighborhood did not meet in certain areas of the street. Mr. Benigni confirmed that the signs track both speed and volume.

Mr. Alfred Cupelli, 200 Devonwood Drive, stated that he and his children grew up in the house he currently lives in. Mr. Cupelli stated a general observation over the last 60 years is that young families are the life blood of the community, and the current driving patterns in his neighborhood are not good.

Commissioner Pardini, reiterated that he believes that increased police presence will do more for changing driving behaviors in this neighborhood than speed bumps would.

Mr. John Hagan, 2042 Hycroft Drive, stated his street is extraordinarily quiet and he loves it. Mr. Hagan shared that he recently moved from Mt. Lebanon where he couldn't let his children run on the street, but now they can. Mr. Hagan shared he is thankful he has a large SUV because when turning left onto Devonwood Drive from Hycroft Drive, many cars dangerously speed up the street. Mr. Hagan stated that it can be terrifying making this turn and he requested action from the Board.

Commissioner Burlingame thanked everyone for coming out from the Devonwood neighborhood and stated we hear you loud and clear and we have a test underway.

Commissioner Thomas inquired if there are white strips on Devonwood Drive that police use to time cars traveling through, noting that sometimes those can minimize speeding. In response, Commissioner Herrod stated he did not observe any white stripes on the side of the hill when he previously visited Mr. Amick's house.

Mr. Rowe expressed that increased police presence is only a temporary solution and their resources are better used elsewhere in the Township instead of sitting in someone's driveway.

Commissioner Pardini, stated the Board will listen and vote on this; however, he believes utilizing police in the neighborhood is the answer.

Mr. Gaudio, confirmed there are white strips at the bottom of Devonwood Drive where it meets Blairmont Drive close to Westminster and where Devonwood Drive meets Blairmont Drive on the opposite end. Mr. Gaudio inquired about the effectiveness of using VASCAR strips to time vehicles and expressed skepticism about the Township's traffic calming criteria. Mr. Gaudio stated that even one fast driver is too many.

Mr. Jay Lynch, 2144 Blairmont Drive, inquired about the policy to determine the placement of speed bumps or traffic calming measures, especially amid multiple neighborhood requests. Mr. Lynch emphasized the group's goal of fairness and asked what criteria will be used to prioritize locations for future traffic calming efforts. Mr. Lynch requested advice on how concerned citizens from his neighborhood can influence the decision-making process regarding speed bump placements.

Commissioner Burlingame stated that what the neighborhood has done this evening is the perfect start to bring the Board's attention to this matter in multiple ways.

Noting no additional comments or questions regarding the Devonwood Drive neighborhood, Commissioner Burlingame stated that there is another item to discuss that is not on the agenda this evening. Commissioner Burlingame stated that this is one of his favorite weeks of the year, not only being library week, but also a week to recognize the Upper St. Clair Athletic Association (USCAA) and invited Mr. Ryan Pope, current President of the USCAA to speak.

Mr. Pope shared this is his second year as President of the USCAA and he graduated from Upper St. Clair High School. Mr. Pope stated he and his wife have lived in the community over 20 years, with over half the time being involved with USC sports. Mr. Pope stated he is joined by Mr. Eric Lund, past president and current fields and facilities coordinator, along with Mr. Mike Ressler, Travel Soccer Commissioner. The USCAA members thanked the Township Commissioners for inviting them, stated the USCAA has existed since 1955. Their mission has always been to create

opportunities for the Township youth to participate and compete in athletics. The USCAA represents approximately 3,700 kids across eleven different sports. Their program is healthy and continues to grow each year.

Mr. Pope expressed gratitude on behalf of USCAA to the Township for their support, specifically acknowledging Matthew Serakowski, Township Manager, Paul Besterman, and Chris Biswick. He highlighted the Township's commitment to improving fields and facilities, noting that the community offers some of the nicest fields in the greater Pittsburgh area. Mr. Pope mentioned the positive feedback regarding the new Morton Complex and the activity seen on the fields and playgrounds. He also thanked Rich Botz and Gary Schafer for their contributions. To demonstrate appreciation, the USCAA presented a check for \$37,170, for user fees. The USCAA looks forward to continuing their partnership to enhance youth sports in the community.

Commissioner Burlingame stated his family is very grateful for the USCAA and most of the current Commissioners have children who have participated in youth sports. Commissioner Burlingame stated it is very special to support the USCAA and acknowledged the teamwork atmosphere for Morton Fields. He stated everyone went beyond expectations with the quality of the fields and he is happy to see them being used both recreationally and with travel sports.

Mr. Lund and Mr. Pope confirmed that it has been tremendous to utilize the Morton fields, allowing the USCAA to play as early as March and April on the turf fields when they traditionally would not have been able to play. The USCAA has been utilizing the facility for lacrosse, growing soccer programs, baseball, and softball. They thanked the Township for continued support.

Mr. Mike Ressler, 1410 Lattidome Drive, stated as the current soccer Commissioner for the Pennsylvania West organization, he has scheduled more home games earlier in the season to utilize the turf. Mr. Ressler stated that less games have been canceled due to weather and he thanked the Township for their continued support.

Commissioner Burlingame, asked if there were any questions or comments from the board.

In response, Commissioner Graves requested to loop back to the Devonwood residents. Commissioner Graves acknowledged their concerns about the frequently ignored stop sign in the area and related his personal experiences from his neighborhood, highlighting the potential danger for children, including those with disabilities. Commissioner Graves emphasized the importance of addressing these issues and assured the residents that their concerns would be taken seriously as the Township process continues. He reiterated his commitment to ensure that actions are taken to move forward with necessary changes.

Commissioner Burlingame asked if there were any additional questions or comments from the Board, and there were none.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS**RECOMMENDATION RE. APPROVAL OF CONTRACTS**

Mr. Mansfield stated that Staff recommends the following contracts for the Board's approval in accordance with Township Code.

Groll Ornamental Iron Works, Pittsburgh, PA	Municipal Building Sidewalk Railings	\$61,870
Tri-Star Motors Blairsville, PA	Two (2) 2026 Ford F-600 4x4 Cab and Chassis (COSTARS Contracts #025-E22-550)	\$119,280
Stephenson Equipment, Inc. Lilly, PA	Two (2) 9' Aluminum Dump Body Upfit with stainless steel tailgate sale spreader, salt and liquid dispensing system and 9" snowplow (COSTARS Contracts #25-E22-432)	\$150,044

A simple motion and voice vote will authorize these contracts.

In response Commissioner Thomas's inquiry, Mr. Mansfield confirmed the sidewalk railings will replace the cones in front of the Municipal building. Mr. Mansfield spoke with Rich Botz, Director of Public Works, who confirmed that the railings should be installed mid-to-late summer.

Commissioner Burlingame, asked if there were any questions from the public or the board and there were none.

MOTION AND VOTE TO APPROVE CONTRACTS

Commissioner Pardini moved to approve the above contracts. This was seconded by Commissioner Thomas and carried with a 7-0 voice vote.

RECOMMENDATION RE. APPROVAL OF OPTION TO BE INCLUDED IN THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG) AND HOME INVESTMENT PARTNERSHIPS PROGRAMS

Mr. Mansfield stated that Staff has prepared Resolution No. 1796, which authorizes the Township to opt in the Allegheny County Community Development Block Grant. Staff recommends the adoption of Resolution No.1796, which may be accomplished by a simple motion and roll call vote.

Commissioner Burlingame asked if there were any questions or comments from the Board.

Commissioner Graves inquired about the specifics listed in the Resolution for this grant program and expressed concern over the language regarding including the Municipality's population as part of the threshold population figure necessary to qualify the County as an "urban county".

Commissioner Graves inquired if this could impact the Township's eligibility for future grants.

In response, Mr. Mansfield stated the Township has opted in to this program for over 40 years and he has not observed a negative impact in grant eligibility. Mr. Mansfield stated that the CDBG program is one of the smaller grant programs the Township uses, usually for ADA accessibility items.

Commissioner Burlingame, asked if there were any additional questions from the public or the board and there were none.

MOTION AND VOTE TO ADOPT RESOLUTION NO. 1796

Commissioner Thomas moved to adopt Resolution No. 1796 Re. Approval of Option to be Included in the Allegheny County Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and Home Investment Partnerships Programs. This was seconded by Commissioner Herrod and carried with a 7-0 roll call vote.

RECOMMENDATION RE. APPROVAL FOR A GRANT APPLICATION THROUGH THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FOR THE UPPER ST. CLAIR MONTOUR TRAIL ACCESS FEASIBILITY ASSESSMENT

Mr. Benigni, stated the Township desires to apply for a grant through Greenways Trails and Recreation Program of the Commonwealth Financing Authority in the amount of \$96,000 to be used for the Upper St. Clair Montour trail access feasibility assessment. Resolution 1797 authorizes Mark Mainsfield, Assistant Township Manager, to file applications, documents, and forms between the Township and the DCED. Staff recommends the adoption of Resolution No. 1797, which may be accomplished by a simple motion and roll call vote.

Commissioner Burlingame asked if there were any comments from the public or from the Board and there were none.

MOTION AND VOTE TO ADOPT RESOLUTION NO. 1797

Commissioner Graves moved to adopt Resolution No. 1797 Authorizing the Township to enter into a multi-year Agreement with the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation for Comprehensive Road Maintenance. This was seconded by Commissioner Thomas and carried with a 7-0 roll call vote.

OTHER BUSINESS

None.

ADJOURNMENT

Following a motion for adjournment by Commissioner Pardini and a second by Commissioner Herrod which carried with a 7-0 voice vote, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:22PM.

Autumn Gibson
Recording Secretary
April 6, 2026