

**WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
MINUTES  
AUGUST 27, 2020**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chairperson David Moyer called the regularly scheduled meeting of the Washington Township Board of Supervisors to order at 8:17 p.m., at the Washington Township Municipal Building. The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

**PUBLIC HEARING**

Comcast Public Hearing convened at 8:17 p.m. and concluded at 8:25 p.m.

**ROLL CALL**

The following members were present: Supervisors, David Moyer, Thomas Powanda, James Roma, Solicitor, Joan London, Esquire; Tom Unger, Systems Design Engineering, John Weber representing LTL Consultants, Township Manager, Richard Sichler, staff member, Susan Brown and six (6) 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 was taping the meeting this evening other than township staff.

**SPECIAL REQUEST**

None

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None

**APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES OF JULY 23, 2020**

A motion was made by James Roma and seconded by Thomas Powanda to approve the minutes of July 23, 2020 as prepared. **No comments received.**

**All ayes**

**APPROVAL OF SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES OF AUGUST 13, 2020**

A motion was made by Thomas Powanda and seconded by James Roma approving the minutes of the special meeting held August 13, 2020 as prepared. **No comments received.**

**All ayes**

**Public Comment**

**Connie Cordova**, stated she was unable to view the June minutes on the township website. Rich will look into this.

**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 August 27, 2020, and to file the treasurer’s report for audit. **No comments received.**

**All ayes**

**TAX COLLECTOR**

In the absence of the Tax Collector, the report for June and July was provided by the Township Manager, Rich Sichler.

<b><u>June 2020 Report</u></b>		<b><u>July 2020 Report</u></b>	
Real Estate Tax	\$46,444.86	Real Estate Tax	\$10,355.04
Interim Tax	\$ 4,248.34	Interim Tax	\$ 2,271.00
Light Tax	\$ 12.00	Hydrant Tax	\$ 107.80
Hydrant Tax	\$ 28.41	Per Capita Tax	\$ 6,897.10
Per Capita Tax	\$ 143.00	Amusement Tax	<u>\$ 9,392.32</u>
Amusement Tax	<u>\$ 307.72</u>	Total	\$29,023.26
Total	\$51,184.33		

**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 had nothing in addition to his monthly report.

**Public Comment**

**Connie Cordova** remarked it has been two years since the sewer rate reduction and there have been additional connections this year. Ms. Cordova stated Spring Valley would be looking for the township to consider a reduction for the upcoming budget.

Supervisor Roma asked if the brush could be cut around the manhole off of Niantic Road. Mr. Sichler will take care of it.

**TOWNSHIP ENGINEER**

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

- 849 Forgedale Road did a preliminary site plan which was reviewed by LTL Consultants. The project will not require a Land Development Plan. The site

improvements will consist of a driveway, small parking lot and new septic system.

- Bally Springs Phase 3 dedication punch list was issued to Rotelle about two weeks ago.
- 2020 Road Project final invoice from EJ Breneman was reviewed. A credit was due on the 9.5mm wearing course and has been received. LTL is recommending payment of the invoice. A motion was made by James Roma, seconded by David Moyer authorizing payment to EJ Breneman in the amount of \$347,920.92 for the 2020 Road Project. **No comments received.**

**All ayes**

- Bally Springs Phase 3 Escrow Release #5 request received on July 23, 2020. The requested amount was \$119,487.25 however there were a number of items which have not been completed. Mr. Weber is recommending a release in the amount of \$45,700. A motion was made by Thomas Powanda and seconded by James Roma granting Bally Springs Escrow Release #5 in the amount of \$45,700. **No comments received.**

**All ayes**

Chairman Moyer stated there is an RV located behind the old Washington Inn at the driveway to the Swamp Creek Pump Station and believes there is someone living in the RV. Rich stated he spoke with John Koch about this. Mr. Weber will follow up with John.

Mr. Moyer also stated he noticed a camera has been installed on a pole along Limekiln Road and asked if the camera is allowed. Mr. Weber said the township does not have any type of regulations on cameras.

### **SOLICITOR'S REPORT**

Water System Sale – The Bally Borough Municipal Authority has met and has tentatively accepted the agreement pending some potential clean-up of some terms.

The Comcast Franchise Hearing was just concluded.

Remand Hearing for Palmer appeal hearings have concluded. The participants, by agreement, will be submitting proposed findings of fact and conclusions of law by close of business on Friday, September 11, 2020. A decision will follow by October 16, 2020.

Mr. Moyer understood the Bally Borough Attorney to say the water sale is not a sale but rather a lease agreement. Ms. London will check with clarify with Attorney Curley.

### **Public Comment**

**Connie Cordova** stated Bally Borough received a grant from the PA Small Water & Sewer Program in the amount of \$314,000 and is wondering if Washington Township would be eligible for any grant money since the sewer rate is high. It was explained again as it has been explained at pervious meetings, grant money is not available for existing sewer debt, it is available for sewer projects.

## SUPERVISORS

### UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- **PADOT Ehst Road/Route 100 stormwater issue**-Mr. Moyer spoke with a PADOT representative and he stated this project is proceeding but could not give any specifics.
- **Tree removal-Gehringer Road open space** – Mr. Sichler stated there are a number of dead or dying trees. The Board authorized a forester to assess and tag trees which has been completed and marked 184 trees. Of the 184 trees, 115 have no timber value and 70 trees with some value. Mr. Moyer stated he knows a young guy from Fleetwood who would come in and harvest the wood that is worth anything and would do a 50/50 split. Mr. Sichler will get the proposal to this gentleman to look over and will also provide the same to Nate Wise.
- **Township Treasurer Search Process** – the current Treasurer, Doug Bleam will retire on Monday, August 31<sup>st</sup>. A motion was made by David Moyer and seconded by Thomas Powanda appointing Melissa Swanson as the Township Treasurer. **No comments received.**

#### **All ayes**

- **Barto Road Straightening** – the pipeline company has been contacted and are arranging a time to do a dig to determine the depth of the pipe.
- **Township COVID-19 response** – there are no changes at this time.
- **Tropical Storm Isaias** – has kept the Roadcrew busy. Groff Road repair is underway. Asphalt has been stripped away and the base is intact. Rental of a large roller will be needed at a cost of \$250 per day. The Crew hopes to be paving by Tuesday of next week. Chairman Moyer complimented the Roadcrew and said they are working very hard to get the road reopened for the residents. Forgedale Road, which is a state road, should be reopened next week.
- **JK Memorial Field sponsor signs** – Rich is waiting to hear back from the Soccer Club.
- **Personnel Policy Review** – The Supervisors will get some dates to Rich and Rich will get dates from the employees.
- **Recycling Program** – Rich reported the recycling program resumed in the beginning of August with some changes due to COVID-19.
- **Public Works Building** – Rich received a quote from Shirk Pole Buildings. The estimated cost for the specifications is \$49,225 which would require public bid. Mr. Weber pointed out that this price does not include prevailing wage so the cost will be higher. It was noted this price does not include a concrete floor. It was decided Rich would mark out the area and work on final specs so the project could be put out for bid in January 2021. Mr. Roma would like to see an inventory list of items to be stored in the pole building.
- **Park Signage** – An order was placed with PA Correctional Industries for a new sign to be placed at Washington Park. No delivery date has been received.
- **County Line Road Berkey's Bridge Closeout** – The damaged property marker and swale at an adjacent property has not been addressed. Mr. Weber will follow up with John Backenstose to address the issue.

### **Public Comment**

**Connie Cordova** asked if a new hearing date has been set for the 124 Stauffer Road property. Mr. Weber said they are waiting for the District Justice to reschedule.

- **Emergency Lights** – asked if the emergency lights have been repaired. Rich stated they have not.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

- **PennDOT Winter Municipal Agreement** – PennDOT has provided a new proposed Winter Municipal Agreement through 2025. A motion was made by David Moyer and seconded by James Roma approving the Winter Municipal Agreement between Washington Township and the State through 2025. **No comments received.**

**All ayes**

- **Supervisor's Road Inspection** – The Supervisors prefer a date in October. Rich will send some October dates for consideration.
- **Reminder** – Joint Planning Commission meeting to be held October 13, 2020 here in Washington Township
- **Road Occupancy Permit** – An application has been received from Lecmar for work on Wissinger Road, approximately 300 feet for a cost of \$800. A motion was made by Thomas Powanda, seconded by James Roma approving the Road Occupancy Permit for work on Wissinger Road by Lecmar. **No comments received.**

**All ayes**

### **SUBDIVISION/PLANNING**

#### **Andrew S. Ott Minor Subdivision Waiver/Deferral Request –**

- Waiver request from SALDO Section 107-29.A to allow a depth to width ratio greater than 3 to 1. In this case it would be 3.07 to 1. A motion was made by David Moyer and seconded by Thomas Powanda granting the subdivision waiver from SALDO Section 107-29.A. **No comments received.**

**All ayes**

- Deferral request from SALDO Section 107-37 to allow the stormwater management and erosion & sediment control to be addressed during the building permit application process. A motion was made by David Moyer and seconded by Thomas Powanda granting the deferral request from SALSO Section 107-37. **No comments received.**

**All ayes**

Supervisor Roma questioned Mr. Ott if he would be removing the two metal sheds. Mr. Ott said at this time he does not have plans to remove them.

- **Sewage Facility Planning Module Exemptions** – Provided are a primary and alternate system sites for both lots which allows for the application of a planning exemption. A motion was made by James Roma and seconded by Thomas

Powanda authorizing the Township Manager to sign the Sewage Facility Planning Module Exemption and submit to PADEP. **No comments received.**

**All ayes**

**SUBDIVISION EXTENSION**

A motion was made by James Roma and seconded by David Moyer granting the following Subdivision Extension:

Andrew S. Ott Minor Plan                      8/27/20 to 11/26/20

**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, September 24, 2020 at 7:00 pm.

**Public Comment**

**Peg Stewart** asked if Public Hearings could be placed on the website calendar. Rich stated hearings could be added to the calendar.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made by Thomas Powanda and seconded by James Roma to adjourn the meeting at approximately 9:18 p.m. **No public comment received.**

**All ayes**

Respectfully submitted,

Richard Sichler  
Manager/Secretary