

**WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
MINUTES
DECEMBER 21, 2017**

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson James Roma called the regularly scheduled meeting of the Washington Township Board of Supervisors to order at 7:03 p.m., at the Washington Township Municipal Building.

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 forty-four (44) 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 to discuss litigation.

SPECIAL REQUEST

None

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Leroy Renson, discussed a continuing snow removal issues with a neighboring property. Mr. Sichler stated a letter will be sent to this property owner as well as a notice being posted on the township website.

Curtis Rader, discussed quarry issues and requested to be on the agenda for the January meeting.

Mary & Michael Grepps, asked if all homeowners are paying for the sewer. It was explained there is a designated service area and residents and businesses within that area are connected. The sewer debt was explained and it was also explained there is no grant money for existing debt.

Carol Latch, asked why the sewer bill is not being adjusted since additional connections have been made. It was explained the possibility of lowering the sewer rate is looked at every year during the budget process.

Floyd Harkinson, asked if the bond issue can be refinanced. Mr. Sichler explained the bond issue was done in 2012 with a limit as to when the bond issue can be refinanced and the township would not be eligible until 2019.

Jim Daulerio, asked if the fiscal year for the sewer billing is changing, to which he was told yes. Mr. Daulerio also asked if the traffic light has been synchronized and was told the light is not synchronized with the other lights on Route 100 however it is working as designed.

Dave Starns, stated he will be paying for 13 months of sewer because of the change and Mr. Wynne's proposal of a transitional credit was ignored.

Kathy Yans, spoke about the sewer rate and stated the high rate should be spread out throughout the entire township. Ms. Yans stated she can not afford to pay for 13 months in one year and it was explained she is only paying 11 months in 2017. Ms. Yans stated the farmers and people who are on septic systems are getting away free and it was explained they also are not getting any of the benefit either.

Jim Treichler, stated he had the fence which was removed for the installation of the traffic light reinstalled on his property. Mr. Treichler distributed a letter sent to him from John Weber dated 12/12/13 and also presented an invoice for the completed work.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 16, 2017 REGULAR BOS MEETING AND SPECIAL MEETING OF DECEMBER 12, 2017

A motion was made by David Moyer and seconded by Ernest Gehman to approve the minutes for the meeting of November 16, 2017 as prepared and the December 12, 2017 meeting minutes as amended with the absence of the Township Engineer noted. **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 December 21, 2017, and to file the treasurer's report for audit. **No comments received.**

All ayes

TAX COLLECTOR

Tax Collectors Report for the month of November 2017:

Real Estate Tax	\$ 1,396.20
Interim Tax	\$ 1,232.52
Per Capita Tax	<u>\$ 511.50</u>
Total	\$ 3,140.22

FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT

A copy of the Eastern Berks Fire Department Report is in the binders. There has been a total of 403 calls this year and 14 calls in Washington Township this month so far.

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 Semi-annual CAP Report was submitted to DEP.

A review of the Plans for the Swamp Creek PS upgrade has been completed and comments have been issued and awaiting resubmission.

TOWNSHIP ENGINEER

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

The Bruce Ritter Simple Conveyance has been reviewed and is on the agenda this evening for consideration for approval. The process is underway for the Shuhler Minor Subdivision and will be issuing a review letter tomorrow and will be on the January Planning Commission agenda.

Bally Springs Phase III construction is continuing.

Escrow Release for Spring Valley Village is going to be tabled due to some documentation that is still needed.

Public Comment:

John Wynne asked the status of the Minge application. Mr. Weber stated the township is in the process of determining the validity of the application.

Laura Pagotto asked what PRD and HDV are and what the difference is which was explained by Mr. Weber.

Peg Stewart asked what zoning was changed at the December 12th meeting. It was explained the PRD (Planned Residential Development) was removed and reverted back to HDV (High Density Village).

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

No report

SUPERVISORS

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- Dump truck purchase-A motion was made by David Moyer and seconded by Ernest Gehman approving the payment of \$103,547 to Berman Freightliner for the new truck chassis. **No comments received.**
All ayes
- A motion was made by David Moyer and seconded by Ernest Gehman approving the payment of \$69,888 to E.M. Kutz for the body, spreader, tool box and pre-wet system. **No comments received.**
All ayes
- Server purchase-Mr. Sichler requested the funds for the purchase of a new server be transferred from the 2017 budget to the 2018 budget. At Mr. Sichlers request a motion was made by David Moyer and seconded by James Roma to move the funds and order the server. **No comments received.**

All ayes

- An application for payment from Grace Industries has been received. A Maintenance Bond has been posted. A motion was made by David Moyer and seconded by James Roma accepting the Maintenance Bond and releasing their escrow of \$68,478.79.

Public Comment:

Jim Treichler stated there are still some outstanding items and the final bill should not be paid.

- A motion was made by James Roma and seconded by Ernest Gehman accepting the Maintenance Bond and to release the \$68,478.79 escrow. **No comments received.**

All ayes

Supervisor Moyer stated the offer was made to Mr. Treichler to have the township install his fence. Given that fact Mr. Moyer proposed to pay for the labor for the installation of the fence but not for the materials. Mr. Moyer proposed paying \$791 toward the fence. Mr. Treichler stated he feels the Supervisors should discuss this with the Solicitor.

- **Budget clean-up:** A motion was made by James Roma, seconded by David Moyer authorizing the transfer of \$193,738.72 from Traffic Impact Fund to the General Fund. **No comments received.**

All ayes

- A motion was made by James Roma and seconded by Ernest Gehman authorizing the adjustment of the 2017 Budget line item 01.433.600 from \$240,000 to \$637,620.96. **No comments received.**

All ayes

- A motion was made by James Roma, seconded by Ernest Gehman to increase the Traffic Impact Fund transfer to the General Fund from \$150,000 to \$193,738.72. **No comments received.**

All ayes

- 2018 Budget has been advertised and is ready for approval with the following modifications:
407.740 increase by \$6,000
411.533 correct the amount to reflect \$20,000
412.551 correct the amount to reflect \$10,000

Public Comment:

John Wynne asked if the budgeted sewer revenue is for 12 or 13 months. Mr. Sichler explained he left it at 12 months assuming a lot of the revenue will not come in until after the end of December. Mr. Wynne again asked for the transition credit of \$115. There was no motion made for the transition credit.

- A motion was made by Ernest Gehman, seconded by James Roma approving the 2018 Budget as amended. **No comments received.**

James Roma-aye
Ernest Gehman-aye
David Moyer-opposed

NEW BUSINESS

- Act 42 of 2017, Mini Casino opt out. No action taken on this matter.

Sludge Hauling Bids-two bids received, one was non-responsive. Recommended to reject all bids and re-advertise and re-bid. A motion was made by David Moyer and seconded by Ernest Gehman authorizing the rejection of all sludge hauling bids and to re-advertise and re-bid the sludge hauling contract. **No Comments received.**

All ayes

A motion was made by James Roma and seconded by David Moyer authorizing the purchase of a pocket Colorimeter for \$487 and a chemical pump in the amount of \$635 and accessories in the amount of \$78.50. **No Comments received.**

All ayes

SUBDIVISION/PLANNING

- **Bruce Ritter Simple Conveyance**-Mr. Ritter will purchase 10 acres from the Ehst Tract which will add to his existing 5-acre property.

A motion was made by David Moyer and seconded by Ernest Gehman approving the waiver request from Section 107-47.A(2) permanent concrete monuments. **No Comments received.**

All ayes

A motion was made by David Moyer and seconded by James Roma granting Preliminary/Final approval conditioned upon the December 15, 2017 LTL Review Letter. **No Comments received.**

All ayes

SUBDIVISION EXTENSION

A motion was made by James Roma, seconded by Ernest Gehman granting the following Subdivision Extension:

Shuhler Farm 01/01/18 to 04/01/18

No Comments received.

All ayes

COMMUNICATIONS

Enclosed are the December 8, 2017 Safety Committee Meeting Minutes

Rate proposals are enclosed for the Professional Staff. Mr. Weber stated LTL Consultants are rescinding their request for a rate increase and propose to hold the rates at the 2017 rate.

A motion was made by David Moyer and seconded by James Roma accepting the proposed Professional Rate Schedules for 2018. **No Comments received.**

All ayes

Supervisor Moyer thanked Supervisor Gehman for his service as a supervisor and encouraged him to volunteer for committee openings.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- ❖ The Board of Supervisors Reorganization meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 2, 2018 at 5:30 pm.
- ❖ The next regular board of Supervisors meeting will be held on Thursday, January 25, 2018 at 7:00 pm.

Public Comment:

Peg Stewart again asked for the outcome of the survey. Mr. Roma stated the County will not be handing out results. Mr. Roma will ask if there is any way to see the results.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by David Moyer and seconded by James Roma to adjourn the meeting at approximately 8:43 p.m. **No public comment received.**

All ayes

Respectfully submitted,

Richard Sichler
Manager/Secretary