

**WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
MINUTES  
SEPTEMBER 24, 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, 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 ten (10) 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**

Mr. Charles Wohl, was present this evening as a representative of Boyertown Community Library. Mr. Wohl provided a two-year Statistical Report for 2019 and 2020. Mr. Wohl explained during the COVID Pandemic they have had to change the way they do business which includes curbside service and also expanded Wi-Fi services. Mr. Wohl thanked the Township for their financial support.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None

**APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES OF AUGUST 27, 2020**

A motion was made by James Roma and seconded by Thomas Powanda to approve the minutes of August 27, 2020 as prepared. **No comments received.**

**All ayes**

Chairman Moyer announced in addition to this evening's Executive Session to discuss land litigation an Executive Session was held on September 17<sup>th</sup> for personnel matters.

**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 September 24, 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 August 2020 was provided by the Township Manager, Rich Sichler.

Real Estate Tax	\$ 1,948.59
Interim Tax	\$ 477.08
Per Capita Tax	\$ 5,534.30
Amusement Tax	<u>\$12,147.59</u>
Total	\$20,107.56

**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 Nuvoda is still working on standard operating procedures to divert more flow into the tank and will be providing more test information. Test information provided up to this point has been inconclusive.

The spare pump is not useable for the Influent Pump Station due to differences in voltage and horsepower. The most economical way to proceed would be to purchase a spare pump which would allow the removal of one pump at a time, install the spare pump and send the pump out to be refurbished. The pumps that are in the Pump Station now have a smaller size impeller that moving forward for the expansion of the plant, a larger impeller can be put in to allow the pumping flow for the expansion and the pump does not have to be totally replaced. A cost for the spare pump is being obtained.

Supervisor Powanda asked if the Nuvoda test is costing the township money every month. Mr. Unger stated the Nuvoda testing is not costing the township other then a minimal amount of engineering time. Chairman Moyer stated if they cannot get it together by the end of the year, they need to remove it. Ms. London stated there are termination provisions in the agreement. Rich explained Nuvoda was to be wrapped up by June and we were given an extension which will require DEP to give an additional extension to go past the end of this month. Mr. Powanda also feels there should be some positive results by the end of the month.

Mr. Moyer asked when the township made a plan with Bally to take the excess sewer from the township treatment plant and pump it to Bally for them to treat; is this even possible instead of expanding our treatment plant. Mr. Unger stated the township purchased X amount of capacity at Bally's Plant and the township has the right to that capacity per day and Bally has the right to tell the township were in the system the

township can put that flow into the system. Possibly Washington Township would have to run a line down to the Bally Treatment Plant.

### **TOWNSHIP ENGINEER**

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

- Mr. Weber reported the Planning Commission recommended conditional Preliminary/Final Plan Approval for the Andrew S. Ott Minor Subdivision.
- Bally Springs Phase 3 dedication punch list issued on 8/13/20. They are working on items and their hope is to pave the roads before the end of the year however there is currently no paving schedule.
- Clover Hill subdivision has two homes under construction. LTL is recommending an escrow release in the amount of \$15,155. A motion was made by James Roma and seconded by Thomas Powanda authorizing Clover Hill Escrow Release #3 in the amount of \$15,155 per LTL's letter dated 9/17/2020.  
**No comments received.**  
**All ayes**
- The MS4 Annual Report has been completed and will be submitted before month end.

### **SOLICITOR'S REPORT**

Water System Sale – The Bally Borough Municipal Authority has approved the Water System Sale and the exhibits have been finalized by Ms. London. Ms. London is awaiting the documents from Bally.

- Ms. London reported the Preliminary Objections have been filed with respect to the Kelly Group/Shadeland Development suite. There will be a status conference on October 28, 2020.
- Mr. Minge's attorneys have until October 1<sup>st</sup> to submit proposed findings of fact and conclusions of law with respect to the Conditional Use Application. The Township will be rendering a decision at the October 22, 2020 Board of Supervisors meeting.

### **SUPERVISORS**

#### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

- **PADOT Ehst Road/Route 100 stormwater issue**-Mr. Moyer stated PADOT has this project on the books however a time line for the project has not been established.
- **Tree removal-Gehringer Road open space** – Mr. Sichler stated he has a draft request for bids based on the scope of work discussed at the August meeting. A motion was made by David Moyer, seconded by James Roma authorizing the legal review and advertising of the request for bid for the open space along Gehringer Road. **No comments received.**  
**All ayes**
- **Barto Road Straightening** – Mr. Weber indicated the utility pipe was uncovered 28" from the ground surface to the top of the pipe. The pipeline requires 36" of

clearance from the top of the subgrade which changed the design of the road slightly. The next step would be to submit the design to Buckeye Pipeline for their review and comments.

- **Tropical Storm Isaias** – the section of Groff Road that was damaged by the storm has been repaired and the road reopened. The damage to Heydt’s Schoolhouse has been repaired as well. Rich stated he has stopped submitting the emergency declaration and is hoping for some reimbursement from either PEMA or FEMA. The cost for the Groff Road repair came in at around under \$25,000. The Supervisors recognized the hard work and great job done by the Township Roadcrew as well as Pike Township, New Hanover Township and Douglass Township, Montgomery County for their assistance.
- **JK Memorial Field sponsor signs** – Rich said the Club has had some turnover and have not gotten back to him regarding the signs. Rich will get in touch with them again.
- **Personnel Policy Review** – Rich received a lot of input from the Supervisors and will get a draft together with some options for the Supervisor’s review.
- **Public Works Building** – Rich will get the corners marked out in the next week.
- **Park Signage** – The sign for Washington Park is on order and should be received within the next month.
- **Supervisor’s Road Inspection** – Road inspection is set for October 13<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 a.m. A motion was made by David Moyer and seconded by Thomas Powanda authorizing the advertisement of the road inspection.

**Public Comment**

Connie Cordova asked if the road inspection includes the crosswalks on Stauffer Road. Mr. Moyer stated it is all inclusive, gutters, cracks, pipes etc.

**All ayes**

- **PennDOT Winter Maintenance Agreement Resolution No. 2020-19** – A motion was made by David Moyer and seconded by James Roma adopting Resolution No. 2020-19 PennDOT Winter Maintenance Agreement. **No comments received.**

**All ayes**

**NEW BUSINESS**

- **Replacement of two office PC’s** – Rich stated \$5,500 was budgeted for the PC’s. The quote came in at \$3,500. A motion was made by James Roma and seconded by Thomas Powanda authorizing the purchase of two PC’s not to exceed \$4,000. **No comments received.**

**All aye**

- **Purchase of office chairs** – Rich said we are in need of office chairs which were priced at \$200 each. A motion was made by David Moyer and seconded by James Roma authorizing the purchase of two office chairs not to exceed \$500. **No comments received.**

**All ayes**

- **2022 General liability insurance renewal** – Rich reported a 15% increase from last year on the real estate insurance. After contacting the agent Rich noted the property insurance went up 27 ½ %. Previously the Administration building was

insured for \$500,000 which they felt was under insured and are requiring the Township to carry \$1.2 million in coverage. The WWTP was covered for \$2.2 million and are now requiring \$3.9 million. The liability coverage went up 17.66% attributed directly to the budget. The purchase of the paver also increased the cost. Rich asked how the township could control the cost of insurance and he was asked if the township ever did an appraisal. If appraised for less they would allow less coverage.

- **Authorization to retain former Treasurer** – Rich explained the new Treasurer may need help on a limited basis, possibly four to six hours per month. A motion was made by David Moyer, seconded by Thomas Powanda authorizing the retention of the former Treasurer, Doug Bleam, at a rate of \$28.00 per hour on an as needed basis. **No comments received.**

**All ayes**

#### **Public Comment**

Connie Cordova asked what happened to the speed sign that was purchased. Mr. Moyer stated the sign was received and it is currently in use. Ms. Cordova asked about placing the sign on Old Route 100 and Mr. Moyer explained that is a state road. Ms. Cordova then asked if the sign could be placed on Stauffer Road and it was stated the sign was placed on Stauffer Road today.

#### **SUBDIVISION/PLANNING**

**Andrew S. Ott Minor Plan** located at 325 – 331 Kulps Road, submitted 5/8/20. The Planning Commission recommended conditional Preliminary/Final Plan approval. This Plan is creating two lots from one existing lot however there are currently two structures on the property with one structure straddling the new property line. This structure needs to be relocated before Plan approval. A motion was made by David Moyer and seconded by James Roma granting conditional Preliminary/Final Plan approval. **No comments received.**

**All ayes**

#### **SUBDIVISION EXTENSION**

None

#### **COMMUNICATIONS**

Copy of the ARB Delinquent Account Report is enclosed.

#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Budget meeting(s) will be held October 19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> (if needed) at 6:00 p.m.

The next board of Supervisors meeting will be held on Thursday, October 22, 2020 at 7:00 pm.

Voter registration deadline is October 19, 2020.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made by James Roma and seconded by Thomas Powanda to adjourn the meeting at approximately 7:55 p.m. **No public comment received.**

**All ayes**

Respectfully submitted,

Richard Sichler  
Manager/Secretary