

**WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
MINUTES  
APRIL 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.

A moment of silence was held to recognize the passing of resident Curtis Rader.

**ROLL CALL**

The following members were present: Supervisors, James Roma; David Moyer, Thomas Powanda, Solicitor, Joan London, Esquire (by telephone); Tom Unger, Systems Design Engineering (by telephone), John Weber representing LTL Consultants (by telephone), Township Manager, Richard Sichler, and approximately five (5) residents in attendance.

Absent:

**TAPING OF MEETING**

The meeting was recorded as an aid in the preparation of the minutes. It was noted Brian Mohr was taping the meeting this evening in addition to the Township Manager.

**SPECIAL REQUEST**

None

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

**John Knight, 220 Kulps Road**, stated he has neighbors who are running ATV's. Mr. Knight suggested the township talk to this individual or change the code for appropriate decibels for ATV vehicles. Mr. Knight asked what can be done about the situation. Mr. Sichler explained there is a noise ordinance that has a decibel level at the property boundary and have asked the Code Enforcement Officer to keep this on his rounds and has not witnessed the vehicles in operation yet. Ms. London explained some different options Mr. Knight can take such as contacting the State Police.

Chairman Moyer announced an Executive Session regarding potential litigation was held this evening.

Chairman Moyer announced the update of the Emergency Declaration for the State and Township approving additional expenses and ratifying and confirming weekly extensions through the month.

**APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES OF MARCH 26, 2020**

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

**No comments received.**

**All ayes**

**TOWNSHIP REPORTS**

A motion was made by Thomas Powanda 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 April 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 March 2020:

Real Estate Tax	\$119,212.08
Interim Tax	\$ 346.61
Light Tax	\$ 356.72
Hydrant Tax	\$ 524.59
Per Capita Tax	\$ 11.00
Amusement Tax	\$ <u>754.60</u>
Total	\$121,205.60

**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. Unger reported he is coordinating with the Plant on the foaming issue and also looking to relocate the alum tank. Also looking at the conversion of pumps onto a rail system at the influent pump station.

Mr. Sichler reported the pilot test is ongoing and Nuvoda is suggesting to take the next step. SDE will evaluate the report and consider the next steps.

Mr. Sichler also stated it was suggested to get a data logging rain gauge which is about a \$350 investment. A motion was made by James Roma and seconded by Thomas Powanda to purchase a rain gauge not to exceed \$400. **No comments received.**

**All ayes**

**TOWNSHIP ENGINEER**

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

Mr. Weber reported there was no Planning Commission meeting however there was a new minor plan submitted and will be reviewed in June.

Clover Hill has been shut down as ordered by the Governor due to the Corona Virus. It looks like construction may be starting up again on May 1<sup>st</sup>.

The documentation for the road project is coming together however LTL is waiting on EJ Breneman's bonds.

### **SOLICITOR'S REPORT**

Ms. London forwarded the agreement, with all prior issues resolved, to Bally Borough Solicitor after the last meeting. Bally did not address the water system sale at their April meeting. Ms. London will follow up to see if the agreement will be addressed at their upcoming meeting and will also ask for confirmation that the Bally Authority has been reactivated.

Chairman Moyer asked the Solicitor if Kozloff Stoudt could bill the township more frequently. The township received bills for December of 2019 in April of 2020.

### **SUPERVISORS**

#### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

- **PADOT Ehst Road/Route 100 stormwater issue**-there is no new information.
- **WWTP Pilot Test update** – already addressed
- **Natural Gas conversion** – this is ongoing.
- **Park Land Acquisition, Hoffmansville Road** – Mr. Sichler circulated the valuation of the property and gave the appraised number to the agent and came back with a counter offer. Ms. London stated the purchase price cannot exceed the amount of the appraisal. Chairman Moyer stated he would like to meet with the property owner and the realtor in Executive Session.
- **Tree removal-Gehringer Road open space** – Rich will get some estimates
- **Township Treasurer Search Process** – Mr. Sichler distributed a revised job description and will advertise the job.
- **Barto Road Straightening** – there was a PADOT scoping meeting for the Edison Walk Subdivision with preliminary discussions of a traffic light on Route 100 at the entrance of the subdivision. PADOT has indicated they do not want to approve a traffic light so close to an existing traffic light and want them to consider a traffic circle. Mr. Weber stated the commercial area of the Edison Walk project is not working out quite as they had planned and are now redesigning the area and will delay the submittal of plans.
- **Swamp Creek lift station upgrade final release** – The Generator Guy took a look at the generator and found the block heater was not working. It was under warranty so a new block heater was installed. A motion was made by Thomas Powanda, seconded by David Moyer authorizing the final release. **No comments received.**

**All ayes**

- **Surplus equipment sale** – Swamp Creek generator auction will not expire until May 26<sup>th</sup> with the current bid at \$691
- **PMRS Retirement Plan** – Mr. Sichler was provided with more information and options. There are several options or the Pension Plan can be renewed in the current condition. There were four new options, (1) allowing part time employees to joint, (2) in service distribution plan, (3) permissive service credit and (4) Non-qualified service. Ms. London stated if changes are made the township will need to adopt an ordinance amending the Plan. The Board is interested in the in-service distribution plan and also the permissive service credit. Mr. Sichler will work with PMRS to get a draft including the two items.

**Public Comment:**

**Brian Mohr**, asked if employees will be notified prior to any changes being made to the plan and also asked if a 401K Plan is being looked at. Mr. Sichler stated there are two pension plans, the defined benefit plan and a cash balance plan which some employees are already participating in. It was explained this would be additional terms of the plan. Chairman Moyer stated employees will be made aware of what is going on.

- **Township COVID-19 response** – Mr. Sichler announced the County has extended the flat period for paying County real estate taxes and would the Township like to do the same with the township taxes. Mr. Sichler is looking to submit the paperwork to the County to preserve the townships ability to receive funds if warranted, for such items as disinfectant, PPE, etc. Questions have come from residents as to whether or not any consideration will be given to revisions to sewer billing and will look into further.
- **Speed Signs** – the signs were purchased and received and both units were not functional or of quality and were returned. Chairman Moyer stated signs could be purchased saying slow down. Rich will check into pricing for different options.

**NEW BUSINESS**

- **Fire Dept & EMS Donation** – Chairman Moyer suggested making half of the donation now. A motion was made by David Moyer and seconded by Thomas Powanda authorizing half the budgeted donation be given to the Fire Department and EMS. **No comments received.**

**All ayes**

- **Soccer Field Advertising** – Supervisor Powanda is not in favor of advertising banners at the soccer field at Niantic Road. Mr. Sichler said the banners were included in the design of the soccer field and will look into this.

**SUBDIVISION/PLANNING**

None

**SUBDIVISION EXTENSION**

A motion was made by James Roma and seconded by Thomas Powanda to grant the following Subdivision Extension:

Rose A. Gross Minor Plan	05/19/2020 to 08/17/2020
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**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, May 28, 2020 at 7:00 pm.

Chairman Moyer announced if residents are unable to get out due to the virus to call him directly and he will pick up groceries, etc. in a timely manner.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**ADJOURNMENT**

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

**All ayes**

Respectfully submitted,

Richard Sichler  
Manager/Secretary