

**WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
MINUTES
APRIL 22, 2021**

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson David Moyer called the regularly scheduled meeting of the Washington Township Board of Supervisors to order at 7:03 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, Solicitor, Joan London, Esquire; John Weber representing LTL Consultants, Tom Unger, Systems Design Engineering (via Zoom), Township Manager, Richard Sichler, Township Secretary, Susan Brown, fourteen (14) residents in attendance and approximately four (4) residents via Zoom.

Absent: James Roma

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.

SPECIAL REQUEST

John Backenstose, pipeline setback – Mr. Backenstose reported the pipeline was incorrectly shown on his subdivision plan but was properly located on the PA One Call. This is an 8” line which has not been used for 27 years. Mr. Backenstose is requesting a waiver from SALDO Section 107-31(B) requirement of 50 feet from any proposed dwelling unit and the right-of-way of any petroleum, petroleum products or natural gas transmission line which traverse the subdivision or land development. The 50-foot requirement creates an overlay restrictive building box. The applicant is requesting a reduction to 10 feet. A motion was made by David Moyer and seconded by Thomas Powanda granting the waiver from SALDO Section 107-31(B) for lots 6 thru 10 of the Clover Hill Subdivision. **No comments received.**

All ayes

Engineer Weber had concerns regarding the fact that the subdivision plan has already been recorded with the County. The correction should be recorded as well to make sure the correct information is on record. Ms. London stated the information should be recorded under miscellaneous with the correct plan excerpt, the waiver letter and a copy of the minutes, as exhibits A, B and C.

A motion was made by David Moyer, seconded by Thomas Powanda authorizing the recording of the Clover Hill Plan documents showing the correct location of the pipeline right-of-way at the developer’s expense. **No comments received.**

All ayes

PUBLIC COMMENT

Greg Foster, 3096 County Line Road, E. Greenville – Mr. Foster stated there is a hearing on Tuesday for the appeal of the conditional use denial for Mr. Mingey’s project which he will be attending with his lawyer. Mr. Foster stated he has received a revised sketch plan for 54 houses and the plan still incorrectly labels neighboring properties. Mr. Foster claims the additional 54 homes would produce an additional 108 cars to the local streets and to an area Mr. Foster says has a very bad line of site. Mr. Foster said anything more than 9 homes is not agreeable to him. Mr. Foster also stated the width of the bridge is a concern as well as some local flooding issues. Mr. Foster continues to urge the Township to follow their ordinances. Ms. London stated they will be discussing the issues with the judge. Ms. London stated this is a settlement conference and ultimately the Board of Supervisors have to agree to a settlement.

Public Comment:

Doug Stetler, asked if the bridge is narrow is the developer required to make improvements. Engineer Weber stated yes there are improvements that can be required.

Jeff Fretz, 3062 County Line Road, E. Greenville – Mr. Fretz was present this evening to reiterate what Mr. Foster has said. Traffic is bad on this road and there are flooding problems. Mr. Fretz stated he is opposed to the development by Mr. Mingey.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES OF MARCH 25, 2021

A motion was made by Thomas Powanda and seconded by David Moyer to approve the minutes of March 25, 2021 as prepared. **No comments received.**

All ayes

Chairman Moyer announced an Executive Session was held this evening to discuss land litigation 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 April 22, 2021, and to file the treasurer’s report for audit. **No comments received.**

All ayes

TAX COLLECTOR

Tax Collectors Report for the month of March 2021:

Real Estate Tax	\$159,519.35
Interim Tax	\$ 12.35
Light Tax	\$ 1,174.53
Hydrant Tax	\$ 490.12

Per Capita Tax	\$ 49.50
Amusement Tax	\$ <u>248.92</u>
Total	\$161,494.77

FIRE CHIEF’S REPORT

A copy of the Eastern Berks Fire Department Report is in the binders. Chairman Moyer announced there will be a chicken barbecue in Bechtelsville on Saturday. The annual fund drive is underway, please consider helping out.

Rich asked John Weber for input on the sign the EBFD wants to place on Old Route 100. Mr. Weber stated this sign would be placed in the HDV zoning district the size of the sign is permitted and they would only need a zoning permit to erect the sign.

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.

Engineer Unger received a price quote from MGK Industries for the replacement of the controls, bubbler and addition of the PumpWatch System to log flow into the cloud. A motion was made by David Moyer and seconded by Thomas Powanda authorizing the execution of the quote from MGK Industries in the amount of \$35,485. **No comments received.**

All ayes

Mr. Unger reported additional testing has begun at the WWTP for the hydraulic rerating analysis.

A motion was made by Thomas Powanda and seconded by David Moyer authorizing the township manager to sign the DRBC Permit renewal. **No comments received.**

All ayes

Public Comment:

Connie Cordova, asked what the status is of Spring Valley Village doing pump and haul? It was explained that it was discussed at the meeting but determined that it is not available to us until there is an end point for expansion or rerating of the plant.

Greg Foster, asked if Washington Township has an agreement with Bally Borough for overflow sewer from Washington Township? Rich explained the agreement is not for overflow but rather reserved capacity limited to certain areas of the township.

Public Works building – Tom needs additional direction from the Board in order to proceed.

TOWNSHIP ENGINEER

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

Ott Minor Subdivision – the modular home located across the lot line has been removed and the plan will need to be reaffirmed.

Edison Walk revised plan was submitted last week, the review of the revised plan will get underway.

Bally Springs meeting held with developer and paving contractor yesterday to review the punch list. Dedication is still on the table for this year.

Heydt Schoolhouse Road box culvert permit received this month.

2021 Road project tentative award to E J Brenneman and they have submitted their bonds and insurance information.

Public Comment

Connie Cordova, questioned when the Planning Commission meets and stated the meeting minutes are not on the township website. Rich stated he will be the minutes on the website. The Planning meetings are the first Thursday of the month. Ms. Cordova asked what has happened with the round about proposed for the Edison Walk entrance/exit. Mr. Weber explained it is the only thing PennDOT will allow for access to the property.

Peg Stuart, asked about the modular homes on Stauffer Road. Mr. Weber stated they have been cleaned up.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Ms. London reported there is a conference scheduled for Tuesday, April 27th at 10:00 a.m. in the appeal by the Mingey entities from the denial of the Conditional Use for the Clubhouse.

Ms. London has prepared a draft sewer connection and reservation agreement for the Boards review and comments for finalization next month.

SUPERVISORS

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- **PADOT Ehst Road/Route 100 stormwater issue-no update**
- **Gehring Road open space tract** – *Rich will continue to work on this.*
- **Barto Road straightening** – *ongoing*
- **Personnel Policy review** – *ongoing*
- **Public Works building** – *covered earlier in the meeting.*
- **Ehst Road conversion to one-way, draft ordinance** – *There is a draft ordinance in the agenda packet. It was decided to table this until the stormwater project is finished.*

- **Wastewater Treatment Plant operator**– the new operator started on Tuesday and things are going well. A motion was made by David Moyer and seconded by Thomas Powanda authorizing \$2,500 for the purchase of hand tools for the WWTP. **No comments received.**

All ayes

- **Audio equipment update** – Rich said the contractor is waiting on one piece of equipment and the hope is to have everything in place by next month meeting.
- **Truck Purchase** – Several price quotes were received for the purchase of a new Ford F-550 truck. Brian provided control box samples for the Board of Supervisors to see. Discussion took place regarding the straight plow and the V plow options and it was decided to get a V plow. The price from Perkiomen Performance is \$41,690 includes the V plow, drop down sides, and rear coal chute. The price from Lancaster is \$48,062 with V plow but does not include the coal chute or the spring-loaded latches for the drop-down sides. Brian said he doesn't feel they need the coal chute. The roadwatch which is included in the Lancaster price is not included in the Perkiomen price and Perkiomen did not offer a pre-wet system. Chairman Moyer stated he feels they are not comparing apples to apples. It was decided to table until the end of the meeting to take a more in depth look at the quotes.
- **Backhoe Purchase** – Brian got three quotes on John Deere backhoes, all state contract pricing. 1) John Deere 310SL - \$88,900 2) John Deere 310SLHL - \$106,400 3) John Deere 410L - \$113,500. All are extend-a-hoe back bucket with thumb. Brian stated the 310 cannot lift the bigger basins which is Brian's concern, his preference would be the 410L. The trade value for the Case backhoe, which is 18 years old, is \$25,000. Rich said he would advertise the Case backhoe on Municibid starting at \$25,000.

A motion was made by David Moyer and seconded by Thomas Powanda authorizing the purchase of the John Deere 410L backhoe from Plasterer Equipment at a price of \$113,500 with \$25,000 trade in. **No comments received.**

All ayes

It was discussed possibly demoing a backhoe or working with Douglass Township, Montgomery Counties backhoe to preserve the life of the township backhoe for the trade in value.

NEW BUSINESS

- **Berks County Board of Appeals for UCC** – Each year the County asks the Township if they would like to join the Berks County Board of Appeals for the Uniform Construction Code with a membership fee of \$300 per year. The Board of Supervisors has declined the offer.
- **Pied Piper Restaurant** – has been vacant for more than a year and are requesting to change their sewer to a non-connect status and pay the annual non-connect fee for unused edu's. The Supervisors stated they can disconnect the service and

return the edu's to the township or they can continue service and pay the quarterly fee.

- **2020 Audit** – Rich reported the 2020 audit has been completed with no issues.
- **American Tower lease extension** – the township is coming up on the renewal for the cell phone tower on the township property. Two offers have been presented for consideration. The first option is a \$500,000 cash payment and they would then own the parcel of land. The return on investment is about 18 years and financially does not appear to be a good option. The second option is to extend the lease with a one-time signing bonus of \$10,000 extending the current lease for 7 additional five-year terms with the current escalations already built into the current contract. American Tower has been asked to clarify the second offer. Rich will get more information and report back.
- **PennDOT Mowing Contract** – Three-year term contract with PennDOT for roadside mowing needs to be renewed with the annual payment of \$11,088.22. A motion was made by David Moyer and seconded by Thomas Powanda authorizing the mowing contract with PennDOT for the end of 2020 to the end of 2023. **No comments received.**

All ayes

SUBDIVISION/PLANNING

A motion was made by Thomas Powanda, seconded by David Moyer reaffirming the Andrew S. Ott Minor Plan. **No comments received.**

All ayes

SUBDIVISION EXTENSION

A motion was made by David Moyer, seconded by Thomas Powanda granting the following subdivision extension:

Rose A. Gross Minor Plan 05/17/21 to 08/14/21

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, May 27, 2021 at 7:00 pm.

Chairman Moyer reminded the public to get out and vote on Tuesday, May 18th.

A motion was made by David Moyer and seconded by Thomas Powanda adopting Resolution No. 2021-18 PennDOT Mowing Contract for 2020-2023. **No comments received.**

All ayes

The Supervisors continued the discussion and review of the truck quotes. Supervisor Powanda made a motion to purchase the truck/dump bed, salt spreader w/controller, drop down sides on both sides and 10 ½ foot V-plow w/o coal chute from Mid Atlantic in the amount of \$44,349. **No comments received.**

All ayes

EXECUTIVE SESSION

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Thomas Powanda and seconded by David Moyer to adjourn the meeting at approximately 8:46 p.m. **No public comment received.**

All ayes

Respectfully submitted,

Susan J. Brown
Township Secretary