

**WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
MINUTES  
FEBRUARY 27, 2020**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chairperson David Moyer called the regularly scheduled meeting of the Washington Township Board of Supervisors to order at 7:06 p.m., at the Washington Township Municipal Building. The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

**ROLL CALL**

The following members were present: Supervisors, James Roma; David Moyer, Thomas Powanda, Solicitor, Joan London, Esquire; John Weber representing LTL Consultants, Greg Unger, Systems Design Engineering., 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**

**Rose Gross Proposed Banquet Facility** – present this evening on behalf of Rose Gross is John Aston, Engineer and Brian Seidel, Planner to discuss the proposed Rose Gross banquet facility. The proposed location is next to 1180 Route 100 which is across from Stauffer Road. Half of the 13,000 square foot building would be a social hall and the other portion will be some type of retail, possibly a beverage distributor. Mr. Aston indicated their next step would be to submit a Sketch Plan for review by the Township Engineer and the Berks County Planning Commission. The Board of Supervisors had no adverse comments regarding this proposal.

**Edison Walk Proposed Land Swap** – Mr. D’Angelo asked if the Board has any direction to move the project forward. Supervisor Moyer stated he attended the Planning Commission meeting and said the Planning Commission liked the idea of the land swap so the open space would be together. Mr. D’Angelo stated he is trying to get direction before a Plan is submitted at the end of March. Supervisor Roma asked if the area that has not been cut is a wet area and Mr. D’Angelo stated it is not wetland area. Supervisor Moyer asked if the corners of the parcel could be staked out so he could get a better visual of the size and location of the parcel. Mr. D’Angelo stated they would stake out the property and will proceed with finishing the Plan. Mr. D’Angelo does not want to delay the project any longer so he will earmark the parcel as future open space if the township wants to swap the land. Supervisor Powanda stated he likes the idea of the swap but has some concerns about the wet area however this may just be a low area. Supervisor Roma stated he does not like the proposed 25 parking spaces located along

Sugar Maple Road and feels this would be extra parking spaces for the houses. Supervisor Moyer also stated when Barto Road gets straightened there is the potential for additional parking spaces in that area.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

**Gregg Foster, 3096 County Line Road, East Greenville**, stated he has attended meeting in the past and expressed concerns about the Richard Mingey properties. Mr. Foster stated under the right to know act he would like to know if since June of last year if any official or unofficial plans have been submitted to the Board for this piece of property for anything other than farm land. Ms. London states the right to know law requires you to make a written request for documents and the form is on the townships website or get a copy from the township office, right to know requests are not verbal requests. Mr. Foster stated there has been activity at the property with stakes and red paint markings. The Supervisors stated there have been no official plans submitted and are unaware of why there are stakes and the zoning has not been changed. Mr. Foster stated that there is a large piece of equipment and two access roads have been cut in along Kutztown Road and lined with heavy stone. Mr. Foster asked if Washington Township has any knowledge of what is going on at this property. The Board assured Mr. Foster there have been no formal plan submittals and no zoning changes.

**APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES OF JANUARY 23, 2020**

A motion was made by Thomas Powanda and seconded by James Roma to approve the minutes of January 23, 2020 as prepared.

**No comments received.**

**All ayes**

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

**TOWNSHIP REPORTS**

A motion was made by David Moyer and 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 February 27, 2020, and to file the treasurer's report for audit. **No comments received.**

**All ayes**

**TAX COLLECTOR**

Tax Collectors Report for the month of January 2020:

Interim Tax	\$ 623.66
Amusement Tax	\$ 514.50
Per Capita Tax	\$ 82.50
Total	\$ 1,220.66

**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

Greg Unger was present this evening to provide the Sewer Engineer report. Mr. Unger reported the annual Chapter 94 Report is due to PADEP by March 31<sup>st</sup>. There are two types of reports, one which is a tributary report for the collection system that follows into another waste water treatment plant, specifically, Bally Borough. There is a form which needs to be signed and submitted to Bally. A motion was made by Thomas Powanda and seconded by James Roma authorizing Richard Sichler to sign the necessary form to be submitted to Bally Borough. **No comments received.**

**All ayes**

Mr. Unger provided a handed out with preliminary numbers for the Chapter 94 Report. Mr. Unger stated there have been some very wet years which increases the flow into the Wastewater Treatment Plant. There were six consecutive months in 2019 where the flow was at or above capacity of the Plant and the annual average was also slightly over capacity of the Plant. Also looking five years ahead with the projection of 35 connections per year, in 2021 we will reach capacity. This will be a red flag for PADEP which will generate a letter asking how the township intends on dealing with the situation. Mr. Unger stated discussions need to begin to address the situation. Different avenues to look at are I/I and/or possible plant expansion. The report will be in an official form for the next meeting. One of the items Mr. Unger stated they are looking at is a monitoring devise to put into both pump stations which will monitor and provide detailed information on a day to day, month to month basis.

Mr. Unger also reported they are working with EEMA on a project at the pump station to convert the pumps to a rail system.

## **TOWNSHIP ENGINEER**

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

Mr. Weber reported there are no active plans at this time before the Planning Commission.

Clover Hill Subdivision construction has begun and in the past month sediment trap B was installed and completed, the sanitary sewer has been installed and the stormwater collection and conveyance system has been installed. Grading and stoning of the road will be completed next.

A meeting was held with the Roadmaster and the Township Manager to look at roads for the 2020 road project.

## **SOLICITOR'S REPORT**

Ms. London reported the Clover Hill Land Development and Financial Security Agreement has been received and is ready to be signed by the Board of Supervisors.

The letter to the Bechtelsville Gun Club was sent out and are awaiting response.

Ms. London also reported the sale of the water system to Bally should be finalized by next month. Bally Borough is taking action to reactivate the Municipal Authority.

## **SUPERVISORS**

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

- **PADOT Ehst Road/Route 100 stormwater issue**-there is no new information. Chairman Moyer stated he will check on this prior to the next meeting.

#### **Public Comment**

**Laura Pagotto**, asked if the property next to Euros has been contacted about cleaning up the property. It was stated the ground has been very wet which is probably why he has stopped work for now.

- **Asphalt Paver purchase** – two bids were received for a used paver, one from Stephenson Equipment in the amount of \$78,300 and one from Foley Inc. for \$72,000. The low bid did not meet various specifications therefore Mr. Sichler is recommending rejecting the low bid and accept the \$78,300 bid. A motion was made by Thomas Powanda and seconded by David Moyer authorizing the purchase of a used LeeBoy paver in the amount of \$78,300 and to reject the low bid since it did not meet the specifications. **No comments received.**

#### **All ayes**

A motion was made by Thomas Powanda, seconded by James Roma authorizing the advertisement of the Township's current paving machine through sealed bid to the highest bidder "as is" with no warranty. **No comments received.**

#### **All ayes**

- **WWTP Pilot Test update** – The material has been added and sampling will begin this week.
- **Natural Gas conversion** – UGI said there is gas available in the area near Sugar Maple Road. UGI would charge the actual cost of pipe installation which is estimated at 875 feet and the average cost is \$80 to \$100 per foot. Mr. Sichler is trying to contact the municipal representative.
- **2020 Road Project** – The road project initially projected for the 2020 project are Gehringer Road from Route 100 up to the top of the hill to where the road was reconstructed and also Sycamore Road and looked at Dairy Lane as well. Gehringer Road is in need of an FDR rather than just a base repair from the top of the hill down to just above the driveway into Wendy's Flowers and can be overlaid from the driveway at Wendy's down to Route 100. The thought was to add Dairy Lane to the contract as an add alternate estimated to be about \$90,000. A motion was made by David Moyer and seconded by Thomas Powanda to amend the 2020 road projects to add Gehringer Road as an FDR from the top of the hill to just before Wendy's driveway and overlay the remainder and to add Dairy Lane as an alternate. **No comments received.**

**All ayes**

- **Park Land Acquisition, Hoffmansville Road** – Mr. Sichler contacted and retain the services of a land property appraiser but has not yet received the report of the appraisal.
- **Public Works Employee New Hire** – A motion was made by Thomas Powanda and seconded by James Roma to hire candidate #3 at \$20.00 per hour. **No comments received.**

**All ayes**

**NEW BUSINESS**

- **Per Capita Tax Exonerations** – A motion was made by David Moyer and seconded by Thomas Powanda to exonerate 185 people from paying the Per Capita Tax as listed by the Tax Collector. **No public comments.**

**David Moyer – aye**

**Thomas Powanda – aye**

**James Roma - abstained**

- **2020 – 2021 Costars Salt Contract** – Mr. Sichler explained the township is required to buy 390 tons of salt this year and so far, this year only 144 tons has been purchased. A motion was made by James Roma and seconded by Thomas Powanda authorize the purchase of 500 tons of salt for the 2020-2021 Salt Contract. **No comments received.**

**All ayes**

- **-Recreation Board Appointment**-A motion was made by David Moyer and seconded by James Roma appointing Mr. Jay Jeffries to the Recreation Committee. **No comments received.**

**All ayes**

- **Heydt's Schoolhouse Road Bridge Inspection** – This is the one bridge that is inspected by PADOT and some repairs are needed. They noted the guiderails should be updated, some installation of rip rap needed and sedimentation at the stream channel entering the bridge. The recommendation is to obtain the proper permits and remove the accumulated sediments. Engineer Weber and Rich Sichler will work together on this matter.
- **Removal of Gehringer Road Trees** – Mr. Sichler explained there are a number of trees at the Gehringer Road open space. The Ash trees are dying back and should be removed. Mr. Sichler will check into this more and report back.
- **Township Treasurer Search Process** – Albright College had previously given their suggestion of an approach and a timeline to start the search. The first step would be to craft a draft of the job description. Mr. Sichler will work with Herbein to draft a job description to review by the next meeting.
- **Personnel Policy Review** – Chairman Moyer stated he would like to review the Personnel Policy by meeting one night per month for the next three months until it's finished. Mr. Moyer stated he feels there are issues that need to be addressed and updated. Ms. London stated Policy such as this should be updated periodically to be sure things are up to date. This would need to be advertised as a public meeting. Mr. Sichler will get available dates to schedule the meetings.

- **Barto Road Straightening** – Chairman Moyer stated there are issues with Barto Road at the intersection at Old Route 100 and also at the bend at the township building. A child was almost hit by a car getting off the school bus at the intersection at Old Route 100. The intersection improvement would have to be permitted by PADOT. Engineer Weber said he will work on some preliminary layouts. A motion was made by David Moyer and seconded by Thomas Powanda authorizing LTL Consultants to work on development of preliminary designs for Barto Road. **No comments received.**

**All ayes**

- **On-lot Sewage Disposal Report** – A motion was made by Thomas Powanda and seconded by James Roma authorizing the township manager to sign and submit the annual report prepared by LTL Consultants. **No comments received.**

**All ayes**

- **Washington Park Sign** – The wooden sign is in real bad shape and needs to be replaced. Mr. Sichler stated he could obtain pricing for the State Prison, which make these types of signs crafted out of sold PVC.

**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, March 26, 2020 at 7:00 pm.

**Public Comment:**

**Laura Pagotto**, asked how the hearing went for 124 Stauffer Road which was to take place on February 24<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Weber stated the hearing was held and a continuance was issued to give the property owner more time to clean things up.

Chairman Moyer announced recycling will be held next Saturday if anyone is available to help out.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made by James Roma and seconded by Thomas Powanda to adjourn the meeting at approximately 8:23 p.m. **No public comment received.**

**All ayes**

Respectfully submitted,

Richard Sichler  
Manager/Secretary