

**WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
MINUTES
MARCH 26, 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.

ROLL CALL

The following members were present: Supervisors, James Roma; David Moyer, Thomas Powanda, Solicitor, Joan London, Esquire (by telephone); John Weber representing LTL Consultants (by telephone), Township Manager, Richard Sichler, and approximately three (3) 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

None

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 26, 2020

A motion was made by Thomas Powanda and seconded by James Roma to approve the minutes of February 26, 2020 as prepared.

No comments received.

All ayes

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 March 26, 2020, and to file the treasurer's report for audit. **No comments received.**

All ayes

TAX COLLECTOR

Tax Collectors Report for the month of February 2020:

Interim Tax	<u>\$ 554.79</u>
Total	\$ 554.79

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. Sichler reported the Chapter 94 Report confirms the Treatment Plant was in hydraulic overload for a number of months last year which will put the township into a connection plan for the Plant. A motion was made by James Roma and seconded by Thomas Powanda authorizing Systems Design Engineering to submit the Chapter 94 report to PADEP. **No comments received.**

All ayes

TOWNSHIP ENGINEER

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

Mr. Weber reported an escrow release request was received from Clover Hill. A motion was made by David Moyer and seconded by Thomas Powanda authorized Clover Hill Escrow Release #1 in the amount of \$110,081.54 per the recommendation of Engineer John Weber. **No comments received.**

All ayes

Bids were opened on Tuesday for the 2020 road projects. Two bids were received with the low bidder being EJ Breneman. The three roads to be completed would be Gehringer Road, Dairy Lane and Sycamore Road. Mr. Sichler explained the budgeted amount is about \$45,000 short however there are other funds that could be used. Mr. Roma stated he would not have a problem using fee in lieu of sidewalk funds for the project which currently has a balance of \$244,500. A motion was made by James Roma and seconded by Thomas Powanda accepting the low bid from EJ Breneman Option B in the amount of \$317,094.35. **No comments received.**

All ayes

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Ms. London completed a draft of the agreement of sale, sent out for review and comments. Reauthorization of the Bally Water Authority was to have taken place at the March Bally Borough meeting. The Solicitor will make the final changes and send out to Bally for review. Bally Borough has requested a member of Washington Township sit as a member of their Authority Board.

A Proclamation of Local Disaster Emergency was presented this evening for adoption. If there is federal money available for distribution having to deal with Covid-19 expenses this declaration would enable the township to be eligible for funds. The Proclamation

must be reauthorized every 7 days. After adoption, the Proclamation must be posted on the Township web page, bulletin board and sent to Emergency Management Coordinator to go to the County and State. A motion was made by David Moyer and seconded by Thomas Powanda adopting the Washington Township Proclamation of Local Disaster Emergency in accordance with the State of Pennsylvania guidelines for the Coronavirus. **No comments received.**

All ayes

With respect to the Barto Mall legal case a notice to keep the case active was filed by Mr. Mingey's legal counsel.

SUPERVISORS
UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- **PADOT Ebst Road/Route 100 stormwater issue**-there is no new information.
- **WWTP Pilot Test update** – the first two rounds of samples are in and it looks positive.
- **Natural Gas conversion** – this is ongoing.
- **Park Land Acquisition, Hoffmansville Road** – Mr. Sichler circulated the valuation of the property.
- **Tree removal-Gehringer Road open space** – ongoing
- **Township Treasurer Search Process** – Mr. Sichler contacted the Auditor and she is willing to help draft a job description. Mr. Sichler will follow up with her.
- **Personnel Policy Review** – ongoing
- **Barto Road Straightening** – ongoing
- **Gehman Road guiderail repair** – check was received for repair. A motion was made by James Roma and seconded by Thomas Powanda to transfer payment directly to Collinson. **No comments received.**

All ayes

- **Swamp Creek lift station upgrade final release** – ongoing
- **Asphalt Paver auction results** – the paver sold for \$4,500 to Ray Romig. A motion was made by Thomas Powanda and seconded by James Roma authorizing the sale of the asphalt paver at a sale price of \$4,500. **No comments received.**

All ayes

- **Surplus equipment sale** – Swamp Creek generator sale with starting bid of \$250. A motion was made by David Moyer and seconded by James Roma authorizing the auction of the Swamp Creek generator with a starting bid of \$250. **No comments received.**

All ayes

- **Costars Salt Contracts** – the township will be charged for the tonnage that has not been used but will sell for a more reasonable fee. Previously it was \$10 per ton however they will now sell at not to exceed \$3 per ton. The township will order the salt and store it prior to the purchase deadline.
- **Prestige Builders land swap** – Mr. Sichler will call to ask that the property is marked out.

NEW BUSINESS

- **American Tower lease terms** – previously they asked to lower the amount paid to the township. They would like to extend, keep the pricing with incremental increases, but would like to extend the current lease which expires in 2030 to 2060. They would keep the current rent at \$2,380.50 per month and then escalate it 15% every five years. *This item will be tabled.*
- **PMRS retirement plan changes** – The terms of the pension fund need to be updated to match IRS regulations. Supervisor Roma would like to see information for other options such as 401(K). A motion was made by David Moyer and seconded by James Roma authorizing the PMRS plan changes to comply with the IRS and Mr. Sichler will look into other plan options. **No comments received.**

All ayes

- **Township COVID-19 response** – Chairman Moyer explained it was discussed relaxing the sick leave requirements. No doctor note would be required if there would be a need to quarantine. A temporary policy due to the Coronavirus would be if an employee needed to take time off the employee could use sick time or time without pay if sick or quarantined. If an employee needs to use a leave of absence it would be unpaid with a continuation of benefits however the employee would have to pay for their portion of health care benefits. Mr. Sichler will draft and distribute travel cards to all employees tomorrow.

Mr. Sichler announced the Primary Election has been postponed until June 2nd.

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

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, April 23, 2020 at 7:00 pm.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by James Roma and seconded by Thomas Powanda to adjourn the meeting at approximately 7:50 p.m. **No public comment received.**

All ayes

Respectfully submitted,

Richard Sichler
Manager/Secretary