

**WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
MINUTES  
AUGUST 22, 2019**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chairperson David Moyer called the regularly scheduled meeting of the Washington Township Board of Supervisors to order at 7:08 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 pertaining to 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 sixteen (16) 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 Moyer announced an Executive Session was held this evening concerning litigation and personnel matters.

**SPECIAL REQUEST**

None

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

**Rudy Kadlecik, 4 Fry's Road**, spoke about camping at Grandview Speedway. Mr. Kadlecik stated there are people camping in the parking lot and stated there are all types of illegal and unsavory activities going on at all times of the day and night. Mr. Weber stated this is not a permitted use in the zoning district and would have to go after the owner of the property who is allowing the camping to take place on his property. Mr. Kadlecik stated there is a person living there in a small camper and is there every night and has a large number of visitors each night. Mr. Becker suggested the township contact the Pennsylvania State Police and let them know what the concerns are regarding the activities taking place and the owner should be contacted as well. Chairman Moyer stated he gets many complaints from neighbors and he tells them to fill out a complaint form. Mr. Becker stated the property owner should be contacted and told this situation appears to be a non-permitted use and it is disruptive to the community and they need to take action to control the situation to prevent it from going further.

A motion was made by David Moyer and seconded by Thomas Powanda authorizing John Weber to look into possible code violations and send a letter to the property owner and for the township manager to contact the PSP making them aware of suspected activities. **No comments received.**

**All ayes**

**LeRoy Renson, 225 Wissinger Road,** stated he is here again tonight about the neighboring property maintenance issues. Mr. Renson stated the neighbor has not cut his grass at all this year and wants to know what the township is going to do about it, this has been going on for many years. Mr. Weber indicated a Notice of Violation has been issued. Mr. Becker stated the township may have to go cut the grass and lien the property or possibly get the County involved as a blighted property.

A motion was made by James Roma and seconded by David Moyer authorizing LTL Consultants to proceed with enforcement. **No comments received.**

**All ayes**

#### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF JULY 25, 2019**

A motion was made by Thomas Powanda and seconded by James Roma to approve the minutes as prepared for the July 25, 2019 meetings. **No comments received.**

**All aye**

#### **TOWNSHIP REPORTS**

A motion was made by David Moyer, 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 August 22, 2019, and to file the treasurer's report for audit. **No comments received.**

**All ayes**

#### **TAX COLLECTOR**

Tax Collectors Report for the month of July 2019:

Real Estate Tax	\$ 1,739.83
Interim Tax	\$ 643.00
Light Tax	\$ 81.40
Per Capita Tax	\$ 5,170.30
Amusement Tax	<u>\$ 13,604.36</u>
Total	\$ 21,238.89

#### **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 the Clover Hill Subdivision the off-site sanitary sewer has been constructed and passed pressure testing.

Mr. Brochon will be working with the township manager regarding the 2018-2019 I/I study and recommendations.

### **TOWNSHIP ENGINEER**

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

- 2019 Road Project-Lenape Road and portion of Anthony's Mill Road work started on Tuesday. The FDR work is scheduled to be completed by the end of the week.

Mr. Weber indicated the MS4 Pollution Reduction Plan is ready for adoption now that the 30-day public comment period is over. A motion was made by David Moyer, seconded by Thomas Powanda adopting the MS4 Pollution Reduction Plan and to forward on to PADEP. **No comments received.**

**All ayes**

### **Public Comment**

**Connie Cordova**, asked if there was any updated information on the firefighters and residents of the house fire on Lenape Road. It was noted the firefighters were doing fine, the female resident was released from the hospital however the male resident passed away. Mr. Cordova questioned why the firefighters entered the house without protective gear. Supervisor Powanda stated the firefighters did have protective gear on but did not have breathing apparatus on. Supervisor Powanda also announced for anyone interested, there will be a meeting Monday night at the Bechtelsville Firehouse at 7:00 p.m. to critique how the situation was handled. Chairman Moyer stated the firefighters are special people.

### **SOLICITOR'S REPORT**

None

### **SUPERVISORS**

#### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

- **PADOT Ehst Rd/Route 100 Stormwater Issue** – they were out surveying today.
- **Public Works part-time employee-** two job offers have been made and both have declined and there is one candidate that can work 2 days per week. Chairman Moyer stated it is the end of the season and suggested the roadcrew work 4 days per week at their regular work and have all roadcrew employees cut grass one day per week. That would require rental of additional mowers and have one person trimming. Supervisor Powanda was in agreement however bringing in the third candidate for 2 days a week would help as well.

A motion was made by David Moyer and seconded by James Roma to offer the third candidate one or two days per week and also the rental of additional mowers as discussed. **No comments received.**

**All ayes**

- **Berkey's Bridge project update** – is still on schedule for November completion
- **Limekiln Road stormwater** – An easement was prepared and was provided to the land owner for his review and asked to go over the plan next week.
- **Water System Sale** – A draft sales agreement and associated documents were provided to Bally for review.
- **Edison Walk joint meeting summary** – A joint meeting was held with the Planning Commission and an additional sketch plan was provided for review and discussion. Supervisor Roma stated the Plan was better than what was previously presented and feels single family homes should still be an option along with the open space. Mr. Becker said he was contacted by Howard Brown, legal representation for Prestige Homes, and asked for a meeting under the Professional Services Agreement to talk about some technical details. Mr. Becker will move with scheduling the meeting and will let the supervisors know when it is scheduled. Supervisors may attend as long as there is not a quorum.
- **Connection request to BMMA Sewer System**-A request for connection has been received for a home on Lane Road for the installation of a private line from Lane Road to Weisstown Road to the BMMA system. BMMA has requested a letter stating the Township agrees to allow the connection. Chairman Moyer would like a tracer line run with the force main. It was also noted the letter should include all governmental agency requirements will be met. A motion was made by David Moyer and seconded by James Roma authorizing the Township Manager to draft a letter to BMMA regarding the sewer line connection as outlined. **No comments received.**

**All ayes**

### **NEW BUSINESS**

- **Comcast franchise renewal** – The Township is at the start of the franchise renewal period. In the past we have used a consortium. There is a certain group of adjacent municipalities that all run on the same renewal cycle. It was suggested Rich reach out to the other municipalities to see if they would be interested in doing the same thing again which helps to spread the cost and report back at a future meeting. Mr. Sichler will touch base with a second vendor as well.
- **Nuvoda/Kappe pilot test proposal** – Mr. Sichler has been in touch with Kappe and Associates who were the original designer of the Waste Water Treatment Plant. They are running a pilot test for a new additive to the existing process which they are hopeful will increase capacity at the plant by increasing the efficiency of the treatment process. Nuvoda is providing the additive system and are looking for a system such as ours to do a pilot test. The Supervisors were okay with the idea of a pilot program.
- **Community Room refrigerator purchase** – Mr. Sichler stated the refrigerator/freezer in the Community Room has been freezing up. The refrigerator was purchased in 2003 and probably should be replaced. A motion

was made by David Moyer and seconded by James Roma authorizing the purchase of a new refrigerator/freezer not to exceed \$1,000. **No comments received.**

**All ayes**

- **Laptop replacement** – A motion was made by David Moyer and seconded by Thomas Powanda authorizing the purchase of a replacement laptop for the manager at a cost not to exceed \$1,750. **No comments received.**

**All ayes**

### **Public Comment**

**Connie Cordova**, asked what is going on with the Route 100 night time paving project. Mr. Sichler stated it is finished.

**Laura Pagotto**, asked if there is some way to have the microphone/speaker system working so she is able to hear. Mr. Sichler stated he is able to get the system working when the room is empty however when there are cell phones in the room the feed back on the system is so loud it has to be turned off. Ms. Pagotto placed her microphone on the table and could hear much better. A resident suggested checking into a noise gate to hook into the system to filter out higher frequencies.

**Connie Cordova**, said budget time is coming up and is expecting another reduction in the sewer rate for 2020. Mr. Sichler stated the budget is being worked on now.

### **ROAD INSPECTION**

Road inspection will be conducted in October. Mr. Sichler will circulate some dates.

### **SUBDIVISION/PLANNING**

None

### **SUBDIVISION EXTENSION**

None

### **COMMUNICATIONS**

- Copy of the ARB Delinquent Account Report is enclosed.
- Animal Crossing General Permit acknowledgement

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The next board of Supervisors meeting will be held on Thursday, September 26, 2019 at 7:00 pm.

Chairman Moyer announced Monday night at 6:00 p.m. at Boyertown High School there will be a meeting to talk about closing Pine Forge Elementary School.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Executive Session was called at 8:08 p.m. to discuss personnel matters. The regular meeting reconvened at 8:34 p.m.

**ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made by James Roma and seconded by Thomas Powanda to adjourn the meeting at approximately 8:35 p.m. **No public comment received.**

**All ayes**

Respectfully submitted,

Richard Siehler  
Manager/Secretary