

**WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 27, 2018**

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman David Moyer 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. The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chairman Moyer announced an Executive Session was held this evening to discuss potential litigation.

ROLL CALL

The following members were present: Supervisors, David Moyer, Thomas Powanda, James Roma, Solicitor, Daniel Becker, Esquire; John Weber representing LTL Consultants, Brian Brochon, Gilmore & Assoc., Township Manager, Richard Sichler, staff member Susan Brown and approximately thirty-nine (39) residents in attendance.

Absent:

TAPING OF MEETING

The meeting was recorded as an aid in the preparation of the minutes. It was noted Richard Mingey was taping the meeting this evening in addition to township staff.

SPECIAL REQUEST

None

PUBLIC COMMENT

John Wynne, 17 Eagles Watch, stated this is a courtesy heads up to the Board of Supervisors that he will be arguing for a sewer rate reduction specifically in the amount of \$200. \$108 coming from the consultant report and the remaining \$92 coming from the General Fund. The reason being, the debt is a general obligation debt not a revenue bond, which brings to the table all sources of available revenue in order to pay off the annual debt service not just sewer revenue.

Joe Lewis, 85 Laura Drive, expressed concerns regarding a parking situation at Washington Park. People are parking on both sides of Niantic Road during soccer games which is creating an unsafe situation for people trying to get into and out of Victoria Village. There is parking available in the park however people are parking along the road. Supervisor Roma stated this could be addressed by contacting the Soccer Club and will call them to discuss. Chairman Moyer suggested no parking signs on one side of the street. A motion was made by David Moyer and seconded by Thomas Powanda to establish no parking on the north side of Niantic Road. **No comments received.**

All ayes

Amanda Lewis, 85 Laura Drive, expressed concerns regarding the parking for the new soccer field which is under construction. Supervisor Roma stated parking will be at the existing soccer field closest to the school.

Roy Benninghoff, 2 Chase Circle, representing the Bally Springs HOA to discuss the streetlights for phase 2 of the subdivision. Mr. Benninghoff stated they are all one community and no one wants the streetlights in the community. Mr. Benninghoff indicated a vote was taken at their meeting and the vote passed with the majority voting against having streetlights. Mr. Sichler stated the streetlights in phase 1 had a plan revision and a waiver was granted to eliminate the streetlights for phase 1 and it was recorded with the revised plan. Mr. Becker explained that anyone of the people who voted against the removal of the streetlights could come in and say they want the streetlights which creates a legal issue for the Township. The Board has concluded that the streetlights will remain, they are a part of the recorded plan and the streetlights must go in.

German Sanchez, 12 O'Donoghue, stated about 90% of all the home owners have their lights on during the night and some have had pole lights installed on their property. Mr. Sanchez disagrees with the decision of the Supervisors.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES OF AUGUST 23, 2018

Chairman Moyer made a correction to page 2 of the minutes. Discussion of Grandview Raceway referencing the last race start time as midnight, corrected to 11:45 p.m.

A motion was made by James Roma and seconded by Thomas Powanda to approve the meeting minutes as amended. **No comments received.**

All ayes

TOWNSHIP REPORTS

A motion was made by Thomas Powanda 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 September 27, 2018, and to file the treasurer's report for audit. **No comments received.**

All ayes

TAX COLLECTOR

Tax Collectors Report for the month of August 2018:

Real Estate Tax	\$ 1,136.93
Interim Tax	\$ 4,699.71
Per Capita Tax	\$ 8,903.20
Amusement Tax	<u>\$ 5,481.14</u>
Total	\$20,220.98

FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT

A copy of the Eastern Berks Fire Department Report is enclosed.

October is Fire Prevention Month and the Fire Department is offering a great deal on the purchase of fire extinguishers.

ZONING/SEO REPORT

Reports are in the binders.

SEWER ENGINEER'S REPORT

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

A copy of the EEMA O & M Report is enclosed

The Swamp Creek Pump Station Permit has been issued by PADEP for the upgrades.

The materials submittal process will begin for the construction of the pump station.

TOWNSHIP ENGINEER

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

Mr. Weber received a request from two residents, lot 64 Sean Murtagh and lot 74 Wayne Moritz, to either modify or eliminate street trees that are called for on the landscape plan of Bally Springs phase 2 subdivision. On lot 74 there are six trees proposed and the owner has indicated they would like two to four trees. The owner of lot 64 indicated he has a small frontage to work with and will be getting one of the street lights placed on his lot. He has his driveway as well as the watermain, the termination of the street watermain, the sewer lateral and the Met-Ed box. Mr. Moritz would like to find a more appropriate place on his property for the trees. Mr. Weber indicated these types of requests have been considered in the past and suggested the request should be submitted in writing to the Developer and/or the Township for consideration.

Public Comment:

Mr. Benninghoff, stated the question will come up, if we can remove or move trees, why can't we remove streetlights. Mr. Becker explained this is on an individual lot not necessarily in the right of way and also the Supervisors have determined the lights are for the safety of their drivers as well as the safety of others.

A motion was made by Thomas Powanda and seconded by James Roma authorizing the relocation of street trees within Bally Springs phase 2 provided the property owner makes a written request to the developer and the township and the relocation is approved by the township engineer. **No comments received.**

All ayes

Mr. Weber reported the annual MS4 Report was submitted today for the current MS4 Permit and the application for the new MS4 Permit will be submitted next week.

Mr. Weber spoke about ongoing stormwater issues at Old Route 100 and Limekiln Roads. It was discussed the Township Manager could approach Bechtelsville Borough and property owners in the area to look at a stormwater management system for this location. This would be a significant and long-term project. The properties at 2003 Old

Route 100 and 91 Limekiln Roads, one has dug a trench to concentrate water from their property onto Limekiln Road and the other property has installed a pipe discharging out onto Limekiln Road. Those conditions are in violation of the stormwater management ordinance. If the Board is so inclined a letter of violation could be issued. Supervisor Roma felt the matter should be addressed. The owner of 91 Limekiln was present and asked for suggestions of what to do with the water. Mr. Weber suggested the three neighbors getting together and looking at doing some type of system to collect the water. There will continue to be groundwater issues at these properties if something is not done. It was noted the drain below the storage units has almost completely washed out at this point, so something needs to be done soon.

Public Comment:

John Christman, SVV, asked about the proposed streetlight at Route 100 and Stauffer Road. Mr. Christman stated Bally Springs has to have streetlights because of the safety issue, yet the light at Route 100 and Stauffer Road never happened, there was no follow thru on that and the light was never finalized. Mr. Christman stated there is no bigger safety issue then Route 100 and Stauffer Road.

Shuhler Farm Minor Plan- Mr. Matt Doll, was present representing the Shuhler Farm Minor Plan and is seeking final plan approval. The applicants are also seeking the following waiver requests:

- Section 107-18.A(3)(a) requesting a waiver to allow this plan as a minor subdivision
- Section 107.18.B(3)(c)[1] requesting waiver to allow limited existing features as currently shown on the plan
- Section 107-18.B(3)[2][b] requesting a waiver from showing building setback lines for all lots
- Section 107-33.H requesting a waiver to allow a common driveway to lots 1 & 2 (an access easement agreement has been executed by Ehst and Bally and has been provided)
- Section 107-47.A(2) requesting a waiver to place concrete monuments only as shown on the plan
- Section 107-73.A requesting a waiver from street trees

A motion was made by James Roma and seconded by David Moyer granting the requested waivers per the LTL Review letter dated September 26, 2018. **No comments received.**

All ayes

A motion was made by Thomas Powanda and seconded by David Moyer granting conditional final plan approval subject to the conditions contained in the September 26, 2018 LTL Review Letter. **No comments received.**

All ayes

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

None

SUPERVISORS

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Trench Box/equipment purchase-A motion was made by Thomas Powanda and seconded by James Roma authorizing the purchase of a trench box and related equipment in the amount of \$3,591. **No comments received.**

All ayes

NEW BUSINESS

Employee Holiday Schedule & Meeting Schedule for 2019-A motion was made by James Roma and seconded by Thomas Powanda approving the 2019 employee holiday schedule and meeting schedule as presented. **No comments received.**

All ayes

2019 Minimum Municipal Obligation (MMO)-Pension Plan-Mr. Sichler reported the township contribution to the employee pension plan in the amount of \$39,528. Most of this amount is covered by state aid. The state aid check for last year was approximately \$34,000. **So noted.**

Insurance renewal-A motion was made by Thomas Powanda and seconded by James Roma authorizing the township insurance renewal with EMC Insurance Co. in the amount of \$26,071. **No comments received.**

All ayes

2019 Budget Process-Mr. Sichler has provided budget graphs to the Board showing the trends for the year. Mr. Sichler announced budget meeting will be held Monday, October 15, 2018 at 6:00 p.m.

Prestige Partners mine subsidence incident-Mr. Sichler reported Prestige has installed a chain link fence around the mine shaft that has opened up on the property at Meadowbrooke. The Bureau of Abandon Mines has been at the site to evaluate the mine and have sought funds and have received a grant for \$40,000 and are currently in the process of obtaining property owner access. The opening will be filled with stone and are hopeful to have this completed by fall.

Diamond Disposal-A Zoning Hearing regarding Diamond Disposal has been scheduled for Tuesday, October 9, 2018 at 6:00 p.m. Mr. Matt Doll, representing Diamond Disposal explained his client has filed application for variance for zoning relief. The applicant is requesting the Board of Supervisors offer support of the variance or a neutral response. The Board of Supervisors offer the following:

- Facility/location is not a transfer station or dump
- Resolution to driveway issue
- Buildings need to be up to code
- Sewer edu(s) appropriate

A motion was made by David Moyer and seconded by James Roma authorizing the township manager to prepare a letter to the Zoning Hearing Board indicating the Board of Supervisors are not opposed but if approved it is with the conditions as outlined. **No comments received.**

All ayes

Disposal of Public Records-A motion was made by Thomas Powanda and seconded by James Roma authorizing Resolution No. 2018-22 allowing the disposal of the following:

2 cubic feet of general correspondence

2007 Financial Interest Statements

2 cubic feet of insurance policies from 1998 to 2004

½ cubic foot of employment applications from 2005 to 2007

½ cubic foot of former employee personnel files from 2005 to 2007

No comments received.

All ayes

Sale of truck parts-A new Ford F-250 truck and immediately put a liftgate on the back, when we took delivery of the truck the tailgate and bumper were supplied to us. The parts were listed on Municibid for sale, bidding ended this morning. The tailgate received a high bid of \$343. And the bumper received a high bid of \$72. A motion was made by David Moyer and seconded by Thomas Powanda to accept the high bids as outlined. **No comments received.**

All aye

Chairman Moyer stated he would like to sell the 1947 grater with an opening bid of \$2,000. A motion was made by David Moyer and seconded by Thomas Powanda authorizing the sale of the 1947 grater, not to include the V plow on Municibid with an opening bid of \$2,000 and to award to the highest bidder. **No comments received.**

All ayes

Road Occupancy Permits-Mr. Sichler stated he has two Occupancy Permits for approval. The applicant is Jeff's Underground Services to install a telephone line at 35/38 Stacey Drive. The second permit is for applicant Premier Construction Solutions at 1980 County Line Road to connect to the stormsewer and sewer connection. A motion was made by James Roma, seconded by Thomas Powanda approving both Occupancy Permits as outlined. **No comments received.**

All ayes

County Line Rd Bridge-Notification was received from PADOT informing the township they plan to replace the bridge with construction starting in spring and completion scheduled for fall. Mr. Weber stated the sewer line for Clover Hill should be installed prior to the bridge work taking place.

SUBDIVISION/PLANNING

None

SUBDIVISION EXTENSION

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

Shuhler Farm 09/30/18 to 12/28/18

No comments received.

All ayes

COMMUNICATIONS

Copy of the ARB Delinquent Account Report is enclosed.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Budget meeting is scheduled for Monday, October 15, 2018 at 6:00 p.m. and Tuesday, October 16, 2018 at 6:00 p.m. (if needed).

The next WTMA (water) meeting is scheduled for Thursday, October 25, 2018 at 6:30 p.m.

The next board of Supervisors meeting will be held on Thursday, October 25, 2018 at 7:00 pm.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

An Executive Session was called at 8:28 p.m. to discuss a personnel matter. The meeting reconvened 8:48 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by James Roma and seconded by David Moyer to adjourn the meeting at approximately 8:48 p.m. **No public comment received.**

All ayes

Respectfully submitted,

Richard Sichler
Manager/Secretary