

**WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
AUGUST 13, 2020**

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson David Moyer called the regularly scheduled meeting of the Washington Township Board of Supervisors to order at 6:00 p.m., at the Washington Township Municipal Building. The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

The following members were present: Supervisors, David Moyer, Thomas Powanda, James Roma, Township Manager, Richard Sichler, staff member, Susan Brown and two (2) members of the public in attendance.

Absent:

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 township staff.

SPECIAL REQUEST

None

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

SUPERVISORS

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

- **Tropical Storm Isaias**

Emergency Road Repairs— The Chairman announced Groff Road had extensive damage from storm Isaias on Tuesday, August 4, 2020. Additionally, approximately 200 feet of Heydt's Schoolhouse Road was damaged from the same storm. Mr. Sichler stated everything with respect to the storm damage has been submitted to Berks County and the damage estimates are in and it is still unknown if the township will be receiving any type of aide. An emergency declaration has been declared and it has been renewed. Supervisor Roma questioned if the roadcrew has the resources and the time to finish the project before winter. Rich stated the neighboring municipalities are in the same position so we do not have the option to tap them for assistance and does not yet have a handle on how long the repairs will take. Mr. Roma also asked if LTL Consultants have taken a look at the project and made any recommendations about a design and Rich stated they have not. Groff Road is currently closed to

all traffic and Chairman Moyer feels this project can be completed in a two-week timeframe so the road may reopen. Mr. Moyer stated he has some time off and will be working with the Road Crew to get this project accomplished. After the blacktop is removed, soft spots can be detected. Two catch basins will be installed, concrete pipe will be replaced with approximately 120 feet of plastic pipe and redo the tile drain. If there are budget constraints, the final blacktop could wait until spring of 2021. Moyer Road and Lane Road will not be repaired this year and the budgeted money for those roads can be used for Groff Road repairs. Mr. Powanda feels the road needs to be repaired before winter and expressed concerns with snow plowing if the road would remain closed. Mr. Moyer stated Rod Christel in Bechtelsville would hire out his machines and trucks. It's \$85.00 per hour for a 10-wheeler and \$170.00 per hour for the excavator. Discussion took place regarding what equipment will be needed and if the equipment could be borrowed from other municipalities or rented. Mr. Moyer wants the crew to work 10-hour days for two weeks to get this project finished. Roadmaster Mohr explained the roadside mowing needs to continue as well as the mowing of the recreation areas throughout the township. Mr. Mohr also stated he feels a grater is needed to do this job. Mr. Powanda suggested hiring a manned truck from Christel to free up one of the crew members to do the mowing and other miscellaneous jobs that come up. Mr. Mohr stated Wednesday he will need a guy almost all day for water readings and one guy will be off Thursday and Friday. Mr. Mohr will check on the availability of inlet boxes and if needed Brian will order the boxes. It was decided the project would be started on Monday, August 24th. Brian will check with PADOT to borrow barricades so the stone piles can be removed.

A motion was made by James Roma and seconded by Thomas Powanda to proceed with the storm damage repairs needed on Groff Road with the help of an independent hauler and to rent an excavator suitable to complete the repairs if needed with the job not to exceed \$37,000. **No comments received.**

All ayes

- **Emergency Declaration** - Mr. Sichler indicated he would continue to renew the Emergency Declaration until Groff Road is finished and reopened.
- **Road Occupancy Permit** – 460 Weinstein Road Occupancy Permit request for Lecmar, contractor doing work for Windstream. Mr. Sichler explained the road will not be cut but rather directional boring will take place to install U G Cable. There will be a \$50 permit fee. They will be installing 2 feet off the roadway and about 30” deep. A motion was made by Thomas Powanda and seconded by James Roma granting the Road Occupancy Permit to Lecmar for the installation of a UG Cable at 460 Weinstein Road. **No comments received.**

All ayes

Mr. Powanda asked if liquid fuels money could be used for the repairs on Heydt's Schoolhouse Road and Mr. Sichler stated yes liquid fuels money could be used.

Mr. Moyer reported the emergency lights did not work in the administrative building when the power went out during the storm. Mr. Sichler said he will look into it.

Mr. Sichler stated he received an email from Mr. D'Angelo asking to arrange a meeting with the township professionals to discuss possible land purchase for open space. Rich will contact Mr. D'Angelo to have him proceed with discussions with the Solicitor and Engineer.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Conditional Use Hearing for Kelly Group Builders & Shadeland Dev. Corp will be held on Thursday, August 27, 2020 at 6:30 p.m.

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Thomas Powanda and seconded by James Roma to adjourn the meeting at approximately 6:55 p.m. **No public comment received.**

All ayes

Respectfully submitted,

Richard Sichler
Manager/Secretary