

**WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
MINUTES
MAY 27, 2021**

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; John Weber representing LTL Consultants, Greg Unger, Systems Design Engineering (via Zoom), Township Manager, Richard Sichler, Township Secretary, Susan Brown, ten (10) residents in attendance and approximately four (4) residents via Zoom.

Absent:

TAPING OF MEETING

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

Chairman Moyer announced an Executive Session was held this evening to discuss possible land acquisition.

SPECIAL REQUEST

None

PUBLIC COMMENT

Gregg Foster, 3096 County Line Road, E. Greenville – Mr. Foster asked if there has been any discussion with respect to the Mingey property proposal along Schwenkfelder Road. Solicitor London stated this proposal was discussed during executive session. An update was presented to the Board of Supervisors of what occurred during the court conference. Mr. Foster asked for a postponement of the July 8th hearing due to the fact that he will be out of the state. Ms. London suggested Mr. Foster have his attorney ask the court for the continuance. Mr. Foster found an old proposed plan from Mr. Mingey for 17 sites connected to Kutztown Road which Mr. Foster said would be agreeable to himself and his neighbors. Ms. London suggested Mr. Foster provide the plan to his attorney and have his attorney send the plan to her. Lastly, Mr. Foster asked if it is possible to lower the speed limit on Schwenkfelder/County Line Road and if this would require a traffic study Mr. Foster stated he would be happy to provide payment for the study. The current speed limit is 40 mph and there is a very poor line of site out of his driveway and would like the speed lowered to 35 mph which is the speed limit at the other end of the street. Mr. Weber stated one side is Washington Township, the other side is Upper Hanover

Township and both municipalities have to do a study or one agree to allow the other municipality to do it and accept the findings.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING HELD APRIL 13, 2021 & REGULAR MEETING OF APRIL 22, 2021

A motion was made by Thomas Powanda and seconded by David Moyer to approve the minutes of the special meeting held on April 13, 2021 and the regular meeting minutes of April 22, 2021 as prepared. **No comments received.**

David Moyer – aye

Thomas Powanda – aye

James Roma – aye to April 13, 2021 and abstained from April 22, 2021

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 May 27, 2021, and to file the treasurer’s report for audit. **No comments received.**

All ayes

TAX COLLECTOR

Tax Collectors Report for the month of April 2021:

Real Estate Tax	\$489,334.89
Interim Tax	\$ 47.05
Light Tax	\$ 4,736.34
Hydrant Tax	\$ 2,368.71
Per Capita Tax	\$ 77.00
Amusement Tax	<u>\$ 5,329.73</u>
Total	\$501,893.72

FIRE CHIEF’S REPORT

A copy of the Eastern Berks Fire Department Report is in the binders. Chairman Moyer announced the annual fund drive is underway, please consider helping out.

ZONING/SEO REPORT

Reports are in the binders

SEWER ENGINEER’S REPORT

A copy of the EEMA O & M Report is enclosed

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

Mr. Greg Unger was present this evening and stated the plant is running well and the new operator is very knowledgeable.

Mr. Unger stated a conference call was held today with Fred Ebert and his client with respect to the treatment plant capacity evaluation study. It is proposed the preliminary

report will be to SDE by the upcoming middle of next week. Upon receipt of the report, the modules required by PADEP for the hydraulic rating review will be completed and submitted. Mr. Unger anticipates this process to take about two to three weeks and the process is going well.

Mr. Unger reported SDE evaluated the sewer needs in the area of the 1500 block of County Line Road. There were ten water samples taken with no positive tests for fecal matter and five out of ten had levels of nitrate nitrite greater than five but none had greater than ten ppm.

Influent Pump Station pumps are on order and the pipe and slide racks have already arrived and are currently getting pricing for installation.

Weinsteiger diversion channel can be accomplished two different ways. Alternate #1 would be creating a channel that would be lined or alternate #2 is using the stacked filtrate socks which would be a more cost-effective method. If the Supervisors choose to install the channel the work would be done by Public Works.

Public Comment:

Melissa (via zoom) – with respect to the treatment plant capacity study Melissa asked how soon the builder would be given the green light to resume building. Mr. Unger said he does not know how long it will take PADEP and said it may not be approved.

Mr. Sichler requested to terminate the contract with EEMA. A motion was made by Thomas Powanda, seconded by David Moyer authorizing the termination of the contract with EEMA effective June 1, 2021 at 12:01 am. **No comments received.**

All ayes

TOWNSHIP ENGINEER

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

2021 Road project – the contractor was out to take the core samples for the FDR design and are in the process of preparing the mix design which needs PADOT approval.

The Edison Walk Subdivision Revision #1 was submitted and the review letter has been completed. Review will take place by the Planning Commission at their June meeting.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Diamond Disposal Zoning Hearing Board Order update – part of the zoning approval was Diamond Disposal was to have a land development plan submitted by the May meeting. No plan has been submitted to date and after speaking to Mr. McGovern's attorney there has been an issue with the access to the property. Because the deadline has not been met, how does the Board wish to handle this. Chairman Moyer stated the Board would give Mr. McGovern two additional weeks, until June 15th, to submit a plan and if a plan is not submitted the business will be shut down.

The Pension Ordinance was authorized for advertisement for tonight's meeting. This Ordinance is for amendment to the non-uniform pension plan administered by PMRS. A motion was made by David Moyer and seconded by Thomas Powanda authorizing the adoption of Ordinance 2021-2. **No comments received.**

All ayes

A motion was made by David Moyer and seconded by Thomas Powanda authorizing the preparation of the Memorandum of Understanding for open space donation. **No comments received.**

All ayes

SUPERVISORS

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- **PADOT Ehst Road/Route 100 stormwater issue-no update**
- **Gehring Road open space tract** – Rich has attempted to make contact but the company has been very busy.
- **Barto Road straightening** – *ongoing*
- **Personnel Policy review** – In section 22 Blood Born Pathogens-Mr. Moyer asked if there is an annual safety training done on this. Rich will make sure this is addressed yearly with staff. Mr. Moyer questioned Section 20 Personnel file and the availability for employees to review their personal file. Files are available to employees during regular business hours. Mr. Moyer asked about Section 14 and employees using their personal vehicles. Employees are paid mileage but what if there is an accident and are injured. Ms. London explained if an employee is injured while on a work-related errand that would be paid by workers compensation. Section 12-Employee Benefits-currently the vacation time is prorated however Mr. Moyer is suggesting changing the prorating schedule to July 1st if you leave/retire employment with the township the employee would be paid for their remaining vacation hours at 100%. Holiday schedule has already been updated. When an employee is out on short- or long-term disability the employee is required to communicate with the Township each week. Each employee returning from disability leave must be seen by a doctor of the townships choosing. Mr. Moyer would like to see all vacation requests. Section 7-Conditions of Employment (f)- If an employee chooses not to report to work due to snow or emergency, employee may take the day without compensation. The question was asked if the Governor declares a state of emergency and non-essential workers are asked to stay home, what are township employees considered, essential or non-essential. Mr. Moyer stated the township manager and roadcrew are considered essential and the remaining office personnel are considered non-essential. Mr. Moyer proposed two days allowed without pay for bad weather to be taken between November 1st and April 30th. Rich will update the Personnel Policy and provide the update to the Board for review.
- **Public Works building** – Mr. Unger stated the pole building price with everything included, drainage, insulation, electric, site work, etc. comes to a total of over \$250,000 however only \$80,000 has been budgeted. It was discussed if the site work would be done by the Roadcrew and the building was installed with

electric only plus the prevailing wages it could probably be kept to around \$80,000 and the remaining work could be done over a period of a few years however it will be costlier. Mr. Moyer stated he will not go over budget to complete the entire project. Supervisor Roma asked if there are any concerns with respect to the former pond at the site of the future pole building. Mr. Unger suggested doing soil samples. A motion was made by David Moyer and seconded by Thomas Powanda authorizing SDE to conduct soil samples. **No comments received.**

All ayes

- **Meeting room audio equipment update** – Rich reported Berkshire Systems Group installed the digital signal processor, rewired the microphones and installed a controller. There is some fine tuning that needs to be done.
- **American Tower Lease extension offer** – Rich is doing some research however the lease is not up for four (4) years.
- **Basketball court paving project** – Rich spoke with Mr. Maloney and he is checking his schedule for availability and will hold the price as quoted last year.
- **Purchase of truck body** – At the previous meeting authorization was given to purchase a truck body in the amount of \$39,092 however there was an error in calculating the purchase price. The 10ft 6in plow is \$8970, 2 spring latch sides \$1,136 for both and tailgate prewet system at \$6,273 for a total price of \$55,471. A motion was made by Thomas Powanda and seconded by David Moyer amending the prior motion from a purchase price of \$39,092 to \$55,471. **No comments received.**

David Moyer – aye

Thomas Powanda – aye

James Roma - abstained

NEW BUSINESS

- **BCCPC Salt bid approval** – A motion was made by David Moyer and seconded by James Roma accepting the Spring Township salt bid at a price of \$67.63 per ton, delivered. **No comments received.**

All ayes

- **Boyertown Optimist Club, field dedication request** – A request was made to the Board of Supervisors to dedicate the lacrosse field to member, Christian Hellriegel, who recently died in an ATV accident. There would be no expense to the township and the club is open to any ideas. Mr. Moyer stated he would be willing to do something other than naming the field since he was not a township resident. Mr. Roma stated he would support anything proposed and Mr. Powanda said he would be okay with putting the name on the scoreboard. Whatever is decided it will come back before the Supervisors before any changes are made to the field. A motion was made by James Roma and seconded by Thomas Powanda allowing the Optimist Club to proceed with generating ideas to present to the township to rename the athletic field in memory of Christian Hellriegel. **No comments received.**

James Roma – aye

Thomas Powanda – aye

David Moyer - opposed

- **Washington Elementary School, possible field use agreement** – Rich contacted the school to see if they would be interested in a field use agreement, which they are. The school does not have the man power to mow the field during the school year. Mr. Moyer stated they should supply the township with a liability waiver.

SUBDIVISION/PLANNING

None

SUBDIVISION EXTENSION

A motion was made by James Roma, seconded by Thomas Powanda granting the following subdivision extension:

Edison Walk Residential Plan 06/02/21 to 09/30/21

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, June 24, 2021 at 7:00 pm.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by James Roma and seconded by Thomas Powanda to adjourn the meeting at approximately 8:45 p.m. **No public comment received.**

All ayes

Respectfully submitted,

Susan J. Brown
Township Secretary