

**WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
MINUTES
DECEMBER 20, 2018**

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman David Moyer called the regularly scheduled meeting of the Washington Township Board of Supervisors to order at 7:02 p.m., at the Washington Township Municipal Building. The meeting opened with a moment of silence in remembrance of a former resident and volunteer, Arlene Heffner and the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

The following members were present: Supervisors, David Moyer, James Roma, Thomas Powanda, John Weber representing LTL Consultants, Daniel Becker, Solicitor, Township Manager, Richard Sichler, and approximately ten (10) residents in attendance.

Absent:

TAPING OF MEETING

The meeting was recorded as an aid in the preparation of the minutes. It was noted that no one other than the Township Manager was taping the meeting this evening.

SPECIAL REQUEST

None

PUBLIC COMMENT

Carol Latch, SVV, asked about the status of collectables. Mr. Sichler explained it is an ongoing process. A meeting will be scheduled with ARB to see if there is any way we can improve the process.

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

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 15, 2018

A motion was made by Thomas Powanda and seconded by David Moyer to approve the meeting minutes as prepared. **No comments received.**

All ayes

TOWNSHIP REPORTS

A motion was made by James Roma and seconded by Thomas Powanda 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 20, 2018, and to file the treasurer's report for audit. **No comments received.**

All ayes

TAX COLLECTOR

Tax Collectors Report for the month of November 2018:

Real Estate Tax	\$ 505.20
Interim Tax	\$ 129.79
Per Capita Tax	<u>\$ 599.50</u>
Total	\$1,234.49

FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT

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

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

Mr. Brochon stated he is in the process of completing the semi-annual report to DEP for the CAP for the pump stations. The report will be completed and sent by the end of the year. A letter was received from DEP acknowledging that the township successfully completed the requirement for the Swamp Creek Pump Station regarding the CAP.

The Swamp Creek Pump Station project submittals are being reviewed and should finish up the review in January.

TOWNSHIP ENGINEER

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

Mr. Weber was contacted by Prestige Property Partners regarding the West Tract with a request for an inspection of the right-of-way areas and put a punch list together so they have an idea of what needs to be corrected before the roads can be dedicated. This would also include the improvements to the intersection at Old Route 100.

Chairman Moyer asked if Prestige is up to date on the payments for the operation of the temporary pump station. Mr. Sichler stated they are not. The Chairman suggested they come up to date and put money into an escrow account to cover the operation of the pump station.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

None

SUPERVISORS

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- 1957 Caterpillar Grader-Sold at auction for \$2,100 and have received the check.

- **Administration Security Window**-An installation quote was received in the \$3,000 to \$4,000 range so two more bids are needed. Information will be shared at the next meeting.
- **Rekeying**-The keys are all made. It will be a two-key system with interior and exterior doors being keyed separately.
- **Asphalt Paving Systems**-The Township received an invoice for the 2018 road project. The final invoice is \$249,943.49 which is less then the original contract price. There are two punch list items that remain to be completed at Deer Run Road and a joint at Lenape Road. APS has agreed to complete the work in spring and are asking for payment in the amount of 90% which would be \$224,491.49. Chairman Moyer suggested payment in the amount of \$200,000 since the project is not finished. A motion was made by James Roma and seconded by Thomas Powanda to pay APS the 90% or \$224,491.49 as recommended by LTL. **No comments received.**
 - James Roma-aye**
 - Thomas Powanda-aye**
 - David Moyer-opposed**
- **Bechtelsville Response**-Mr. Sichler explained he met and spoke with Bechtelsville Borough regarding the water issue on Limekiln Road. The response is that they understand the situation however they do not have the funds to help make the improvements needed however they will allow Washington Township to work in their right of way if they choose. Chairman Moyer suggested asking Bechtelsville for the Liquid Fuels money they receive from the State and go ahead and make improvements. Mr. Weber stated that a gutter is probably not going to solve the problem, it will need storm sewer. Mr. Weber will work on a concept for the water issue.
- **2019 Budget/Tax Rate Approval**-There are a few budget adjustments needed before the budget is approved.
 - ✓ A motion was made by Thomas Powanda and seconded by to move \$200,000 for the new truck from 2018 budget to 2019 budget line item 01.430.740. **No comments received.**
 - All ayes**
 - ✓ A motion was made by James Roma, seconded by David Moyer increasing the GL Code in the Recreation Fund for the Zero Turn Mower 04.454.700 in the amount of \$11,346.86. **No comments received.**
 - All ayes**
 - ✓ A motion was made by Thomas Powanda and seconded by David Moyer authorizing the budget adjustment for the traffic light 01.433.600 in the amount of \$70,176.96. **No comments received.**
 - All ayes**
 - ✓ A motion was made by James Roma and seconded by Thomas Powanda authorizing a 2018 budget adjustment for 01.439.250 in the amount of \$4,491.49. **No comments received.**
 - All ayes**

- ✓ A motion was made by James Roma and seconded by Thomas Powanda authorizing a 2019 budget adjustment of \$24,743.48 to 01.439.250. **No comments received.**

All ayes

- ✓ A motion was made by James Roma and seconded by Thomas Powanda authorizing the increase of line item 01.404.130 from \$60,000 to \$120,000 based on potential litigation. **No comments received.**

All ayes

- ✓ The 2019 budget includes a reduction in the sewer rate of \$108 per year. Mr. Roma asked if there would be a tax reduction. Mr. Sichler explained the five-year projection showed any reduction above a ¼ mil decrease would require a tax increase within five years. A ¼ mil decrease would shrink the reserve by the end of the five-year period to under \$300,000. A motion was made by David Moyer and seconded by Thomas Powanda adopting the 2019 Budget with no tax increase or decrease and a sewer reduction of \$108 per year. **No comments received.**

All ayes

- **American Tower**-Mr. Sichler explained he was contacted regarding the renegotiation of the cell tower agreement. The current contract expires in 2030. The Supervisors felt the current contract is sufficient.
- **2019 Revised meeting schedule**-Board of Supervisors Reorganization meeting will be 1/7/19 and Planning Commission will be 1/10/19.

NEW BUSINESS

- **Agricultural Land Preservation**-A request was received from Berks County requesting the township to participate in a sign program. There are three participating farms in the township and each would need a sign at a cost of \$50 each. A motion was made by James Roma and seconded by David Moyer authorizing the participation in the program and to donate the \$150. **No comments received.**
All ayes
- **Board Vacancies**-It was announced there are numerous board vacancies. Supervisor Powanda asked about a mailing to residents asking for volunteers.
- **Route 100 flooding**-It was announced that PennDOT is working with the landowners at Route 100 with respect to the flooding issue.
- **School Bus Contract**-It was announced the bus contract is up in June for Boyertown School District
- **Berks County Run Card**-Township Manager Rich Sichler will work with Bruce Hoffman to provide the Run Card information to Berks County.
- **Eshbach Lane**-Residents of Eshbach Lane have made a request to the Township to supply stone for the repair of the Lane. Eshbach Lane is in very bad condition and the Post Office has stopped delivering the mail because delivery people are experiencing damage to their vehicles due to the poor condition of the road. This is a private lane and it is the responsibility of the residents to maintain the lane.

SUBDIVISION/PLANNING

None

SUBDIVISION EXTENSION

None

COMMUNICATIONS

- Copy of the ARB Delinquent Account Report is enclosed.
- Emergency Mgt. Community meeting (Washington Twp., Bechtelsville & Bally)
- Berks Oathe Keepers, "If Disaster Strikes" Seminar to be held 2/16/19 at 9:00 a.m. at Bechtelsville Fire Company

A motion was made by David Moyer and seconded by James Roma authorizing the township manager to revise the 2019 meeting schedule and to add the BWB meeting schedule. **No comments received.**

All ayes

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Board of Supervisors Reorganization Meeting will be held on Monday, January 7, 2019 at 5:30 p.m.

The next regular board of Supervisors meeting will be held on Thursday, January 24, 2019 at 7:00 pm.

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