

**WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
MINUTES  
AUGUST 24, 2017**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chairperson James Roma called the regularly scheduled meeting of the Washington Township Board of Supervisors to order at 7:05 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, Dan Becker, Esquire; John Weber representing LTL Consultants, Brian Brochon, Gilmore & Assoc., Township Manager, Richard Sichler, staff member Susan Brown and approximately twenty-two (22) 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.

Chairman Roma announced an Executive Session was held this evening at 6:00 p.m. regarding potential litigation.

A Special Meeting was held on August 2, 2017 regarding the Borough of Bally gaining access to cross a township road to run a public sewer line.

**SPECIAL REQUEST**

None

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

**Curtis Rader** stated he objects to everything that has taken place so far at tonight's meeting. Mr. Rader then spoke about quarry issues.

**Mrs. Galloway** asked if the Township will be spraying for the Lanternfly's in the Township and also if they will cut down the Tree of Heaven. Chairman Roma stated this is an issue that has been handled by the County and the Dept. of Agriculture. The Township is not equipped to spray for bugs. Cutting of trees would depend on the location of the trees. There is nothing the Township can do at this time.

**Charles Lawrence** a resident of Crow Hill Road is concerned with the speeding. The road is posted at 35 MPH and speeds are excessive on this roadway. Mr. Lawrence suggested getting a flashing speed limit sign. Chairman Roma stated the township could notify the PSP and Bally Borough Police to monitor the road for speeding.

**APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES OF JULY 27, 2017**

A motion was made by David Moyer and seconded by Ernest Gehman to approve the minutes for the meeting of July 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 August 24, 2017, and to file the treasurer's report for audit. **No comments received.**

**All ayes**

**TAX COLLECTOR**

Tax Collectors Report for the month of July 2017:

Real Estate Tax	\$ 790.61
Interim Tax	\$ 370.31
Per Capita Tax	\$ 4,390.70
Amusement Tax	<u>\$ 6,654.20</u>
Total	\$ 12,205.82

**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

- The replacement parts for the decanter SBR #1 were received and replaced earlier this month and DEP was notified.
- A composite sampler was purchased and will be installed in September.
- Swamp Creek P.S. upgrade meeting was held with DEP. An additional 20 sewer connections were requested and granted for Spring Valley Village for the remainder of 2017.
- Gilmore continues to work on an impact analysis for the Swamp Creed P.S. requested by DEP

Supervisor Moyer questioned consultant fees that are billed each month by the professionals for meetings and pre-meetings. Mr. Brochon stated there is a monthly meeting held with the WWTP Operators to review capital improvements, compliance issues, etc. Supervisor Moyer is concerned with the amount of money being spent on professional fees. Supervisor Moyer stated he feels hiring a part-time person should be looked at to operate the Treatment Plant. Mr. Brochon suggested meeting less frequently

if the township so desires. Supervisor Gehman agreed with Mr. Moyer stating some of the expenses are excessive.

**Public Comment:**

**Linwood Heffner** asked what the labor rate is per hour for the operator. The Township Manager will check on the rate.

**Mrs. Galloway** asked if there will be more homes connected to the sewer system. It was stated yes, that is the reason for the pump station expansion. There was brief discussion regarding the sewer rates.

**TOWNSHIP ENGINEER**

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

No report

There are no active plans in front of the Planning Commission other than Brooke-Fronheiser however there have been no revised plans submitted.

Bally Springs Phase 2 continues to build houses and phase 3 has started the bulk earth work however they are behind schedule due to the weather.

2017 Road Project specifications and bids were prepared and bids were opened on August 21<sup>st</sup>. There were four bids submitted and the low bid was Ronnie C. Folk Paving.

A motion was made by David Moyer and seconded by Ernest Gehman awarding the 2017 Road Project to Ronnie C. Folk Paving, including the base bid, Alternates A & B for a total of \$194,327.15. **No comments received.**

**All ayes**

A motion was made by James Roma and seconded by Ernest Gehman reserving the right to award Alternate C based on other potential options on line painting. **No comments received.**

**All ayes**

It was requested the area residents are notified prior to the start of the road work.

Weinsteiger Road base repairs are underway the Roadcrew has encountered very large areas that need milling prompting the need for an outside contractor to come in and assist. The additional cost would be approximately \$10,000 for the contractor plus the cost of material. The Roadcrew would also receive assistance from Douglass Township.

A motion was made by David Moyer and seconded by Ernest Gehman authorizing additional charge, not to exceed \$10,000, to be put toward base repairs as supplied by Reed Paving Contractors Inc. **No comments received.**

**All ayes**

**Public Comment:**

**John Wynne** asked how Wells Fargo is doing finding a developer for the West Tract. Mr. Weber indicated he has not heard anything in several months.

**SOLICITOR'S REPORT**

Mr. Becker reported the Blighted Property Ordinance has been discussed, sent to the Planning Commission and is ready for the Board to take action.

A motion was made by David Moyer and seconded by James Roma accepting the properly advertised Blighted Properties Ordinance. **No comments received.**

**All ayes**

A motion was made by Ernest Gehman and seconded by James Roma authorizing the PRD Amendment to be distributed to the Berks County and Township Planning Commissions for review and comments. **No comments received.**

**James Roma – aye**

**Ernest Gehman – aye**

**David Moyer – opposed**

Supervisor Moyer asked when there are trees in the right of way and a property owner does not want them touched and a tree falls down in a storm and the Roadcrew has to go out to clean up the fallen tree can the property owner be back charged. Solicitor Becker stated that he believes that is a possibility. Chairman Roma stated if there are any known trees in the township that are at risk the property owner should be contacted.

**SUPERVISORS**

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

Barto Road traffic light update – construction was started on Monday and things are going well so far. Gehringer Road is restricted to one lane.

**NEW BUSINESS**

There has been some vandalism at the township parks. The Township Manager will check into additional security.

Mr. Sichler reported he is included in monthly conference calls with the Dept. of Agriculture regarding the Spotted Lanternfly and there are links on the township website for additional information.

Mr. Sichler reported the sludge hauling contract expires in December. Mr. Sichler would like to make some minor changes to the contract and advertise. A motion was made by Ernest Gehman and seconded by James Roma authorizing the advertisement of the sludge hauling contract. **No comments received.**

**All ayes**

Bally Borough will be having their annual Halloween Parade and would like a letter from the township stating that the township is aware that they will be using portions of

township roads as part of their detour. A motion was made by David Moyer and seconded by Ernest Gehman authorizing the Township Manager to draft a letter to Bally Borough as outlined. **No comments received.**

**All ayes**

Mr. Sichler reported PADEP has received an application from Specialty Disposal Services for a new Municipal Waste Transfer Station in Coalbrookdale Township. The facility is proposing to receive up to 1,000 tons per year of off spec and outdated pharmaceuticals for off-site transfer permitted disposal facilities. There will be a public hearing on Thursday, September 14, 2017 at the township building.

Supervisor Moyer suggested meeting with the Fire Department to discuss budget and a fire tax being proposed by the Fire Dept. Budget meeting dates are set for October 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m.

**SUBDIVISION/PLANNING**

None

**SUBDIVISION EXTENSION**

A motion was made by James Roma, seconded by David Moyer granting the following Subdivision Extension:

Brooke-Fronheiser                      8/24/17 to 11/22/17

**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, September 28, 2017 at 7:00 pm.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made by James Roma and seconded by Ernest Gehman to adjourn the meeting at approximately 8:36 p.m. **No public comment received.**

**All ayes**

Respectfully submitted,

Richard Sichler  
Manager/Secretary