

**WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
MINUTES
JUNE 25, 2020**

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson David Moyer called the regularly scheduled meeting of the Washington Township Board of Supervisors to order at 7:04 p.m., at the Washington Township Municipal Building. The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

The following members were present: Supervisors, David Moyer, Thomas Powanda, Solicitor, Joan London, Esquire; Tom Unger, Systems Design Engineering, John Weber representing LTL Consultants, Township Manager, Richard Sichler, staff member, Susan Brown and eight (8) residents in attendance.

Absent: James Roma

TAPING OF MEETING

The meeting was recorded as an aid in the preparation of the minutes. It was noted no one was taping the meeting this evening other than the Township Manager.

Chairman Moyer announced interviews were conducted last evening for the Treasurer position. In addition, an Executive Session was held this evening pertaining to potential litigation and also personnel issues.

SPECIAL REQUEST

None

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Jay Jeffries, 7 Bunting Court, feels there is a need for a police department. Mr. Jeffries stated there have been a few instances within the township and specifically within Spring Valley Village. Mr. Jeffries suggested a regional force with neighboring municipalities. Supervisor Powanda pointed out in May the State Police received 69 calls in Washington Township of which only 3 were of a criminal nature. Chairman Moyer stated there is a crime watch and possibly more people would be interested in joining the crime watch. Several of the cars that were entered were unlocked; residents need to make sure their vehicles are locked.

Chairman Moyer stated he will look into the police matter.

Tyler & Melissa Feight, 34 Cubbler Court, spoke about the township open space next to their home. Mrs. Feight said she knows the township does not want to sell the property however would they be open to leasing the property to the Feight's. Solicitor London explained when people are purchasing a property, they are purchasing based on what is on the plan such as open space, etc. and felt the chances are favorable to lease the

property with conditions. Mr. Sichler stated that typically when township property is leased by someone, a certificate of insurance is provided to the township. Mrs. London stated all the property owners would have to sign off on the deed restriction, that they agree to get rid of the deed restriction and have the plan recorded. Chairman Moyer stated if the property owners sign off with notarized signatures and bring it into the township, the township will pursue the request further. In addition, Mr. & Mrs. Feight were granted permission to plant pumpkins in the open space area.

Doug Stetler, Limekiln Road, presented to the Board, budget information for Douglass Township, Berks County Police force. In comparison Douglass Township's demographics are very similar to Washington Township. The police budget for 2020 is \$1,105,729.19 which consists of one chief, one sergeant and four officers and do not provide 24-hour coverage. The overall budget for Douglass Township is \$2.1 million dollars; over half of the annual budget is for police coverage alone. Mr. Stetler stated he does not feel Washington Township can afford a police force and a police force would most likely double the tax rate in Washington Township. Chairman Moyer said police coverage has been a topic of discussion at the PSATS conference and feels the township is not ready for a police force.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES OF MAY 28, 2020

A motion was made by Thomas Powanda and seconded by David Moyer to approve the minutes of May 28, 2020 as prepared.

No comments received.

All ayes

TOWNSHIP REPORTS

A motion was made by David Moyer and seconded by Thomas Powanda 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 June 25, 2020, and to file the treasurer's report for audit. **No comments received.**

All ayes

TAX COLLECTOR

Tax Collectors Report for the month of April 2020 presented by Rich Sichler:

Real Estate Tax	\$ 6,860.10
Interim Tax	\$ 2,105.43
Light Tax	\$ 12.00
Per Capita Tax	\$ 49.50
Total	\$ 9,027.03

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

Chairman Moyer asked if the lid on County Line Road has been checked. Mr. Sichler will follow up and report back on this item at next month's meeting.

Public Comment

Connie Cordova, asked about the progress of the NUVODA pilot test program. Mr. Unger explained a time extension has been granted by PADEP to extend the program through the end of September. More flow will be put through one of the reactors to see if that reactor can handle the additional flow.

TOWNSHIP ENGINEER

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

- Mr. Weber reported R & T Development, LLC lot line adjustment plan was reviewed by the Planning Commission and is on the agenda for this evening for review by the Board of Supervisors.
- Clover Hill roads were paved with base and binder course this month.
- 2020 Road project preconstruction meeting was held with the contractor and the PADOT approved mixed designs were received. There is a tentative start date of mid-July.
- MS4 Program requires screening of outfalls on a periodic basis. In the past month 50 outfalls were screened, of the 50 there was flow in 15 however none of the flow had any indication of an illicit discharge. The outfall screening is completed for this year.

Clover Hill escrow release – A motion was made by David Moyer, seconded by Thomas Powanda authorizing the Clover Hill Escrow Release #2 in the amount of \$67,726.50.

No comments received.

All ayes

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Ms. London reported she has prepared an agreement between Washington Township and Martin Stone Quarry granting a one-time, one-year waiver of the 25,000 tons extraction of stone for 2020 which was authorized at the May meeting.

Water System Sale – there is in process. A large volume of documents was sent to Bally Borough which are being reviewed and are on track for an August closing.

The Diamond Disposal hearing was continued and will take place on June 29th for the purpose of receiving new evidence in the form of the 1989 zoning decision.

The Township is in the process of filing five new sewer liens this month.

Supervisor Powanda asked if any response was ever received from Bechtelsville Rod & Gun Club from the letter sent by Kozloff Stoudt. Mrs. London stated she has not received a response.

SUPERVISORS
UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- **PADOT Ehst Road/Route 100 stormwater issue**-there are new paint marks. Mr. Sichler will follow up on this.
- **WWTP Pilot Test update** – already addressed
- **Tree removal-Gehringer Road open space** – Mr. Sichler has a contact for tree removal and will walk the property with him in mid-July.
- **Township Treasurer Search Process** – First round of interviews is complete and will try to schedule the second round for early next week.
- **Barto Road Straightening** – Mr. Weber reported he has located the deed of dedication for the right-of-way. All County did the plans for Padre Pio and LTL has reached out to them for some information to save some costs and are awaiting a response.
- **Township COVID-19 response** –
 - Public access to Township Building-Mr. Sichler stated the lobby has been closed to the public however tomorrow PA will move into the green phase. The lobby would continue to remain free of all soft surfaces and a hand sanitizing station would be set up. In addition, signage would direct visitors to wear masks upon entering the building. These changes will take effect on Monday morning.
 - Grant application-Mr. Sichler has reported our expenses associated with the virus has not reached the grant threshold, nor does he foresee the expenses reaching the threshold, therefore he has not done anything with the application.
 - Park use & rentals-There have not been many rental requests. After some brief discussion it was decided rentals may resume however there must be a cleaning between rentals.
 - Emergency declaration-Mr. Sichler has been submitting the weekly emergency declarations. It was decided unless there is a rise in infection rates the emergency declarations will no longer be submitted.
- **Speed Sign** – A speed sign has been ordered from Garden State Maintenance and receipt of the sign should be within two to three weeks.
- **PSATS MS4 Program** – to be held October 28th in Montgomery County. Chairman Moyer would like to attend. A motion was made by Thomas Powanda and seconded by David Moyer authorizing the Supervisors and township staff to attend the MS4 seminar on October 28th. **No comments received.**

All ayes

- **JK Memorial Field sponsor signs** – Mr. Sichler was asked to look into sponsorship signs and did tell the Soccer Club the Township would like to have a discussion about the signs. They will work with Mr. Sichler on a meeting date.
- **Personnel Policy Review** – This should take place prior to budget meetings.

- **Conditional Use Application** – A motion was made by David Moyer and seconded by Thomas Powanda authorizing the advertisement of the Conditional Use Hearing for Kelly Group & Shadeland Development to be held on July 23, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. **No comments received.**

All ayes

- **Comcast Cable Franchise** – A motion was made by David Moyer, seconded by Thomas Powanda authorizing advertisement of the Comcast Cable Franchise Public Hearing to be held on August 27, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. **No comments received.**

All ayes

- **Pine Forge Sportsman Club** – are requesting a waiver for permit fees for the installation of a shed. A motion was made by David Moyer and seconded by Thomas Powanda granting Pine Forge Sportsman Club the waiver of permit fees for the installation of an 8 x 10 shed at the pond at Limekiln Road. **No comments received.**

All ayes

NEW BUSINESS

- **Recycling Program** – There has been discussion by the EAC of how to reopen the recycling building and there is also an issue getting volunteers to help. It was discussed that masks and gloves would be provided for the volunteers. There was also discussion with respect to the recycling market and the materials that are accepted. Chairman Moyer stated he does not want to use taxpayer money to dispose of glass and is not willing to continue to take glass at the recycling center. Supervisor Powanda said he feels it is costing the township too much money to keep the recycling center open. It's becoming increasingly difficult to get volunteers to run the center and it has been closed for four months now. Mr. Powanda stated he has recycling through his trash hauler. Mr. Powanda also stated the Public Works Department is in need of additional space and the recycling barn could be used for township equipment which would eliminate the need for a \$70,000 pole barn. Chairman Moyer asked Mr. Sichler to find an avenue to get rid of the glass or the township will no longer be accepting glass at the recycling center.

- **Bally Springs Phase 3 Street Light Agreement** – A motion was made by David Moyer and seconded by Thomas Powanda authorizing Mr. Sichler to enter into a streetlight agreement for Bally Springs Phase 3. **No comments received.**

All ayes

- **Traffic Signal Inspection – PADOT request** – A request was received from PADOT asking all municipalities to inspect the poles, particularly the poles imbedded in concrete, which hold the traffic lights. Washington Township does not have poles imbedded in concrete however Mr. Sichler did check the poles.
- **Traffic signal maintenance contract** – A motion was made by Thomas Powanda and seconded by David Moyer authorizing Mr. Sichler to enter into the service contract with Signal Services Inc. in the amount of \$850 for service on two traffic signals. **No comments received.**

All ayes

- **Berks County Purchasing Council 2020-2021 Salt Contract** – A motion was made by David Moyer and seconded by Thomas Powanda authorizing 250 tons of road salt from the Berks County Purchasing Council. **No comments received.**

All ayes

- **Road Occupancy Permits**
 - 1606 County Line Road
 - 21 Lane Road

A motion was made by David Moyer and seconded by Thomas Powanda to ratify the Road Occupancy Permits for 1606 County Line Road and 21 Lane Road. **No comments received.**

All ayes

- **Barto Park basketball court maintenance** – Mr. Sichler has only received one quote at this time in the amount of \$9,400. This will be tabled until next month.
- **Township Server local backup device** – A motion was made by Thomas Powanda, seconded by David Moyer authorizing the purchase of five external hard drives from Moyer-Drabick at a cost not to exceed \$1,149.95. **No comments received.**

All ayes

- **2019 Audit** – The 2019 audit is now complete and the exit interview has been conducted. There were no finding and just a few recommendations, one being the need for cross training. Mr. Sichler stated as a new Treasurer comes on board that will be the time to cross train.
- **Washington Park Sign** – A quote was received from the State Prison System in the amount of \$3,000 per sign with color inlay not including posts. Chairman Moyer asked Mr. Sichler to do a little more research. It was suggested Mr. Sichler should contacting Graber Letterin’ Sign Co. for pricing.

SUBDIVISION/PLANNING

R & T Development, LLC – Submitted to the Township 03/17/20. This is a lot line adjustment/annexation of a 2.723-acre parcel from an existing 8.37-acre parcel located at 423 Anthony’s Mill Road. This Plan has been recommended for conditional approval by the Planning Commission conditioned upon some minor changes which have been made and revised plans submitted. A motion was made by David Moyer and seconded by Thomas Powanda granting final plan approval to R & T Development, LLC conditioned upon receipt of signed and notarized plans. **No comments received.**

All ayes

SUBDIVISION EXTENSION

None

COMMUNICATIONS

Copy of the ARB Delinquent Account Report is enclosed.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The next WTMA (water) meeting will be held on Thursday, July 23, 2020 at 6:30 p.m.

The next board of Supervisors meeting will be held on Thursday, July 23, 2020 at 7:00 pm.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Thomas Powanda and seconded by David Moyer to adjourn the meeting at approximately 8:42 p.m. **No public comment received.**

All ayes

Respectfully submitted,

Richard Sichler
Manager/Secretary