

**WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
MINUTES
NOVEMBER 16, 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.

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 eighteen (18) 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. to discuss pending litigation.

SPECIAL REQUEST

None

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Curtis Rader-Quarry issues.

Connie Cordova-Ms. Cordova thanked the township for the installation of the pedestrian crosswalk on Stauffer Road.

Susan Lopez-Ms. Lopez, Director of Boyertown Community Library, thanked the township for their continued support and donation. The Library has moved to their new location at 24 N Reading Avenue which will allow them to offer more services. Washington Township has 585 active card members.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES OF OCTOBER 16, 2017 BUDGET MEETING, OCTOBER 26, 2017 JOINT MEETING & OCTOBER 26, 2017

REGULAR BOS MEETING

A motion was made by Ernest Gehman and seconded by David Moyer to approve the minutes for the meetings of October 16, 2017 & October 26, 2017 as prepared. **No comments received.**

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 November 16, 2017, and to file the treasurer's report for audit. **No comments received.**

All ayes

TAX COLLECTOR

Tax Collectors Report for the month of October 2017:

Real Estate Tax	\$ 3,259.58
Interim Tax	\$ 2,126.91
Per Capita Tax	\$ 1,206.50
Amusement Tax	\$ <u>2,002.14</u>
Total	\$ 8,595.13

FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT

A copy of the Eastern Berks Fire Department Report is in the binders. Mr. Bakes was present this evening and thanked the Board of Supervisors for the donation and also the donation to the Bally Ambulance Service. Mr. Bakes reported there have been 380 calls so far, this year. There is a ham and beef dinner this Saturday at the Bechtelsville Station.

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 Township has received the NPDES Permit for the Treatment Plant, effective December 1, 2017 for a five-year term.

The Swamp Creek Pump Station expansion plans are under review at this time.

Bally Springs Phase 3 construction sewer main and laterals are complete and testing is underway.

TOWNSHIP ENGINEER

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

Mr. Weber reported there are currently two (2) plans before the Planning Commission. The Bruce Ritter Annexation and the Shuhler Farm Plan accepted by the Planning Commission at their November meeting.

Bally Springs Phase 3 stormwater facilities are complete and they hope to pave the roads before the end of the year.

Mr. Weber indicated the township received a letter from PADEP regarding their Holding Tank Ordinance and noted a deficiency in the ordinance. They are asking the township to amend the ordinance to correct the deficiency. A motion was made by Ernest Gehman, seconded by James Roma authorizing LTL Consultants to work with the Solicitor and the Township Manager to prepare a Holding Tank Ordinance for consideration by the Township. **No comments received.**

All ayes

Public Comment:

Mr. Bakes noted there are no street signs for Bally Springs Phase 2 and stated in the event of an emergency it would be difficult to locate a property without any signage. Mr. Weber will check with the Developer on erecting street signs.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

The PRD Ordinance and Property Maintenance Ordinance are scheduled for consideration on December 12th.

The UCC Board of Appeals was convened due to some construction located at 1180 Route 100 regarding steps. The Board concluded the variance should be granted.

SUPERVISORS

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Barto Road traffic light update & Payment Application #2 – The traffic light is fully functional and punch list items have been completed.

A motion was made by Ernest Gehman and seconded by David Moyer authorizing the release of payment to Grace Industries in the amount of \$401,752.31. Mr. Moyer asked about the previously discussed turn arrow. Mr. Sichler stated PADOT indicated the turn arrow is not allowed at this point based on the traffic study.

All ayes

2018 Budget-Budget has been advertised for approval at the December 21, 2017 meeting.

Water/Sewer Billing Update-Manager Sichler explained the current billing schedule and stated the billing will be changing to a calendar quarter schedule. Mr. Sichler stated a bill could be sent out for a one-month period for December or bill for four months in the first quarter or consider some type of credit. The Supervisors agreed to proceed with a four-month billing for the first quarter of 2018.

Public Comment:

John Wynne-stated there are three consequences to the proposed change.

- Debt repayment schedule
- Worst time of year to pay between Christmas & New Year
- Phone calls about additional \$115 in first bill

If there were a “transitional credit” it would not change the approved budget. Mr. Wynne stated for a lousy \$115 do the transitional credit and eliminate the noise, go on the

calendar year if you want to, no foul and everybody is happy. Mr. Sichler stated the funds are available therefore the debt repayment schedule is unaffected.

John Christman-stated he has a master degree and he was also a football coach and knows how to motivate people and knows there will be people who will need no motivation at all if hit with an extra \$115.

Supervisor Moyer explained this change is not only to parallel Bally Borough billing but also to minimize the confusion when filing liens and testifying at delinquent account hearings.

It was stated the past billing was done on a calendar quarter and it is in the Sewer Regulations that billing is on a calendar quarter.

2018 Sludge Hauling Contract-Mr. Sichler indicated the Sludge Hauling Contract expires at the end of this year. Mr. Sichler will bid it differently going forward, separating the trucking from the disposal.

Sale of 1996 International Dump Truck-Mr. Sichler advertised the truck which is being replaced. It was posted on an auction site, bidding ended yesterday with the high bid of \$26,300. A motion was made by Ernest Gehman and seconded by David Moyer accepting the high bid. **No comments received.**

All ayes

A motion was made by David Moyer, seconded by James Roma authorizing the Township Manager to sign the title to sell the truck. **No comments received.**

All ayes

A motion was made by Ernest Gehman and seconded by David Moyer authorizing the payment of \$194,128.98 to Ronnie C. Folk Paving for the completed road projects. **No comments received.**

All ayes

NEW BUSINESS

Boyertown Soccer Club Sign Request-The Annual Boyertown Blast is this weekend at Washington Park and have requested to place a temporary sign during the tournament and leave the sign to promote the field. The consensus is the Soccer Club will need a permit to place the sign.

War Memorial maintenance & repairs-Mr. Sichler stated there are some necessary repairs that are needed at the War Memorial and there is a line item in the budget with funds available. A motion was made by James Roma and seconded by David Moyer authorizing the Township Manager to collect maintenance and repair price quotes for the War Memorial. **No comments received.**

All ayes

William Rhoads Fence-The fence can be reinstalled but must be out of the right-of-way. A motion was made by David Moyer, seconded by Ernest Gehman authorizing the

township to obtain a temporary construction easement, the property owner purchases all parts and the township installs the salvageable parts of the fence. **No comments received.**

All ayes

SUBDIVISION/PLANNING

None

SUBDIVISION EXTENSION

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

Bruce Ritter 12/19/17 to 3/19/18

No comments received.

All ayes

COMMUNICATIONS

- Copy of the ARB Delinquent Account Report is enclosed.
- A copy of Safety Committee Minutes of October 20, 2017

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- ❖ A special meeting to consider amending the zoning ordinance chapter relative to Planned Residential Development (PRD) and to update the Property Maintenance Ordinance will be held on December 12, 2017 at 6:00 p.m.
- ❖ The next regular board of Supervisors meeting will be held on Thursday, December 21, 2017 at 7:00 pm.

Public Comment:

Doug Stettler-said kudos to the Public Works Dept. for taking good care of the truck enabling the township to get a high selling price. Mr. Stettler also asked if there is any resolution with Peter Rotelle. Chairman Roma stated there is a resolution in the works and should be finalized very soon.

Chairman Roma announced there was an Executive Session held on November 6 2017 regarding litigation.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by David Moyer and seconded by James Roma to adjourn the meeting at approximately 8:03 p.m. **No public comment received.**

All ayes

Respectfully submitted,

Richard Sichler
Manager/Secretary