

**WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
MINUTES
JUNE 27, 2019**

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson 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.

ROLL CALL

The following members were present: Supervisors, 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 eighteen (18) residents in attendance.

Absent: James Roma

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 Moyer announced an Executive Session was held on 6/25/19 at 6:30 p.m. for employee interviews and again this evening concerning litigation and personnel matters.

SPECIAL REQUEST

None

PUBLIC COMMENT

Richard Mingey, 1606 Main Street, Bally, following up from the last meeting on two items, one being a possible supplemental report by Paul Janssen and second, any information on potential public water and sewer connections for the main street property. Mr. Becker stated nothing has been done with respect to a report by Mr. Janssen and is not sure the township is going in that direction. Mr. Becker explained the original contract had approximately 100,000 gallons of capacity available to Washington Township. The township has used some of the sewer capacity however Bally is under a corrective action plan (CAP) right now, which is still in place. Under that CAP the township can only connect ten (10) units at the current time. Mr. Becker suggested talking to Bally regarding the status of the CAP to see where it will ultimately go. The township will also be following up. Currently discussions are underway regarding the conveyance of the water system to Bally and suggested Mr. Mingey discuss with Bally the available capacity however Bally has indicated that any new connections will be charged at the higher rate as previously discussed. Mr. Mingey stated the property at Schwenkfelder Road originally had Transfer Development Rights (TDR's) and at some

point, the was rescinded but the restrictions were not rescinded. Mr. Becker will take a look at that.

Bill Piersol, 481 Weinstein Road, stated he feels it's a good thing to have the joint meetings with the Board of Supervisors to look at the projected development. Mr. Piersol had concerns regarding the open space already given to the township and feels the open space belongs to the tax payers and is not in favor of the Supervisors making a deal with the developer with respect to the open space.

Peg Stuart, 109 Nuthatch Court, again brought up about police coverage and asked if the Supervisors have been discussing police coverage. Mr. Becker stated this issue comes up all the time and explained the Supervisors have not really discussed this at any length at this point. Ms. Stuart stated the township continues to grow therefore the need will continue to grow.

Laura Pagotto, asked what the approximate census is in the township and was told it is about 4,200. Ms. Pagotto stated she came from a small town of about 3,000 and they had a police force and stated the township should be thinking about this. Mr. Becker stated a police department is very expensive and taxes will go up. Ms. Stuart stated the residents know the taxes will increase however maybe some departments could work together to keep the cost down. Mr. Becker stated merging departments doesn't really keep the cost down; the big cost is the labor. Supervisor Moyer stated the pension is another big expense. Supervisor Powanda stated 40% of all State Police calls are in Philadelphia or Pittsburgh. Mr. Powanda also said currently Coalbrookdale and Boyertown Police are talking about merging and if the merger happens it is going to cost Boyertown over \$1 million because of the pensions. Mr. Powanda also stated Gilbertsville Police Dept. budget is more than Washington Township's entire operating budget.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF MAY 22, 2019 AND THE REGULAR MEETING OF MAY 23, 2019

A motion was made by Thomas Powanda and seconded by David Moyer to approve the minutes as prepared for the May 22 and May 23, 2019 meetings. **No comments received.**

All ayes

TOWNSHIP REPORTS

A motion was made by David Moyer 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 June 27, 2019, and to file the treasurer's report for audit. **No comments received.**

All ayes

TAX COLLECTOR

Tax Collectors Report for the month of May 2019:

Real Estate Tax	\$ 6,166.61
Interim Tax	\$ 2,750.67
Light Tax	\$ 31.76
Amusement Tax	\$ 2,327.50
Per Capita Tax	\$ 44.00
Total	\$ 11,320.54

FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT

A copy of the Eastern Berks Fire Department Report is in the binders.

Chairman Moyer read the Fire Chief's report and asked the community to support the fundraisers.

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 the renewal of the Longacre Industrial User Permit is enclosed and requesting action be taken to renew the permit.

A motion was made by Thomas Powanda and seconded by David Moyer authorizing the renewal of the Longacre Industrial User Permit. **No comments received.**

All ayes

The semi-annual Corrective Action Plan report was submitted to PADEP.

A preconstruction meeting was held this morning for the sanitary sewer installation for Clover Hill Subdivision. Sewer installation will begin in a few weeks.

TOWNSHIP ENGINEER

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

Clover Hill has a pending final plan application that is not complete. If a new plan is not submitted for the July meeting action will need to be taken.

At the MS4 meeting various BMP options were discussed. Several sites were established and the information will be compiled for potential BMP's and will be submitted within the next week or two. A plan will be drafted for public comment by the end of July.

Mr. Weber spoke to the contractor today for the road project and the mix design is complete and ready for submission to PADOT. The project is tentatively scheduled for the beginning of August.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Prestige Properties request for rezoning along Route 100 from HDV to Commercial. A motion was made by David Moyer and seconded by Thomas Powanda authorizing the Solicitor to proceed with the rezoning of a portion of Route 100 from HDV to Commercial within the Edison Walk subdivision. **No comments received.**

All ayes

SUPERVISORS

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- **PADOT Ehst Rd/Route 100 Stormwater Issue** – there has been no known progress on this project. Mr. Sichler will contact PADOT for an update.
- **Public Works part-time employee-** A motion was made by David Moyer and seconded by Thomas Powanda authorizing the township manager to make an offer of employment for permanent part-time employment, pending successful completion of a background check and drug screening at a rate of \$16.00 per hour. **No comments received.**

All ayes

- **Berkey's Bridge project update** – the bridge is removed and pouring concrete tomorrow.
- **Limekiln Road stormwater** –the township spoke with the “uphill” neighbors to see if they would be willing to share in some of the repair costs and they did agree to that. A motion was made by Thomas Powanda and seconded by David Moyer authorizing to proceed with the repair of the stormwater issue on Limekiln Road. No comments received.

All ayes

- **Water System Sale** –A draft sales agreement has been distributed to the WTMA Board for review and comment.
- **Wastewater Treatment Plant expansion plan RFP-** There are three additional responses to the original RFP for a total of seven. A short list should be given to Rich by July 5th so interviews can begin.
- **Security Window** – will be installed on July 3rd

NEW BUSINESS

- **Replacement fuel pumps/fittings-** 2 fuel tanks at the Public Works building, one gas and one diesel need to be replaced due to leakage and age. Price quote received from Haffer Petroleum in the amount of \$3,242.74 for equipment. A motion was made by David Moyer and seconded by Thomas Powanda authorizing the purchase of two (2) new fuel pumps and fittings not to exceed \$3,242.74 for parts plus electrician cost. **No comments received.**

All ayes

- **2428 Old Route 100 septic pumping requirements** – request received for a waiver of septic pumping every three years and to pump every five years due to spending six months per year in Florida. There was not motion.
- **Joint meeting with Planning Commission** – Prestige Properties provided two additional sketch plans for a joint meeting. A motion was made by David Moyer and seconded by Thomas Powanda authorizing the township manager to advertise for a joint meeting of the Board of Supervisors and the Planning Commission to be held on July 11, 2019 at 7:00 p.m. **No comments received.**

All ayes

- **Fireworks in Township** – Chairman Moyer asked residents to please be careful using fireworks in the township.
- **Variance Request** – received application for the Zoning Hearing Board for property located along Forgedale Road and Old Route 100 which is the old mill property. The applicant’s proposed use is a nature retreat center.
- **Met-Ed Contract** – Received for Bally Springs Phase 2 streetlights. A motion was made by David Moyer and seconded by Thomas Powanda authorizing the township manager to execute the contract with Met-Ed. **No comments received.**

All ayes

- **Leave of Absence** – A motion was made by David Moyer and seconded by Thomas Powanda approving the possible limited use of leave of absence as requested by an employee while recovering from a health issue. **No comments received.**

All ayes

SUBDIVISIONS/PLANNING

None

SUBDIVISION EXTENSION

None

COMMUNICATIONS

- Copy of the ARB Delinquent Account Report is enclosed.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Joint Board of Supervisors and Planning Commission meeting will be held on Thursday, July 11, 2019 at 7:00 p.m.

The next WTMA (water) meeting will be held on Thursday, July 25, 2019 at 6:30 p.m.

The next board of Supervisors meeting will be held on Thursday, July 25, 2019 at 7:00 pm.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Thomas Powanda and seconded by David Moyer to adjourn the meeting at approximately 7:47 p.m. **No public comment received.**

All ayes

Respectfully submitted,

Richard Sichler
Manager/Secretary