

**WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
MINUTES  
JANUARY 28, 2021**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chairperson David Moyer called the regularly scheduled meeting of the Washington Township Board of Supervisors to order at 7:00 p.m., at the Washington Township Municipal Building. The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

**ROLL CALL**

The following members were present: Supervisors, David Moyer, Thomas Powanda, James Roma, Solicitor, Joan London, Esquire; John Weber representing LTL Consultants, Tom Unger, Systems Design Engineering., Township Manager, Richard Sichler, Township Secretary, Susan Brown, two (2) residents in attendance and approximately eight (8) residents via Zoom.

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**

**Mr. Lee Moyer, 1574 County Line Road**, explained his septic system has failed and he is down hill from Weinsteiger Road which is the closest connection for sewer and he is 1236 feet away from that sewer line. Mr. Moyer can't sell his home due to the failed system and it is almost impossible for a buyer to get a mortgage for a home in this situation. Mr. Moyer is asking the township to approve the plan for connection to the sewer system and secondly, he is asking the township to help him with the cost of the connection. The only other options Mr. Moyer has is to have his own treatment plant, install a holding tank which would need to be pumped out monthly or a sand mound which was ruled out because of the type of soil. Sewer connections in the Weinsteiger Pump Station area are limited to one connection per year by PADEP, however Mr. Moyer was able to get a hardship exemption with the help of the Township Manager. Mr. Moyer suggested sharing the cost with the township and in turn give up the recapture to the township. Mr. Moyer said this will cost him approximately \$55,000 to install the line and connect. Mr. Moyer also said the township should consider waiving the 150' connection requirement to this line. Supervisor Roma stated the Treatment Plant is at capacity at this time. Supervisors Roma and Moyer both felt they would want the neighboring properties to connect however there is no capacity at this time. This would be a private line until the second connection at which time it becomes a public line.

Supervisor Moyer said he would not waive the connection requirements for additional connections. Supervisor Roma asked Rich if anyone else could get the hardship connection. Rich stated yes, based on a similar situation. Mr. Unger stated until a Planning Module is done there is only one connection allowed to the line. Mr. Unger explained the line can be dedicated to the township at any time. Supervisor Moyer stated the township has almost \$11 million dollars in sewer debt therefore the township would not help Mr. Moyer with the cost of the line installation.

A motion was made by David Moyer, seconded by Thomas Powanda approving the private 2” sewer line installation from 1574 County Line Road. **No comments received.**

**All ayes**

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None

**APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF DECEMBER 22, 2020 AND JANUARY 4, 2021 REORGANIZATION MEETING**

A motion was made by Thomas Powanda and seconded by James Roma to approve the minutes of December 22, 2020 and January 4, 2021 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 January 28, 2021, with the exception of two invoices which were pulled out of the paid bills package, check #3896 in the amount of \$5,692.45 payable to EEMA and check #3891 in the amount of \$135.00 payable to M.J. Reider and to file the treasurer’s report for audit. There are questions on the invoices with respect to the water system sale. **No comments received.**

**All ayes**

**TAX COLLECTOR**

Tax Collectors Report for the month of December 2020:

Real Estate	\$ 5,992.55
Interim Tax	\$ 421.44
Light Tax	\$ 36.30
Hydrant Tax	\$ 40.24
Per Capita Tax	<u>\$ 946.00</u>
Total	\$ 7,436.53

**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

Nuvoda test pilot is continuing and are at a set now of 70/30 split. Mr. Unger recommended the Board of Supervisors send a letter to Nuvoda asking them to complete their pilot test and remove their equipment by the end of March.

Mr. Unger reported the Plant is running at a very high rate, very close to capacity. When you evaluate the five-year projection, year three you actually show a hydraulic overload. You have approximately thirty-six (36) connections that are available until a hydraulic overload is reached. It is the recommendation of SDE to authorize the Manager, Solicitor and SDE to prepare some type of policy for consideration to deal with developers and future connections. Any expansion of the Treatment Plant is going to take two (2) years if not longer.

A motion was made by James Roma and seconded by David Moyer authorizing the staff and professionals to draft a policy for future connections and apportioning available edu's. **No comments received.**

**All ayes**

The Influent Pump Station stand-by pump will be ordered so the Influent Pump Station improvements can go forward.

The Swamp Creek Pump PRIMEX System is working very well and would like authorization to prepare bid documents to purchase and install PRIMEX System for Weinsteiger Pump Station.

A motion was made by James Roma and seconded by Thomas Powanda authorizing the purchase of the pump for \$15,238 and equipment of elbow and claw for the rail installation for \$6,095 for the Influent Pump Station not to exceed \$21,350. **No comments received.**

**All ayes**

Motion made by David Moyer, seconded by Thomas Powanda authorizing SDE to prepare the bid documents for the control system at the Weinsteiger Pump Station. **No comments received.**

**All ayes**

The Edison Walk Residential Subdivision Sewer Review Letter has been sent out and Mr. Unger feels the next step is to talk with the applicant with respect to plant expansion and capacity.

Supervisor Moyer asked if the Weinsteiger Pump Station ran on November 30<sup>th</sup> due to the rain? Mr. Unger explained it was from 3.1 inches of rain as well as snow melt. As a result, it is recommended that a swale be installed around the pump station.

A motion was made by Thomas Powanda and seconded by James Roma authorizing the preparation of a drainage plan and installation of a swale to be installed by Public Works. **No comments received.**

**All ayes**

Supervisor Roma reported the manhole cover/concrete box located between the elementary school and the township park is breaking down and asked if it will be needing attention this year. Rich will take a look at it.

### **TOWNSHIP ENGINEER**

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

Mr. Weber reported the review letter for the Edison Walk Residential Subdivision was completed and submitted today. This is an extensive review letter which will be considered by the Planning Commission at their February 4<sup>th</sup> meeting.

The 2021 Road Project – a meeting was held with Rich and Brian regarding the road project at Lane and Moyer Roads. Discussion took place with respect to preliminary work for drainage. Mr. Weber contacted Recon and EJ Brenneman and both indicated the project would be large enough to bid and provided budget estimates of \$80,000 to \$90,000 for the FDR process with the township doing the paving.

A motion was made by Thomas Powanda and seconded by David Moyer authorizing the preparation of bid documents and advertise for bids. **No comments received.**

**All ayes**

A motion was made by James Roma and seconded by Thomas Powanda authorizing the Spring Valley Village Phase 2 buffer escrow release in the amount of \$36,318.75. **No comments received.**

**All ayes**

### **SOLICITOR'S REPORT**

Ms. London reported the Palmer appeal from the decision of the Zoning Hearing Board for the JD McGovern matter has settled. The decision by the Zoning Hearing Board from last October stands.

Liens have been filed this month and copies of those liens have been provided to the township.

Mr. London reported on several legal matters in Executive Session this evening.

## SUPERVISORS

### UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- **PADOT Ehst Road/Route 100 stormwater issue**-the township met with Chuck Smith, property owner, today and he provided a copy of PennDOT's plan for the repair of the stormwater issue. PennDOT has done the design work and will do the installation work however they are looking to the property owner to pay for the materials estimated to be about \$76,500. The property owner has requested the township help him cover the cost of the materials. Supervisor Moyer stated this is a safety issue for the residents and explained that water has been diverted at the top of the hill and caused the flow to come into this area. Combined with the collapsed pipe at Chuck Smith this has become a very big issue. Supervisor Moyer suggested the township contribute 35% or \$23,055.91. Supervisor Moyer had budgeted \$20,000 for an electronic sign for the township building but will give up the funds to put toward this project. Supervisor Moyer said PennDOT has agreed to maintain the pipe after installation and Mr. Moyer wants to have that in writing.

A motion was made by David Moyer, seconded by Thomas Powanda authorizing to pay 1/3 of the Route 100 stormwater project material costs, excluding all parking lot paving material, not to exceed \$23,055.91. **No comments received.**

**All ayes**

- **Gehring Road open space tract** – Mr. Sichler has been in contact with a potential bidder and is still interested in the project and has given a budgetary estimate of \$4,000 to \$5,000 to remove what is not wanted. He will need some access roads to get equipment in. Rich will keep the Board informed.
- **Barto Road straightening** – Nothing new to report
- **Personnel Policy review** – Rich offered three different options on the overtime policy for Public Works. After lengthy discussion a motion was made by Thomas Powanda, seconded by James Roma amending the Personnel Policy for Public Works overtime to be paid time and one half for any hours worked over eight (8) hours effective as of February 1, 2021. **No comments received.**

**All ayes**

- **Public Works building** – Rich stated Systems Design has taken a look at the building design. Mr. Unger explained the addition of heat and water to the building will require a floor with a perimeter and insulation for the walls and roof. It was also decided a wash bay would be included which would require an oil and water separator which we already have. Rich will get the details to Mr. Unger on the separator to see if there is sufficient capacity and can be tied in. Supervisor Roma asked if there will be core samples taken because of the prior pond at this location. Mr. Unger indicated they would probably do core boring.
- **Park signage** – Rich crafted a potential sign but did not receive a quote back yet.
- **Bond refinancing** – Rich did some research on bank financing vs bond refinancing. After some analysis it was stated bond refinancing would be the best option and would realize a savings of \$743,596 over the life of the loan, about \$60,000 per year in finance charges. The refinancing fees are built into the calculation and the term would remain the same. A motion was made by David

Moyer and seconded by James Roma authorizing Rich to obtain proposals for bond refinancing of the sewer debt. **No comments received.**

**All ayes**

- **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.
- **Barto Park fencing and signage layout** – a four foot and eight-foot chain link fence diagrams were provided for consideration. Supervisor Roma would like a four-foot fence with one pedestrian entrance and one service entrance. Supervisor Powanda would like two pedestrian entrances with the option to open one as a service entrance. Mr. Powanda wants to make this area more accessible to children. Supervisor Moyer is not in favor of fencing the area and feels a pipe should be installed to help drain the water and make a pathway with bollards. A motion was made by James Roma, seconded by Thomas Powanda authorizing Rich to advertise for bids for 1,100 feet of four-foot high fence with two walk gates. **No comments received.**

**James Roma – aye**

**Thomas Powanda – aye**

**David Moyer - opposed**

- **Wastewater Treatment Plant operator applications** – Rich did an initial screening of applicants. There were five who expressed interest and out of the five (5), two (2) met with Rich and both were good candidates. Rich will schedule an interview for February 4<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm for the local candidate.
- **Continuation of Zoom meetings** – Rich would like to bring in an audio-visual person to look at the current set up and possibly make suggestions to improve what we have. Rich was also directed to get the year Zoom subscription.
- **Resolution 2021-17, appointment of auditor** – A motion was made by James Roma and seconded by David Moyer adopting Resolution No. 2021-17 appointing Herbein + Company, Inc. as the Auditors for fiscal years 2020, 2021 and 2022. **No comments received.**

**All ayes**

A motion was made by Thomas Powanda and seconded by James Roma adopting the Herbein + Company, Inc. fee schedule of \$7,900 for the audit of the General Fund and \$5,900 for the audit of the sewer fund. The fees for 2021 remain the same and 2022 the general fund audit will increase to \$8,000 and \$6,000 for the sewer fund audit. **No comments received.**

**All ayes**

- **Board vacancies/Board of Auditors meeting** – Rich provided a list of board vacancies. Rich was contacted by Beverly Mudd with a request to be reappointed to the Zoning Hearing Board. A motion was made by James Roma, seconded by Thomas Powanda appointing Beverly Mudd to the Zoning Hearing Board. **No comments received.**

**All ayes**

Supervisor Moyer submitted his resignation as Auditor effective immediately.

- **Generator service contracts** – Contract renewal is needed for the three (3) generators. A motion was made by Thomas Powanda and seconded by James Roma to renew the contracts with The Generator Guy as outlined. **No comments received.**

**All ayes**

- **Copier replacement and service contract** – A new copier was budgeted for this year and Rich would recommend purchasing the Konica from Edwards Business Machine. A motion was made by David Moyer and seconded by Thomas Powanda to purchase the Konica Minolta C450L for \$8,058 with the quarterly service contract of \$61.50 from Edwards Business Machines. **No comments received.**

**All ayes**

A motion was made by James Roma and seconded by David Moyer authorizing the purchase of a laser printer for Sue, not to exceed \$500. **No comments received.**

**All ayes**

- **Pennsylvania Municipal Retirement System, retirement plan changes to comply with IRS requirements and other optional benefit changes** – *tabled until next month*

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

- **Colebrookdale Twp.** – potential for an Intergovernmental Agreement for snow clearing assistance if needed due to reduced staffing due to pandemic – *tabled*
- **Certification of 2020 unpaid tax bills** – A motion was made by David Moyer and seconded by James Roma to ratify the submission of the 2020 unpaid tax bills certification to Berks County Tax Claim Bureau in the amounts of \$7,455.38 and \$31,136.19. **No comments received.**

**All ayes**

- **Road Occupancy Permit for 375 Weinsteiger Road** – Rich will look into changing the fee schedule for road occupancy permits. A motion was made by David Moyer and seconded by Thomas Powanda approving the Road Occupancy Permit for 375 Weinsteiger Road. **No comments received.**

**All ayes**

- **Credit card payments** – *tabled until next month*
- **Martins Quarry waiver request** – A motion was made by David Moyer and seconded by Thomas Powanda waiving the extraction requirement of a minimum of 25,000 tons of rock or overburden from Gables Quarry for 2021. **No comments received.**

**All ayes**

- **DEP signature requirement** – Rich needs to provide documentation to PADEP that he is authorized to sign permit applications on behalf of Washington Township. A motion was made by James Roma, seconded by Thomas Powanda naming Richard J. Sichler as authorized signer for PADEP permit applications. **No comments received.**

**All ayes**

**SUBDIVISION/PLANNING**

None

**SUBDIVISION EXTENSION**

A motion was made by David Moyer and seconded by Thomas Powanda granting the following Subdivision Extension:

**Rose A. Gross Minor Plan 02/15/2021 to 05/16/2021**

**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, February 25, 2021 at 7:00 pm.

Rich stated there have been some warranty issues with the generator at Swamp Creek Pump Station. It works fine but have been getting warnings and phone calls to the operator and are probably approaching the end of the warranty period and would like the Solicitor to write a letter requesting an extension of the warranty to resolve any problems. A motion was made by James Roma and seconded by Thomas Powanda authorizing the Solicitor to contact the generator company to get an extension of the warranty. **No comments received.**

**All ayes**

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made by James Roma and seconded by Thomas Powanda to adjourn the meeting at approximately 9:13 p.m. **No public comment received.**

**All ayes**

Respectfully submitted,

Susan J. Brown  
Township Secretary