

**WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
MINUTES
APRIL 27, 2017**

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson James Roma called the regularly scheduled meeting of the Washington Township Board of Supervisors to order at 7:00 p.m., at the Washington Township Municipal Building. The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

The following members were present: Supervisors, James Roma; David Moyer, Ernest Gehman, Solicitor, Daniel Becker, Esquire; John Weber representing LTL Consultants, Brian Brochon, Gilmore & Assoc., staff member Susan Brown and approximately sixteen (16) residents in attendance.

Absent:

TAPING OF MEETING

The meeting was recorded as an aid in the preparation of the minutes. It was noted no one other than township staff was taping the meeting this evening.

SPECIAL REQUEST

None

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Curtis Rader spoke about quarry issues.

Kelly Kline is here this evening to introduce herself and to let folks know she is one of four judicial candidates running in this year's election.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES OF MARCH 23, 2017

A motion was made by Ernest Gehman and seconded by David Moyer to approve the minutes for the meeting of March 23, 2017 as prepared.

Public Comment:

John Wynne requested the minutes of March 23, 2017 be amended to include the cost difference of the traffic light as well as the funding source.

A motion was made by David Moyer, seconded by Ernest Gehman to amend the minutes of March 23, 2017 to include additional detail on the Barto Road traffic signal as requested by Supervisor Moyer.

All ayes

TOWNSHIP REPORTS

A motion was made by David Moyer and seconded by James Roma to approve the payment of all bills for the General Fund, Highway Aid Fund, Recreation Fund, Street Light Fund, Traffic Impact Fund, Sewer Fund and Building Escrow Funds up to and inclusive of April 27, 2017, and to file the treasurer’s report for audit. **No comments received.**

All ayes

TAX COLLECTOR

Tax Collectors Report for the month of March 2017:

Real Estate Tax	\$115,809.15
Interim Tax	\$ 126.55
Light Tax	\$ 249.90
Hydrant Tax	\$ 706.51
Per Capita Tax	\$ 74.50
Total	\$116,966.61

FIRE CHIEF’S REPORT

A copy of the Eastern Berks Fire Department Report is in the binders.

Supervisor Moyer requested permission to attend one of EBFD meetings, as a representative of the Board of Supervisors to ask some general questions. A motion was made by James Roma and seconded by Ernest Gehman authorizing Supervisor Moyer to attend an upcoming EBFD meeting representing the Washington Township Residents to ask questions about the status of the fire company and its future. **No public comments.**

All ayes

Chairman Roma announced an Executive Session was held this evening regarding litigation issues.

ZONING/SEO REPORT

Reports are in the binders

Engineer Weber indicated citations have been filed for the properties at 978 Route 100 and 11 Ehst Road and hearings have been scheduled for Thursday, May 18, 2017. Since the citations have been filed the property owner and/or tenant have made significant progress in cleaning up the properties.

Public Comment:

Connie Cordova 8 Wren Drive, does this property fall into the blighted category and it was stated no it does not.

A motion was made by Ernest Gehman and seconded by David Moyer authorizing LTL to file a continuance of the court case vs Ed Lehmann for 30 to 60 days pending further compliance by the tenant of the property. **No comments received.**

All ayes

A motion was made by James Roma and seconded by David Moyer authorizing LTL to investigate the Ed Lehmann property for compliance with Township Ordinances with respect to Commercial Operation and Nuisance laws. **No comments received.**

All ayes

All previous violations at the Lenape Mobile Home Park have been corrected. There has been a complaint about a generator running late at night.

Public Comment:

Doug Stetler Limekiln Road, stated an employee of his is a neighbor to the person with the running generator and asked who she should call at midnight to report the running generator? Mr. Weber stated the employee should call the LTL Office.

SEWER ENGINEER'S REPORT

A copy of the Sewer Engineer's Report is enclosed

A copy of the EEMA O & M Report is enclosed

The I/I investigation field work has been completed in the Weinstein Pump Station service area. Three laterals have been identified with infiltration, one of which has already been repaired. Gilmore will proceed with completing their report with recommendations and to send out notices out to the property owners to make the necessary repairs.

The Chapter 94 Report was submitted to DEP last month and is currently under review.

TOWNSHIP ENGINEER

A copy of the Township Engineer's Report is enclosed.

No report

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Mr. Becker circulated a draft ordinance regarding blighted properties and it is currently under review by the Board of Supervisors.

Mr. Becker explained there is legislation that deals with firearms that makes it very difficult and prohibits the municipal government from enacting legislation to regulate the ownership, possession, transportation of firearms, ammunition or ammunition components. There is additional legislation that says if targets are being used they are to be regulated targets that will not allow the ammunition to travel more than 15 yards beyond the target which deals with target practice for hunting. There is very little the township can do to regulate firearms.

Public Comment:

Charlene Andryko, Lenape Road, spoke about problems with a neighbor shooting in her neighborhood. Mr. Becker stated she can call the State Police.

Doug Stetler, Limekiln Road, asked what the uses are for the Sidewalk Fund, what can the money in that fund be spent on. Mr. Stetler stated he is looking at the balance in the Sidewalk Fund of \$132,000. It was explained this is in the General Fund. Mr. Stetler asked if this money could be used to help offset the cost of the traffic light. Mr. Sichler stated this money is already in the General Fund and there are no sidewalk projects planned.

SUPERVISORS

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- **Barto Road Traffic Signal** – Mr. Weber stated since the last meeting the Highway Occupancy Permit has been obtained from PennDOT, we also have the Signal Permit. All approvals and permits have been obtained and the Notice of Intent to Award has been issued to the low bidder. It will now take 12 to 14 weeks to obtain the poles for the project.

Public Comment:

Connie Cordova asked what the status is of the solar light. Mr. Sichler did look into obtaining the solar light. He explained the township has streetlight districts which a fee is paid by the residents in those districts to pay for the streetlights and the any improvements that may be needed. Mr. Sichler stated he is not convinced it would provide the way-finding capability that is desired and there probably are not funds in the budget this year to cover the expense of approximately \$5,000. Mr. Wynne felt this is not a street light but is more of a way-finding light. The Roadmaster reported PennDOT will be installing intersection signs for Hoffmansville Road and Stauffer Road both north and south bound and will also be installing new 36” stop signs. In addition, a double arrow sign will be installed on Route 100 across from Stauffer Road to indicate you must make a left or right turn.

- **Boyertown Soccer Club – JK Memorial Field** – Plans of the project have been provided and the Field Use Agreement is ready for approval. Supervisor Moyer state he is not inclined to agree to anything until a representative is present to answer questions and discuss the project. Supervisor Gehman also asked for a representative to attend the next meeting.
- **Public Works and Treatment Plant roof project bid results** – A Notice of Intent to Award was sent out to the low bidder. There has been some delay in their paperwork and the bonds were received late this afternoon.
- **Spring Valley Village, Swamp Creek lift station update** – There is ongoing discussion and are very close to an agreement. A motion was made by Ernest Gehman and seconded by David Moyer authorizing the appropriate township officials to execute the agreement for the Swamp Creek Pump Station conditioned upon review by the Engineer, Solicitor and Township Manager. **No comments received.**

All ayes

- A motion was made by James Roma and seconded by Ernest Gehman accepting the resignation of Public Works employee Logan Herb effective April 7, 2017. **No comments received.**

All ayes

- A motion was made by David Moyer and seconded by James Roma authorizing the township manager to review resumes and to set up interviews for the Public Works position. **No comments received.**

All ayes

NEW BUSINESS

Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) awareness presentation by Township Manager, Rich Sichler.

A motion was made by David Moyer and seconded by Ernest Gehman authorizing the township manager to submit an estimated amount of salt for purchase from Berks County Cooperative Purchasing Council and if the salt is cheaper to purchase from the Cooperative. **No comments received.**

All ayes

Public Comment:

Connie Cordova, questioned if there is a Neighborhood Crime Watch. It was explained Ms. Cordova should contact the township manager and it could be set up, form a committee for her specific neighborhood.

Chairman Roma stated the township has land along Gehringer Road and would like to make it usable for the public. It has been discussed to develop a small off the road parking lot so residents can park and walk into the wooded area.

A motion was made by James Roma and seconded by David Moyer authorizing the Township Manager to seek three quotations for the Gehringer Road open space proposed parking lot.

Public Comment:

Connie Cordova asked if this area would be dog friendly and was told the project has not been discussed that far as of yet.

Supervisor Moyer proposed renting a bulldozer and he would volunteer to clean out the area.

All ayes

SUBDIVISION/PLANNING

Bally Springs Phase 3 received Conditional Final Plan approval at their April meeting. A number of the conditions have not yet been met, therefore plan approval will be tabled until a majority of the items are completed.

The Brooke/Fronheiser Plan will be amended and resubmitted to the Planning Commission for review.

SUBDIVISION EXTENSION

None

COMMUNICATIONS

- Copy of the ARB Delinquent Account Report is enclosed.
- BWB Emergency Management meeting minutes dated 4/13/17
There was discussion the generator for the township building should power the entire building which would be an estimated cost of \$42,000 for which the township manager will look for grant sources. They also discussed the radio system and the possibility of having radios for Washington and Bechtelsville Municipal buildings however there are no extra radios.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Annual Spring Clean Up will be held Saturday, May 6, 2017 from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the Red Barn Recycling Center.

The next board of Supervisors meeting will be held on Thursday, May 25, 2017 at 7:00 pm.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by David Moyer and seconded by Ernest Gehman to adjourn the meeting at approximately 8:37 p.m. **No public comment received.**

All ayes

Respectfully submitted,

Richard Sichler
Manager/Secretary