

**WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
MINUTES
JANUARY 24, 2019**

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson David Moyer called the regularly scheduled meeting of the Washington Township Board of Supervisors to order at 7:13 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 land use litigation.

ROLL CALL

The following members were present: Supervisors, James Roma; David Moyer, Thomas Powanda, Solicitor, Daniel Becker, Esquire; John Weber representing LTL Consultants, Brian Brochon, Gilmore & Assoc., Township Manager, Richard Sichler, staff member Susan Brown and approximately twenty (20) 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.

SPECIAL REQUEST

None

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Charles Lawrence, Crow Hill Road, asked if there has been any progress made regarding the speeding on Crow Hill Road. Chairman Moyer stated he has gotten pricing on portable signs however he is still looking for better pricing. The Chairman claimed there has been contact with other municipalities to borrow their signs, however no one has been forthcoming with allowing the township to borrow their speed signs. Chairman Moyer will continue to investigate.

Donna Hoffman, 1874 County Line Rd., spoke about the traffic on County Line Rd. and Gehringer Road. Mrs. Hoffman stated the bend in County Line Road and speeding makes this area very hazardous at the intersection with Gehringer Road. Mrs. Hoffman stated she submitted a petition and letter to the township requesting stop signs on County Line Road. The Chairman explained the township cannot install stop signs to control speed. Mr. Weber explained there is not enough traffic volume to warrant a multi way stop sign. Mr. Weber also checked the sight distance at this intersection and the sight distance is well beyond what is required. There are no warrants that would allow the township to make this a multi stop intersection.

Mrs. Hoffman also addressed erosion on the farm and stated she has talked to LTL Consultants in the past. There is a Conservation District Plan in place for the farm and they are required to do certain things on the farm to avoid erosion. Mrs. Hoffman claims that when the land on the hill was developed the swale was removed and now the water runs down onto their property. Mr. Weber stated he has developed a punch list of items to be addressed by the developer and this is one of the items on the list. Mr. Weber stated he met with two representative of Rotelle Development and they agreed to make corrections at the property line and it will need to be corrected before dedication of the roads to the township.

Peg Stuart, 109 Nuthatch Court, thanked the Board for the \$9.00 deduction a month of the sewer rate and also the continued 2% discount if paid for the year. Mrs. Stuart also wanted to make the Supervisors aware that they will continue to push for more of a reduction. Mrs. Stuart also asked how many taxpayers there are in the township. Ms. Breidigan stated there are over 3,000.

Connie Cordova, 8 Wren Drive, stated she was looking at township ordinances regarding no parking signs on Route 100 at intersections at Dairy Lane, Niantic, Passmore, Forgedale and Limekiln and was wondering what would need to be done to get the no parking signs for Route 100 and Stauffer Road. Ms. Cordova stated there are issues with trucks parking at the car dealer. The Chairman stated this is a PADOT issue and Ms. Cordova should contact Neil Moyer at PADOT.

Doug Stetler, Limekiln Road, asked what the status is with Bechtelsville Borough with respect to the broken pipe on Limekiln Road. Chairman Moyer stated Bechtelsville Borough was contacted and stated they do not have the funds to make the repair however they would allow Washington Township to make the repair. The township had LTL take a look at the project and put together a cost estimate for material only assuming Public Works would do the installation, with a cost of \$34,000 and if it would be a bid project the estimate is \$70,000. Chairman Moyer suggested contacting Bechtelsville and make them aware of the cost and possibly negotiate with them for them to help pay for the storm sewer system. The Chairman stated he would go to a Bechtelsville meeting to discuss this with them.

Richard Mingey, 1606 Main Street, stated the township has a capacity agreement with Bally Borough. The original agreement was 100,000 gallons and pay a semi-annual payment for the capacity and there is about 80,000 gallons of remaining capacity. Mr. Mingey would like to have someone from the township board determine how much capacity is available for his site at 1606 Main Street so he can ascertain how the property can be developed under the current commercial zoning ordinance. If in fact the capacity is not available at the Bally Plant, due to their issues with I/I or CAP program, what steps would the township take to ensure that Bally Borough lives up to their agreement and has 100,000 gallons of capacity available for use by the township. Mr. Becker stated this should not be looked at speculatively. Mr. Becker suggested submitting a project and it will be looked at and let Mr. Mingey know if there is capacity available. Mr. Mingey asked if he provides the township with a request for a Will Serve letter stating he anticipates a commercial development with a specific number of gallons the township will be able to take it from there. Mr. Becker explained if Mr. Mingey comes in with a plan, consistent with the township ordinance, the township will issue a response as to whether there is or isn't sufficient capacity.

**APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 7, 2019
REORGANIZATION MEETING**

A motion was made by Thomas Powanda and seconded by James Roma to approve the minutes of the January 7, 2019 Reorganization meeting.

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 January 24, 2019, and to file the treasurer's report for audit. **No comments received.**

Thomas Powanda-aye

James Roma-aye

David Moyer-opposed

TAX COLLECTOR

Tax Collectors Report for the month of December 2018:

Real Estate	\$ 9,666.74
Interim Tax	\$ 1,793.19
Light Tax	\$ 117.70
Per Capita	\$ 819.50
Total	\$12,397.13

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 Engineer's Monthly Report is enclosed.

A copy of the EEMA O & M Report is enclosed

Mr. Brochon reported he reviewed and approved the equipment submittals for the Swamp Creek Pump Station and is waiting on a schedule from the contractor.

Currently working on the Chapter 94 Report.

TOWNSHIP ENGINEER

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

The Planning Commission accepted for review, the Shuhler Annexation Plan.

A SALDO Amendment was prepared as requested.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Nothing to report

SUPERVISORS

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- **SALDO Revision**-Proposed amendment to Section 107-14.G that requires the township to send notice to landowners within 500 feet of the boundary of any filed subdivision. A motion was made by Thomas Powanda and seconded by James Roma authorizing the review of Ordinance 2019-1 by the Berks County Planning Commission and to authorize advertisement pending BCPC comments. **No comments received.**

All ayes

- **Security Window**-One bid received, will continue to solicit bids.
- **Roadside Mower Purchase**-Discussion took place regarding the purchase of a John Deere Roadside Mower from Little's. Supervisor Powanda recommended purchasing the mower, the snow pusher/box plow and the broom. Supervisor Powanda stated the snowblower and leaf blower attachments could be purchased at a later time. Chairman Moyer was not in favor of purchasing the service contract at a cost of \$3,871 for a 60-month contract. Chairman Moyer stated with the cost of the contract you would be looking at a about \$180,000 total. Supervisor Powanda stated there is a tractor in Wisconsin that is very close to what we want. The Kubota tractor will be sold after the new tractor is received. Roadmaster Mohr said after speaking to other municipalities, he highly recommends purchasing the service contract. Supervisor Roma stated he was in favor of purchasing the tractor with the attachments as recommended by Supervisor Powanda. Mr. Sichler stated that was the mower, box snowplow, broom and the mower. A motion was made by Thomas Powanda and seconded by David Moyer authorizing the purchase of the tractor, not to exceed \$125,589.57, the snowplow not to exceed \$11,573.60, the Flail mower not to exceed \$43,842.79, the broom not to exceed \$6,150 and the service contract not to exceed \$3,871. Mr. Sichler stated all the items with the exception of the mower are on state contract. Mr. Sichler will need to construct a request for pricing for the mower attachment.

Public Comment:

Linwood Heffner, suggested to check the service contract carefully because some do not include service calls or hauling.

All ayes

- **PSATAS attendance & compensation**-Mr. Sichler stated this was discussed at a previous meeting and the township has the ability to authorize the supervisors and employees to attend the annual conference. Employees are compensated at their usual rate. Portions of the Township Code that refers to supervisors attending conference, sets a specific rate by the auditors and there is also another part of the code which allows the rate set for the supervisors as employees if needed which can be used. Chairman Moyer stated he spoke with a representative from PSATS who told him if you attend the conference and you are compensated by the

township you must show a loss of wages from your employer. Mr. Sichler explained the hourly rate is established for employees which allows the township the option to pay an hourly rate established by the auditors. Chairman Moyer stated he has an issue with paying for attendance on a Sunday since the classes are not held on the weekend and feels a Sunday attendance does not benefit the township. Supervisor Powanda stated when he attends during the week, he does not get paid and is in favor of attendance during the week. Supervisor Roma stated it does not matter to him if someone wants to attend on the weekend or during the week. Chairman Moyer stated an expense was submitted for April 2018 in January 2019. This expense should have been paid out of last years budget not the 2019 budget. Mr. Moyer also stated as an elected official he will not take taxpayers money like that and take it for his own use and is upset when he sees things like that. Mr. Moyer stated on one hand it is stated we need to find ways to pay back 1 mil tax and on the other hand we are paying \$100, 10 months later. Mr. Sichler stated it is at the discretion of the Board. A motion was made by Thomas Powanda and seconded by David Moyer to pay compensation for PSATS attendance on a Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday. **No comments received.**

All ayes

- **Township phone policy**-Mr. Sichler provided a copy of the current cell phone policy to the Supervisors. Chairman Moyer stated he feels there should only be two positions that have a township paid cell phone, which is the Roadmaster and the Township Manager anyone else should be receiving the \$30 per month reimbursement. A motion was made by David Moyer, seconded by Thomas Powanda for the township to have two township paid cell phones, one for Brian Mohr and one for Rich Sichler and everyone else receives \$30 reimbursement. **No comments received.**

Thomas Powanda-aye

David Moyer-aye

James Roma-opposed

NEW BUSINESS

- **2019 Road Projects**-Property owners along Sycamore Road they will be doing a large logging project which was to be done last year, however with all the rain it was pushed off to 2019. This project will be pushed off one more year. Lane and Moyer Roads could be done by the Roadcrew and Wilt Road needs a box culvert at a cost of about \$70,000. Chairman Moyer suggested finishing Lenape Road from Heydt's Schoolhouse Road to Anthony's Mill, Lenape to Robin Hill Road and then the back side to Endurance Lane. Mr. Weber stated that is a lot of roadway, more than what was done last year. Mr. Sichler will work with John to see what sections to do for the money budgeted. There was some discussion regarding the overlay of Gehringer Road, however this project will probably wait until next year. The road inspection will not be done until sometime in fall.
- **Lighting upgrade**-Mr. Sichler explained he could save about \$7,000 if he purchased the lights and have them installed. He will get pricing for installation.
- **Shoring purchase**-Mr. Sichler will get price quotes

- **Gehring Road Open Space**-Rotelle took the topsoil out and created the parking area. They also provided telephone poles to define the parking area. The area has been stoned as well. The next item would be to decide what to do with the remaining area. It was discussed putting in some walking trails. Senator Mensch's office has offered to help with obtaining grant money.
- **Costars Road Salt contract, 2019-2020**-A motion was made by David Moyer and seconded by Thomas Powanda authorizing to enter into a contract with Costars for 650 tons of road salt. **No comments received.**

All ayes

SUBDIVISION/PLANNING

None

SUBDIVISION EXTENSION

None

COMMUNICATIONS

Copy of the ARB Delinquent Account Report is enclosed.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The next board of Supervisors meeting will be held on Thursday, February 28, 2019 at 7:00 pm.

The WTMA (water) meeting will be continued on Thursday, February 28, 2019 at 6:30 p.m.

Chairman Moyer announced, February 23rd at 9:00 a.m. a meeting of survival will be held at Bechtelsville Fire Company.

Senator Mensch will be here at the Township Building on Thursday, April 11th at 8:00 in the Community Room.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by James Roma and seconded by Thomas Powanda to adjourn the meeting at approximately 9:02 p.m. **No public comment received.**

All ayes

Respectfully submitted,

Richard Sichler
Manager/Secretary