

**WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
MINUTES
NOVEMBER 19, 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 seven (7) 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

Eric Westrich, Boyertown Soccer Club, was present this evening to discuss the JK Memorial Field sponsor signs. Supervisor Powanda stated the land was given to the soccer club for their use and feels township residents are not benefitting in any way. Mr. Powanda also stated he feels the signs are too big for the Township Ordinance, and in addition feels the Township Recreation Committee should be receiving part of the income from the sponsorships. Chairman Moyer said he would like to see the Recreation Committee receive 25% of the profit from the sign sponsors. Mr. Moyer also stated the size of the signs are 38 x 60 and the field is located in the agricultural zoning district. Mr. Westrich stated as part of the field use agreement, signs are allowed and must be no larger than 15 square feet. Mr. Weber indicated there is no provision for advertising signs in the agricultural district, the 15 square feet is a sign, naming the facility that is on the property. Mr. Sichler stated the original agreement does allow them to have signs but does not specify the size and it also states they can retain the proceeds from the rental of the signs. Mr. Westrich reported any money received from the advertising is strictly used for the JK Memorial Field, the money does not go into the soccer club general fund. Mr. Westrich did indicate they will pay close attention to the size of the signs in the future. Mr. Westrich stated the soccer club is very grateful for the field and they have received very positive feedback from the community. Mr. Westrich will take the Board of Supervisors request back to the soccer club for discussion and wants to be a good neighbor. Mr. Weber suggested possibly the soccer club should have a variance for the signs to be compliant and did not recommend amending the zoning ordinance to allow advertising signs. Ms. London stated the agreement already addresses this issue and the

signs are allowed by agreement. Mr. London will look at adding language to the existing agreement pertaining to the signs.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

Chairman Moyer announced an Executive Session was held this evening to discuss land issues, personnel and litigation.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES OF OCTOBER 19, 2020 BUDGET MEETING & OCTOBER 22, 2020 REGULAR MEETING

A motion was made by James Roma and seconded by Thomas Powanda to approve the minutes of October 19th and October 22nd as prepared. **No comments received.**

All ayes

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 November 19, 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 October 2020 was provided by the Township Manager, Rich Sichler.

Real Estate Tax	\$ 3,177.31
Interim Tax	\$ 1,911.34
Light Tax	\$ 36.30
Hydrant Tax	\$ 36.82
Per Capita Tax	\$ 776.50
Amusement Tax	\$ 1,834.56
Total	\$ 7,772.83

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 a letter was received from PADEP granting the emergency sewer connection for 1547 County Line Road. In the letter, DEP suggests the township conduct an evaluation of the area to determine if there is a community wide issue that could be resolved by the expansion of the sewer service area, doing that with a component 3M planning module.

A motion was made by David Moyer and seconded by Thomas Powanda authorizing the investigation utilizing the Planning Module 3M and also meeting with the applicant and their engineer for the connection at 1547 County Line Road. Mr. Roma asked if the study would be a cost to the township or to the property owner. Mr. Unger stated the study would be for the general area and would be a cost to the township.

All ayes

Mr. Moyer asked how things are going with Nuvoda. Mr. Unger stated as of last week there were no new modifications or changes however there was some movement on a weir. Mr. Sichler and Mr. Unger will reach out to them for an update.

Mr. Sichler stated during a wind storm earlier in the month there were numerous power outages. When power was restored to the Weinstein Pump Station there was a small fire which cause the loss of some expensive equipment which will be covered by insurance. The pump station is currently running on one pump and the second pump should be on line tomorrow. One piece of equipment damaged was an auto dialer and will be covered by insurance however a cell service dialer would be an upgrade to consider and would need to enter into a cell service agreement for this location. This system is currently in operation at Swamp Creek and is working very well. Mr. Sichler is obtaining quotes for the upgrade to cell service.

Mr. Unger stated an evaluation of the entire electrical system at Weinstein Pump Station will be completed. Currently there is only single-phase electric to the pump station with three-phase pumps so there is a phase conversion that takes place.

Public Comment:

Connie Cordova, asked if anyone has contacted the township about the open position for a sewer operator. It was explained that the position has not been advertised and this would be an employee of the township and not a third-party contractor.

TOWNSHIP ENGINEER

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

Planning Commission is currently reviewing the Edison Walk Commercial Minor Subdivision. In addition, the Edison Walk Residential Plan has been submitted for 256 units and will be reviewed at the Planning Commissions February meeting.

Bally Springs Phase 2 & 3 are preparing for dedication to the township.

Mr. Weber reported the MS4 Report was received and acceptable to PADEP.

Public Comment:

Connie Cordova, asked if the mobile home on Stauffer Road was inspected as previously discussed. Mr. Weber stated the Code Official did check under the home and did not observe any rodents. There are still active citations on the property but the District Justice has not scheduled any hearings. Mr. Weber did state they will be sending a letter to the owner to close in the bottom of the home.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Ms. London reported an appeal has been filed by Kelly Group/Shadeland Development on 11/17/20.

In addition, further appeal has been taken by Mr. Palmer from the McGovern Diamond Disposal Zoning Hearing Board decision. Ms. London is expecting to go to court on the appeal on 12/21/20 for argument.

The water system sale has been completed and awaiting the fully executed set of documents.

SUPERVISORS

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- **PADOT Ehst Road/Route 100 stormwater issue**-Mr. Moyer has been trying to reach a representative and is awaiting a return phone call.
- **Tree removal-Gehringer Road open space** – bids were due in on Tuesday however no bids were received. Mr. Moyer asked if this is something that can be negotiated with a forester. Ms. London stated it is a sale of township property and she has seen different types of contracts with different pricing options. It was stated purchase contracts would have to be bid a second time and if nothing is received then the township could go with the provider of choice. Ms. London feels the township can legally enter into negotiated contract with a forester. Ms. London will research further.
- **Motor grader bid review** – One bid was received for a John Deere 570B from Wengers of Myerstown for \$26,000 delivered. One exception they took to the bid requirement was the hour meter was a replacement, so they could not verify the exact number of hours. A motion was made by David Moyer and seconded by Thomas Powanda authorizing the purchase of the John Deere 570B from Wengers of Myerstown in the amount of \$26,000 delivered. **No comments received.**

All ayes

- **Barto Road Straightening** – Mr. Moyer checked into the fee for the Plan review and was told an outside engineering firm would be looking at the Plan. *Ongoing*
- **Tropical Storm Isaias-FEMA/PEMA reimbursement** – PEMA asked FEMA to release funds for reimbursement which was denied so there will be no federal funds.
- **Personnel Policy Review** – a marked up version of the personnel policy was provided to the Supervisors for review. The Plan the township currently has Plan A which costs the township \$1,607.04 per year. There is a Plan B available through Aetna which covers 60% of your pre-disability income with a cap of \$600 per week which would increase the township payment to \$3,243.00. In

addition, Benecon shopped the Plan and the best plan they have to offer is through One America with a 2% savings which is Plan D in the amount of \$3,178. Mr. Sichler also looked at being self-insured however Mr. Sichler does not want to become a claims agent. A motion was made by Thomas Powanda and seconded by James Roma authorizing the change of the employee short term disability plan from Aetna, Plan A to One America, Plan D at an annual cost of \$3,177.80. **No comments received.**

All ayes

Mr. Roma stated he would like more time to review the Personnel Policy. The Personnel Policy review will be placed on the December agenda.

- **Public Works Building** – There is the option of structural steel or a pole building. The size is proposed to be 48 x 80 pole building with a concrete floor, electric and heat. Mr. Sichler will provide a layout of the building at the December meeting.
- **Park Signage** – The sign was damaged when it was initially received. It is believed a new sign is being constructed and will be delivered when it is completed.
- **Supervisor’s Road Inspection** – Road inspection was completed on October 13th. A copy of the inspection and comments were distributed to the Supervisors. Chairman Moyer explained there will be more traffic on Barto Road with the addition of the Edison Walk subdivision. The road needs to be straightened and the Y at the intersection of Barto Road and Old Route 100 needs to be removed. At this time Mr. Moyer is proposing to make the Y a one way going north and eventually make it a T intersection. These are items that should be placed on a wish list to share with the developer. Additionally, Mr. Moyer proposed making the southern end of Ehst Road a one-way going in. There are letters that need to go out to property owners regarding some issues observed during road inspection. There is a property maintenance issue at the corn of Hillcrest and Crow Hill Road which needs to be addressed by letter to the property owner. An ordinance will be drafted for the December meeting to address the one-way at Ehst Road.

Public Comment:

Peg Stuart, stated a township newsletter should be put out in early 2021 to provide some information to residents with respect to road issues, etc. Mr. Roma suggested the information should also be on the township website.

- **2021 Budget** – Chairman Moyer stated he is not authorizing the advertisement of the budget until employee salaries are discussed. It was decided an executive session would be held to discuss salaries at the end of tonight’s meeting. Mr. Sichler discussed the following outstanding budget items:
 - Copy machine
 - F-350 p/u truck
 - Brush hog
 - Backhoe
 - Leveler
 - Recreation Plan
 - Streetlight fund

- **Bond refinancing** – The bond market has dropped, there is an estimated savings of \$45,000 per year if refinanced. Mr. Sichler was directed to investigate this further.
- **Gas meter purchase** – Authorization was given over a year ago to purchase however the purchase never took place. Mr. Sichler is awaiting a new price quote and will hopefully have the quote for the December meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

- **Barto Park fence** - Mr. Roma would like to purchase the fence to finish the enclosure of the Barto Park to protect the woods, trash, dumping, four-wheelers, pallets in the woods and people cutting things down. Mr. Moyer asked if there will be gates because that is the only way he would be in favor of the fence. Mr. Moyer stated he doesn't want to keep people out, he wants to bring people in. Mr. Moyer suggested placing a pipe in the woods to address the water issue and pave a walking path so people are able to get into the park. Mr. Sichler will provide a drawing for the December meeting for the Supervisors to review.
- **Sink hole** - Mr. Sichler spoke about the mine hole that has opened up along Old Route 100. This is between the property owner and the state.
- **Sewer Operators** – Mr. Moyer would like to advertise for two full-time sewer positions, preferably both with an operator's license. A motion was made by David Moyer and seconded by Thomas Powanda authorizing the advertisement of two full-time or one full-time and one part-time, minimum of at least one licensed, sewer plant operators. **No comments received.**

All ayes

SUBDIVISION/PLANNING

None

SUBDIVISION EXTENSION

None

COMMUNICATIONS

Copy of the ARB Delinquent Account Report is enclosed.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The next board of Supervisors meeting will be held on Thursday, December 17, 2020 at 7:00 pm. *(please note this is one week early due to the Christmas holiday)*

EXECUTIVE SESSION

An Executive Session was called at 9:06 p.m. to discuss personnel matters. The meeting reconvened at 9:54 p.m.

A motion was made by Thomas Powanda, seconded by David Moyer authorizing the advertisement of the 2021 Budget as discussed. **No comments received.**

David Moyer – aye
Thomas Powanda – aye
James Roma - opposed

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by James Roma and seconded by Thomas Powanda to adjourn the meeting at approximately 9:56 p.m. **No public comment received.**

All ayes

Respectfully submitted,

Richard Sichler
Manager/Secretary