

**WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
MINUTES
JANUARY 23, 2020**

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson David Moyer called the regularly scheduled meeting of the Washington Township Board of Supervisors to order at 7:00 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 possible litigation and real estate. In addition, an Executive Session was held on January 6, 2020 for personnel matters.

ROLL CALL

The following members were present: Supervisors, James Roma; David Moyer, Thomas Powanda, Solicitor, Joan London, Esquire; John Weber representing LTL Consultants, Tom Unger, Systems Design Engineering., Township Manager, Richard Sichler, staff member Susan Brown and approximately twenty-three (23) 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

Mr. D'Angelo, Prestige Partners, was present to discuss a land swap with the Township. Mr. D'Angelo proposed swapping the 1.5-acre piece of property for a 2.25 piece of property that backs up to the current park that can be accessed off of Sugar Maple Road. Supervisor Roma asked how much of the land is part of the drainage ditch/swale. It was not immediately known however it was stated there is usable land on either side. Ms. London pointed out the 1.5 acres was dedicated land and would need court approval under the donated and dedicated land statute for any type of a land swap. Supervisor Roma asked how many homes could be constructed on the 1.5-acre parcel. Mr. D'Angelo estimated about 7 homes. Supervisor Roma stated he would like the Planning Commission to take a look at the proposal. All three Supervisors were favorable to this land swap proposal.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Lem Moore, 56 Moyer Road, was present this evening to discuss shooting from neighboring gun club property. Mr. Moore presented photos and discussed the numerous issues regarding the discharge of firearms from the Gun Club property onto his property. After lengthy discussion the Solicitor was directed to draft a letter to the Bechtelsville Gun Club.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF DECEMBER 19, 2019 AND JANUARY 6, 2020 REORGANIZATION MEETING

A motion was made by James Roma and seconded by Thomas Powanda to approve the minutes of December 19, 2019 and January 6, 2020 as prepared.

No comments received.

All ayes

TOWNSHIP REPORTS

A motion was made by Thomas Powanda and seconded by Janes 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 January 23, 2020, and to file the treasurer's report for audit. **No comments received.**

All ayes

TAX COLLECTOR

Tax Collectors Report for the month of December 2019:

Real Estate	\$ 6,760.61
Interim Tax	\$ 423.29
Light Tax	\$ 36.30
Hydrant Tax	\$ 40.93
Per Capita Tax	<u>\$ 1,145.50</u>
Total	\$ 8,406.63

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. Tom Unger, Systems Design Engineering, was introduced this evening as the new water/sewer engineer for the township. Mr. Unger did not have a report for this evening.

Public Comment

Linwood Heffner pointed out the address is incorrect on the DMR Report. Mr. Sichler will check on this.

TOWNSHIP ENGINEER

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

Mr. Weber reported the Clover Hill Plan has conditional final approval and are waiting on the execution of agreements. The Margaret M. Stauffer Plan is on the agenda for final

plan approval. The Rose Gross subdivision was slated to be reviewed at the February Planning Commission meeting however the Surveyor for the Developer has asked that the Plan not be reviewed at this time since they are considering potential changes to the plan.

Bally Springs Phase 2 status has not changed. They continue to work on the punch list.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Ms. London reported she is working with the Borough of Bally Solicitor on the Agreement of Sale for the water system.

SUPERVISORS

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- **PADOT Ehst Road/Route 100 stormwater issue**-there is no new information
- **Asphalt Paver purchase** – Mr. Sichler has completed specifications for a used asphalt paving machine. A motion was made by Thomas Powanda and seconded by David Moyer authorizing the Manager to advertise for asphalt paver. **No comments received.**
All ayes
- **WWTP Pilot Test update** – hardware was installed over the past month, the Kenaf material has been added. The first round of samples will be taken in about 3 weeks.
- **Natural Gas conversion** – Natural gas is available and awaiting cost estimates to make the conversion.

NEW BUSINESS

- **Hereford/Washington Joint PC 2020 schedule** – proposed meeting date schedule of 2nd Tuesday of February, April, July and October at 7 p.m. A motion was made by James Roma and seconded by Thomas Powanda authorizing the advertisement of the 2020 Joint PC meeting dates as outlined. **No comments received.**
All ayes
- **Cable Franchise Renewal** – There are two years remaining on the contract. The Berks County Purchasing Council has put a consortium together to negotiate the terms of the renewal. Thomas Powanda made a motion, seconded by James Roma to join the consortium. **No comments received.**
All ayes
- **2020 Road Projects**-Road projects for this year will be full depth reclamation for Sycamore Road to include regrading of the intersection of Sycamore and Old Route 100. Also, the overlay of Gehringer Road from Route 100 to the top of the hill. A motion was made by James Roma and seconded by Thomas Powanda authorizing the Manager to work with LTL Consultants to develop the specs for the 2020 road projects as outlined. **No comments received.**
All ayes
- **-Recycling 2019 cost summary**-Mr. Sichler reported for 2019 the township spent \$1,800 on recycling. It was noted residents from other municipalities are

dropping their recycling off at the red barn and it is costing the township money. It was decided to put a notice on the website that the recycling program is for township residents.

- **Sewer system bonds** – Mr. Sichler was approached by Public Finance regarding the bond issue. It was noted the bonds can be refinanced in the fall and if the current bonding rates hold the township could potentially drop from 3 points on the interest to 2 points which would be about a half million-dollar savings over the life of the bonds. Mr. Sichler will continue to investigate and get more information.

SUBDIVISION/PLANNING

Margaret M. Stauffer Minor Plan – after brief discussion a motion was made by James Roma and seconded by Thomas Powanda granting a partial waiver request of section 107-47.A(2) concrete monuments. **No comments received.**

All ayes

All outstanding issues have been addressed on this Plan; therefore, a motion was made by Thomas Powanda, seconded by James Roma granting Final Plan Approval of the Margaret M. Stauffer Minor Plan. **No comments received.**

All ayes

Public Comment:

Doug Stetler, asked what the fee in lieu of money for sidewalks can be used for. Mr. Sichler stated there aren't restrictions on this money and is considered general fund money.

SUBDIVISION EXTENSION

A motion was made by David Moyer and seconded by Thomas Powanda granting the following Subdivision Extension:

Rose A. Gross Minor Plan 02/09/2020 to 05/19/2020

No comments received.

All ayes

COMMUNICATIONS

Copy of the ARB Delinquent Account Report is enclosed.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The next board of Supervisors meeting will be held on Thursday, February 27, 2020 at 7:00 pm.

Mr. Sichler announced there will be a Zoning Hearing Board meeting February 11, 2020 at 6:00 pm for a vehicle repair shop.

Interviews will be scheduled for applicants for the Roadcrew position.

Public Comment:

Sandra Caleen, 15 Stauffer Road, stated the land across the street is going to be developed and asked if she will be required to connect to the public sewer system. It was explained Spring Valley Village is a private system and therefore she would not be required to connect to the private lines.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by James Roma and seconded by David Moyer to adjourn the meeting at approximately 8:10 p.m. **No public comment received.**

All ayes

Respectfully submitted,

Richard Sichler
Manager/Secretary