

UPPER PROVIDENCE TOWNSHIP
DELAWARE COUNTY
SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING - REDISTRICTING
November 2, 2022

The Upper Providence Township Council held a Special Council meeting to discuss redistricting on Wednesday, November 2, 2022 at the Upper Providence Township Building. Chairman Elgin Akarsoy called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. Mr. Akarsoy led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call

Present: Mr. Elgin Akarsoy, Chairman, Kevin Else, Vice Chairperson, Ms. Marsha Peterson and Ms. Christen Rexing. Also in attendance, Mr. Don Vymazal, Township Manager, Mr. Carl Ewald, Township Solicitor, Ms. Kim McCloskey, Adm. Assistant and Walt Omlor, Constable.

Not present: Mr. Tom McFadden

Public Forum

Joseph F. Solomon, 70 Palmers Mill Road

Kathy Heupler and Joe Solomon, 70 Palmers Mill Road – ceded their time to another speaker

Gail Ford, 13 Shady Hill Road -ceded her time to another speaker

Sinclair Brown, 320 Sycamore Mills Road - ceded his time to another speaker

June Morris, 47 Shady Hill Road

John Carullo and Jean Carullo, 257 E. Rose Tree Road

Cynthia Sabatini, 220 Bobbin Mill Road

Steve Visek, 14 Lakewood Drive,

Christine Sincavage, 1865 Colt Road

Maureen Rennie, 120 Gordon Drive – ceded her time to another speaker

Deborah Margulies, 927 Second Ave – gave her time to another speaker

Concerns and comments:

- Maps 1,2,4, and 5 were done by the Township. Map 3 was proposed by Mr. Visek
- Why are thousands of people being moved per the Township proposals when only less than 300 actually need to be removed?
- Partisan impact
- Gerrymandering
- Compactness
- Cohesion
- Who created the maps - the Township, the County, Mr. Else?
- Average, max and min
- Timeline – why is it being rushed?
- Why wasn't a committee created?

- Why does it have to be done by January? What is the rush
- Transparency
- District population
- No Public Comments are on the website – they are there now
- Redistricting litigation on the budget for 2023 – litigation was threatened
- Conflict of interest for Council member running for re-election
- Per the Home Rule Charter t- Council makes the final decision on which proposal to adopt
- This is required to be done after a census – timelines were discussed
- Neighborhood feel
- Compactness calculations are wrong

Ms. Heupler presented a petition from approximately 120 residents that could not attend the meeting. Council will take all comments not consideration. Redistricting is done by Ordinance which is being announces tonight. The first reading will be in November and the vote for adoption will take place in December.

Adjournment

There being no further discussion, Mr. Akarsoy made a Motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was approved by unanimous voice vote and the meeting was adjourned at 8:04 PM.

Don Vymazal
Township Secretary

Elgin Akarsoy
Council Chairperson