

**WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
MINUTES
APRIL 28, 2022**

CALL TO ORDER: Chairman 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, Chairman Moyer, Thomas Powanda, Rommie Long, Solicitor, Joan London, Esquire; John Weber representing LTL Consultants, Tom Unger, Systems Design Engineering, Township Manager, Richard Sichler, Township Secretary, Susan Brown, and seventeen (17) residents in attendance.

Absent: None

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

Spring Valley Village, Gregg Adelman and Mr. Seidel were present this evening representing his client who owns the property located at 2115 Old Route 100. Mr. Adelman previously submitted some rezoning options and would like to discuss these options with the Board this evening. The property is currently in the General Industrial (GI) zoning district and the property owner is looking to expand Spring Valley Village Mobile Home Park with 35 units into the GI zoning district. The two options presented by Spring Valley are to extend the mobile home park overlay which would require a text amendment to add the mobile home park into the GI zoning district as a permitted use. The second option would be a rezone of the property from GI to HDV with a mobile home park overlay. There would be no access from the property onto Old Route 100. There would be an increase in open space area, there would be additional fee-in-lieu of recreation and an additional 35 edu sewer tapping fees.

Mr. Seidel said the first letter put together is a summary of the Berks County Municipal Planning and Zoning Documents. The Berks County reports indicated the property located at 2115 Old Route 100 is not an appropriate parcel for industrial development but is identified as a designated residential growth area. It also identifies senior housing as being required for the aging population. The GI District is primarily comprised of and surrounded by Residential uses. The GI District also permits the most obtrusive uses in the township, second only to the Quarry District. In addition, solutions were presented for all the questions raised by the Planning Commission. A comparison of traffic impact was provided and showed the proposed, aged qualified community, would provide the least amount of traffic impacts of all the permitted uses. The applicant did offer to secure the required number of edu's immediately, offered solutions to provide park and recreation land to be preserved as open space. Assumed ownership or maintenance of the

abandon rail line between the properties. Supervisor Powanda stated they will need an easement to cross the abandon rail line property and said this will benefit only a few but not the entire township. Mr. Seidel stated the applicant talked about taking it over because the township can not complete what was originally planned therefor the applicant proposed a \$10,000 per unit fee-in-lieu for the easement. Supervisor Powanda stated Berks County is looking to expand the railroad but is not sure how far they are planning on expanding. Mr. Adelman asked if the Board could compile a list of questions or concerns and have Ms. London present them so they could be addressed. The Supervisors said they will take time to think about the request.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Dwayne Henne, EAC Chairman, spoke about the recycling center and associated costs. The Committee would like to work with the Township Manager to shop for other vendors and also apply for grants. Supervisor Powanda stated he is all in favor of grant money. Supervisor Moyer said he is not in favor of closing the recycling center however he is not in favor of spending \$4,000 a year to keep it open. Supervisor Moyer also stated a number of people who use the recycling center are not township residents and possibly a fee should be charged to those who are not residents. Supervisor Moyer said items that are paying should be the only items the township should be taking. Supervisor Long stated she believes most all residents have access to recycling through their trash hauler and feels it's wrong to make taxpayers pay to get rid of other people's trash. Supervisor Long stated at least 90% of the community is using the convenience of placing their recycling at the end of their property for their hauler to pick up. Mrs. Delp stated she always thought Washington Township was a visionary in being responsible about the environment.

Mrs. Delp stated she is committed to vendors for spring clean-up which is to be held on May 7th. When she committed to the vendors, she told them a newsletter would be mailed out so everyone in the township would know that the vendors would be on hand to collect their items however a newsletter was never mailed out from the township. Rich will put a flyer out to residents and it will be announced in the Town and Country newspaper as well. The township will stop taking glass after May.

Supervisor Long asked if when the township hits the 5,000-resident mark, is recycling through the various trash haulers a sufficient method. Ms. London stated she believes it can be done through the trash haulers as long as there is a program that meets the threshold.

Tara Christman, 2216 Old Route 100, spoke about a water issue at the base of her driveway. Ms. Christman has someone from the watershed come out to her property and look at the situation. Ms. Christman stated there is excessive water on the roadway, people are driving too fast and when they hit the water it is causing them to hydroplane. Ms. Christman also stated if Sugar Maple Road is expanded, additional drainage will need to be installed. Ms. Christman also stated it is very dangerous to cross Old Route 100 to put her children on the school bus and she reached out to PennDOT. Their response was, it's the responsibility of the municipality to ensure proper and safe site

distances are maintained when their township municipal roadway intersects with a state road. The two humps in the road make it difficult to see and cars are driving way to fast. This has been discussed with the current developer and he needs to get this issue resolved. Ms. Christman also said she submitted a volunteer application for the EAC, and stated she has experience with grant writing. Chairman Moyer will check into the situation. Supervisor Powanda asked if we could contact PennDOT and request school bus stop signs. Rich will contact PennDOT.

A motion was made by David Moyer, seconded by Thomas Powanda appointing Tara Christman to the Environmental Advisory Council.

All ayes

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

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES OF MARCH 24, 2022 REGULAR MEETING:

A motion was made by David Moyer and seconded by Thomas Powanda to approve the minutes of the meeting of March 24, 2022 BOS Meeting as prepared.

All ayes

TOWNSHIP REPORTS

A motion was made by Thomas Powanda and seconded by Romnie Long 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 March 24, 2022, and to file the treasurer's report for audit.

All ayes

TAX COLLECTOR

Tax Collectors Report for the month of March 2022 was presented by the Tax Collector, Brenda Breidigan:

Real Estate Tax	\$184,730.71
Interim Tax	\$ 394.31
Hydrant Tax	\$ 573.64
Light Tax	\$ 1,509.20
Per Capita Tax	\$ 33.00
Amusement Tax	\$ 1,539.58
Total	\$188,780.44

FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT

A copy of the Eastern Berks Fire Department Report is enclosed. There is a chicken BBQ this weekend and their fund drive is underway.

ZONING/SEO REPORT

Reports are in the binders.

SEWER ENGINEER'S REPORT

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

Mr. Unger reported both pump stations are well under pumping capacity. Swamp Creek had a pump go down, the pump has been fixed and is ready to come back.

Tom is requesting authorize to receive bids for the upgrade to the Waste Water Treatment Plant influent pump station. This work includes changing out the rail system and change out a pump. A new pump will be installed and the pump that is removed will be rebuilt.

A motion was made by David Moyer and seconded by Rommie Long authorizing the Engineer to advertise and receive bids for the upgrade to the Waste Water Treatment Plant Influent Pump Station as outlined.

All ayes

TOWNSHIP ENGINEER

A copy of the Township Engineer's Report dated April 21, 2022 is enclosed.

- **Barto Road pole relocation:** Mr. Weber reported there are two pole that need to be relocated. Windstream has been contacted.
- **Bog Turtle habitat survey:** A phase I Bog Turtle habitat survey was completed and came back with potential Bog Turtle habitat adjacent to the project area. A submission has been submitted to U.S. Fish & Wildlife to hopefully clear the habitat and/or some type of avoidance measures and are awaiting a response. There is a possibility that a phase 2 survey may need to be completed.
- **Barto Road & Old Route 100 Intersection:** Mr. Weber has been in contact with PennDOT regarding this intersection. PennDOT did do a check of the site distance and they determined the site distance is not adequate. In order to do any improvements at this intersection, the entire intersection would have to be brought up to full, current guidelines which would be a significant project.
- **2022 Road Project:** E.J. Breneman has pulled core samples for the FDR mix design a few weeks ago. The completed mix design will be submitted to PennDOT for approval.
- **Clover Hill subdivision:** They are moving toward dedication; a punch list was sent to them on April 15th. There are a number of items that need to be completed prior to paving. It was noted the manhole rims and covers need to be a ¼ to ½ inch lower than the road surface upon final paving.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

- **Personnel Policy Review:** The review is underway by Attorney Jeff Elliot of Kozloff Stoudt. A draft will be provided to the Board prior to the next meeting.
- **Snow Emergency parking ban enforcement:** Ms. London drafted a document to be reviewed by the Board. Comments should be returned to her so an amendment can be added to Chapter 125 of the Code of

Ordinances to provide for the removal and possible towing of vehicles parked or stalled on snow emergency routes in order to facilitate snow plowing.

- **Camp Camino:** Ms. London reported Camp Camino has withdrawn the conditional use application. There will be a presentation by Camp Camino at the May 26th Board of Supervisors meeting.
- **Agricultural Security Area application:** 2213 Old Route 100 notice was published and as of April 4th the proposal was submitted to the Township Planning Commission, Township Ag Security Advisory Committee and the Berks County Planning Commission. There is now a 45-day review period that will end on May 19th. The target date for the hearing is June 23rd.
- **Edison Walk sewer service agreement:** Ms. London has been conferring with All County & Assoc. and Prestige Attorney, Howard Brown, for a sewer service agreement for purchase of sewer capacity, as well as plant expansion at developer cost.

A motion was made by Ronnie Long and seconded by Thomas Powanda allowing Public Works personnel and Waste Water Treatment Plant personnel to wear shorts during the summer months, with the exception of during weed whacking activity and in agreement with their supervisor.

All ayes

SUPERVISORS

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- **PADOT Ehst Road/Route 100 stormwater issue** – Mr. Weber stated PennDOT and their consultant have requested a meeting with the Township SEO. The septic system on the Chuck Smith property is adjacent to one of the routes where they want to run the water. DEP is classifying it as a stream so it must be separated from the septic system by 50 feet which they do not have for the one configuration they are looking at.
- **Gehringer Road open space tract** – Supervisor Moyer said he had three different contractors call him and they all said it was too far away. Brian and Rich are looking at additional trees on township property that will need to come down.
- **EBFD new fire station location** – A new sketch plan was provided of the proposed fire station. The building is shown farther away from the end of the soccer field and closer to the stream. Chairman Moyer stated the township does not currently have access to this property and are not in a position to give the go ahead at this time. Supervisor Powanda asked where is the parking lot for the soccer field going to be and how will it be accessed.
- **Administration Building upgrades** – There is one minor change to the bill of materials, one window not only had a bad sash, it also has a bad frame. This is different from what was approved however it is only an increase of \$48 which brings the total to \$9,373.66. The windows should be received in about three weeks.

- **Basketball Court painting** – The quote received from SealMaster is for two colors, to be applied by Public Works for a cost of \$7,501.73. A motion was made by David Moyer and seconded by Thomas Powanda authorizing the purchase of paint and materials from SealMaster as outlined in the price quote.

All ayes

- **Waste Water Treatment Plant help** – Gary and Rich have been discussing the number of hours and believe 20 hours per week will be sufficient. This could be part-time help or it could be a shared position. It was suggested possibly grass mowing and Treatment Plant operations combined for this position. Rich will keep this in mind during the interview process. It was stated the two positions are not at the same pay level however the Treatment Plant employee does not necessarily need to be a licensed operator. It was suggested posting this position with BCTC.
- **County Line Road speeding issues** - John Weber did some investigation into speed humps. There is a certain profile needed which is a more gradual increase, a level spot and then a gradual decrease. There are PennDOT guidelines which would require a traffic study. The general parameters of the traffic study are there should be at least 1,000 vehicles per day on the road and the 85% speed should be at least 10 mph over the posted speed limit. It is also recommended a neighborhood traffic calming survey, to see if it is something the neighborhood is interested in having the township pursue. John also stated there are pavement markings and signage that must be installed along with the speed tables. John said the speed monitoring device the township has, has the capabilities of collecting the data needed for the traffic study and would be a good first step to see if the conditions are there. Rich will work with John to get the process going.
- **Annual Audit Report meeting** – Rich announced the annual audit meeting is scheduled for May 16, 2022 at 2:30 p.m. This is a public meeting and has been advertised.
- **Nighttime sign audit** – Brian has not heard back from LTAP about loaning an instrument from them for this program.
- **Summer help** – Rich stated he has five applicants that he and Brian will interview and will notify the Board when interviews are scheduled.
- **Recycling Center operations** – This was covered previously this evening. Rich will mail a flyer and put the information discussed on the township website. Rich said with the one roll-off the glass can be pulled out, the rate will not change but the shipping will be less. Rich will work with the EAC to get the best rates. Rich did include the new Coogle's Contract in the agenda packet which shows the current pricing which has increased significantly. It was discussed making bales and hauling to the facility. Rich will work with the EAC on these matters.
- **2022 F550 Purchase** – The 2022 F550 truck has been delivered and Rich is looking for authorization for payment. Motion made by David Moyer and seconded by Ronnie Long authorizing payment to New Holland Auto Group in the amount of \$50,060.

All ayes

Motion made by David Moyer, seconded by Thomas Powanda authorizing payment to Lancaster Truck Bodies in the amount of \$44,530.

All ayes

Chairman Moyer announced Texas Eastern/Enbridge Pipeline donated \$10,000 toward the purchase of the F550. Rich will send a thank you letter to Enbridge.

NEW BUSINESS

- **Waste Water Treatment Plant gasoline storage cabinet & safety fuel cans** – A motion was made by David Moyer and seconded by Rommie Long authorizing the purchase of a gasoline storage cabinet and safety fuel cans not to exceed \$1,000.

All ayes

- **Public Works oil/water separator cleaning contract** – Rich received three price quotes, one from Lewis Environmental for \$3,825 plus disposal at cost plus 20%, Elk Environmental for \$4,150 plus disposal at \$190/ton and Franc Environmental for \$1,175 plus disposal at \$0.75/gallon.

A motion was made by David Moyer and seconded by Thomas Powanda authorizing the cleaning contract with Franc Environmental not to exceed \$2,000.

All ayes

- **Inventory of hazardous trees** – Rich is working on bid specs
- **Safety meeting code issues** – Rich explained that code issues are reviewed monthly at safety meeting. It was suggested if an employee sees a safety issue they should completed a complaint form to get the process moving through the system.
- **American Recovery Plan** – August 30th is the deadline to complete the first annual report on how the township spent the money received which totals \$450,000. Rich has the report completed. Going forward on an annual basis, the project will be identified and what has been committed under contract and what was actually paid on the project. The increased cost of the road project will come out of this first installment

SUBDIVISION/PLANNING

None

SUBDIVISION EXTENSION

None

COMMUNICATIONS

- Copy of the ARB Delinquent Account Report is enclosed.

Supervisor Long asked about the delinquent accounts and was told delinquent accounts are slowly coming down.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The next board of Supervisors meeting will be held on Thursday, May 26, 2022 at 7:00 pm.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

None needed

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Thomas Powanda and seconded by Romnie Long to adjourn the meeting at approximately 8:53 p.m.

All ayes

Respectfully submitted,

Susan J. Brown
Township Secretary