

**WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
MINUTES  
MAY 25, 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.

It was announced Executive Sessions were held Tuesday, May 9, 2017 regarding a personnel matter and Thursday, May 25, 2017 regarding personnel and litigation matters.

**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., Township Manager, Richard Sichler, staff member Susan Brown and approximately seventeen (17) 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, Oberholtzer Road**, spoke about the Pinter property on Oberholtzer Road which is a single-family home. Mr. Rader claims this property is now housing multiple families and a three to four-hundred-pound pig. It was suggested Mr. Rader should complete a complaint form and submit it to the township office.

**Sharlene Andreyko, 226 Lenape Road**, expressed concerns pulling out of her driveway with her horse trailer due to speeding cars at the curve. Ms. Andreyko is requesting a 20 mph. speed limit sign be placed before the bend. Mr. Sichler stated he did take a look at the area and stated the township will take care of the installation of a sign.

**Sarah & Joe Grove, Lenape Mobile Home Park**, spoke about the running generator at the neighbor's property. Mr. Weber reported the Zoning Officer went to the site with the noise meter and the generator was running. The noise readings were taken at the property line and got a reading of 48 decibels, the ordinance allows 70 decibels during the day and 60 decibels at night, so the levels are within what is allowed. Mr. Grove explained this is a welder with ac/dc compatibility and is believed to be hot wired to the house. It was

suggested the Groves and other neighbors go together and take the matter to the property owner, this matter may fall under the mobile home park rules.

**Connie Cordova, Wren Drive**, asked if this is a township ordinance and if so can it be changed? It was explained it is a township ordinance and can be changed however 60 decibels is not a very high level. If the level would be lowered running a lawn mower would be exceeding the limit and would become a violation of the ordinance.

**Jim Treichler, Apple Street**, expressed concerns regarding cars bottoming out at the swale along Gehringer Road at the entrance/exit to Wendy's Greenhouse. Mr. Treichler feels the pipe that was removed a few years ago should be reinstalled and a storm drain installed to alleviate the problem. Mr. Treichler feels this pipe should not be replaced at the expense of the township taxpayers and feels the cost should be covered by the developer of Bally Springs however there is no proof that the damages were caused by Bally Springs constructions vehicles. A motion was made by Ernest Gehman and seconded by David Moyer to determine the cost to install pipe and drainage along Gehringer Road and send a letter with request for payment to Rotelle Development. **No comments received.**

**All ayes**

Mr. Treichler previously requested a buffer between his property and Bally Springs Phase 3. Mr. Weber indicated there aren't any home lots that adjoin the Treichler property.

Mr. Treichler also asked in which direction the sewer line runs. It was stated the sewer runs toward County Line Road and Back Country Road. Mr. Treichler stated he went through a condemnation of his property and is not sure how the township is going to address that issue. Mr. Treichler indicated there were legal fees incurred by him and spent thousands of dollars. Mr. Becker explained the prior action was taken by the Municipal Authority and the Authority has been disbanded and after that action the township found another resolution to the situation so Mr. Treichler wouldn't be burdened by the easement. Mr. Treichler again asked how the township is going to deal with the legal fees regarding this matter and Mr. Becker explained under Pennsylvania Law each party pays their own legal fees. Mr. Treichler asked if there is any money available to recoup and Mr. Becker stated no. Mr. Treichler stated he is bringing it up now because otherwise he will have to take legal action but is trying to resolve it with the township. Mr. Becker asked Mr. Treichler directly if he is asking the township to reimburse his legal fees to which Mr. Treichler answered yes. All three Supervisors stated no they will not reimburse his legal expenses.

#### **APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES OF APRIL 27, 2017**

A motion was made by David Moyer and seconded by Ernest Gehman to approve the minutes for the meeting of April 27, 2017 as prepared. **No comments received.**

**All ayes**

**TOWNSHIP REPORTS**

A motion was made by Ernest Gehman and seconded by David Moyer 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 May 25, 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	\$448,911.05
Light Tax	\$ 2,559.76
Hydrant Tax	\$ 2,149.80
Per Capita Tax	\$ 346.50
Amusement Tax	\$ 1,377.88
Total	\$455,344.99

**Public Comment:**

**Mary Ann Galloway, 2090 Old Route 100**, regarding an issue with the Township Roadcrew and would like to know how it was addressed. Mr. Sichler stated he conducted an investigation and stated improvements need to be made with respect to employee identification and will be addressing that matter. Mr. Sichler also stated he did not find the Roadcrew did anything worthy of any sort of disciplinary action. Mr. Becker stated this is a personnel matter and should not be addressed in a public meeting however Mrs. Galloway stated she wants it discussed in public and the complaint is noted. Mrs. Galloway requested an apology from Mr. Mohr. Supervisor Moyer asked Mrs. Galloway to accept an apology from Washington Township and stated he is sorry for what happened and stated it would not happen again. Chairman Roma stated this matter is closed.

Mrs. Galloway asked if everyone who is eligible hooked up to the sewer system and it was stated yes, everyone within 150 feet is connected.

**FIRE CHIEF’S REPORT**

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

**ZONING/SEO REPORT**

Reports are in the binders

**SEWER ENGINEER’S REPORT**

A copy of the Sewer Engineer’s Report is enclosed

A copy of the EEMA O & M Report is enclosed

I/I investigation completed in the Weinsteiger area, a few lateral repairs are required and notices will be sent out to those residents. A hole in a pipe will need to be addressed and will need to get quotes for the repair.

The part for the repair at Weinstein Pump Station has been installed on May 17, 2017 and will check the capacity to make certain the pump is performing as it should. Mr. Sichler stated he has talked to the pump supplier and the volute was mixed up due to a problem with part numbers and they seem receptive to us recouping some of the cost for all the work associated with replacing the volute.

**Public Comment:**

**Jim Treichler, Apple Street**, asked who is responsible to maintain the manholes in easement areas. The Township Manager stated the township is addressing this during the winter months due to the need for the ground to be frozen to allow access to most areas.

**TOWNSHIP ENGINEER**

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

No report

**SOLICITOR'S REPORT**

Mr. Becker stated the Medical Marijuana Ordinance and the Blighted Property Ordinance are ready to be moved forward to the Planning Commission for review and/or advertisement. The Medical Marijuana also needs review by Berks County Planning Commission. A motion was made by David Moyer and seconded by James Roma to forward the proposed draft ordinances on to the Township Planning Commission and/or the Berks County Planning Commission as required.

Motion made by James Roma amending the motion to include advertising of the ordinances when appropriate, seconded by David Moyer. **No comments received.**

**All ayes**

A motion was made by James Roma and seconded by Ernest Gehman authorize the Township Solicitor to enter an appearance for the Spring Valley Village Tax Assessment Appeal. **No comments received.**

**All ayes**

Mr. Sichler announced the Township received a Notice of Violation from DEP for the operation of the Waste Water Treatment Plant for equipment failure. The repair has been made and the equipment is back up and running. A response from the Township is due to DEP with an explanation of how the Township addressed the issue. A motion was made by David Moyer and seconded by Ernest Gehman authorizing the Township Manager to reply to DEP regarding the May 15, 2017 Notice of Violation for equipment failure. **No comments received.**

**All ayes**

**SUPERVISORS**

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

- **Barto Road Traffic Signal** – A contract documents have been received and reviewed by the Township Solicitor. Shop submittals have been received for all the poles and signal equipment and have been reviewed and approved. The poles have been ordered.

- **Boyertown Soccer Club – JK Memorial Field** – Representatives from the Boyertown Soccer Club were present this evening to discuss the plans for the new soccer field. Supervisor Moyer asked if there will be sponsorship signs put up at the field. It was stated yes, they would like to have some sponsors and the signs would be vinyl signs and would be placed within the inside of the fenced area. There will be a concession stand with plumbing, electric and restrooms. There will be two edu's which will be charged the quarterly user fee. As soon as the outstanding insurance matter is addressed the agreement can be executed.
- **Spring Valley Village, Swamp Creek lift station update** – Contract agreement has been signed by Spring Valley and are now waiting for the bank on the financial security.
- **Public Works and Treatment Plant roof project update** – Preconstruction meeting was held this week. Construction should begin next week at the Treatment Plant. The project should be completed by the June meeting.
- **Neighborhood Crime Watch update** – The Township Manager stated a policy was set up years ago however there were never any volunteers to carry it forward. Spring Valley Village is interested in having a program within their community. Mr. Sichler stated he would help out getting things started if needed.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Public works position** – Interviews have been conducted for a Public Works employee. A motion was made by David Moyer and seconded by Ernest Gehman authorizing the Township Manager to make an offer of employment for the Public Works position. **No comments received.**

**All ayes**

**Road Inspection Report** – A review of all township roads was completed and a list of roads requiring contract repair which will be projects for bid are as follows:

- Weinsteiger Road – overlay (priority for this year)
- Passmore Road from Wilt to Hoffmansville – overlay (priority for this year)
- Kulp's Road – FDR (next year)
- Crow Hill Road – FDR (next year)
- Sycamore Road – FDR (next year)
- Dairy Lane – FDR (next year)

There has been erosion in the area of the Grandview Raceway. This may be an area in need of storm water drainage and curbing. This will be investigated by the Township Manager and LTL Consultants.

In-house road project for this year will be as follows:

- Anthony's Mill Road (back side)
- Oberholtzer Road (back side)

In addition, LTL will take a look at what will be required to straighten Barto Road at the curve outside the township building.

A motion was made by Ernest Gehman and seconded by David Moyer authorizing the Township Manager to proceed with the investigation of bidding of the contract for the overlay projects of Weinsteiger Road from Wilt to Hoffmansville. **No comments received.**

**All ayes**

2016 Audit has been completed and was delivered this week. A motion was made by David Moyer and seconded by James Roma to advertise the budget is available for review. **No comments received.**

**All ayes**

The Red Barn Recycling Center was damaged by the hauling Contractor. The Contractor has agreed to pay for the damages.

### **SUBDIVISION/PLANNING**

Bally Springs Phase 3 – The Planning Commission recommended plan approval at their March meeting. We have received signed and sealed Plans however there are several outstanding items. There will be no action taken this evening and will be tabled until a majority of the items are completed.

### **SUBDIVISION EXTENSION**

A motion was made by David Moyer and seconded by James Roma granting the following Subdivision Extensions:

Bally Springs Phase 3	5/29/17 to 8/27/17
Brooke-Fronheiser	5/25/17 to 8/23/17

**No comments received.**

**All ayes**

### **COMMUNICATIONS**

- Copy of the ARB Delinquent Account Report is enclosed.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The next board of Supervisors meeting will be held on Thursday, June 22, 2017 at 7:00 pm.

### **Public Comment:**

**Mary Ann Galloway**, asked when if ever do you anticipate lowering the sewer rates? There are no intentions of lowering the rate this year, this is the funding needed to run the sewer system.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

### **ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made by Ernest Gehman and seconded by David Moyer to adjourn the meeting at approximately 8:30 p.m. **No public comment received.**

**All ayes**

Respectfully submitted,

Richard Sichler  
Manager/Secretary