

**WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
MINUTES
JUNE 24, 2021**

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson David Moyer called the regularly scheduled meeting of the Washington Township Board of Supervisors to order at 7:08 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, Tom Unger, Systems Design Engineering, Township Manager, Richard Sichler, Township Secretary, Susan Brown, and approximately 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

Barbara Tantaros, Pied Piper Restaurant – Ms. Tantaros was present this evening to request sewer billing relief for her property at 1605 Route 100 which is currently vacant. Ms. Tantaros explained she received her most recent water/sewer bill which has zero usage and the total owed is \$1,624.24 for the quarter. Due to COVID the restaurant was forced to close but are still asked to pay taxes, etc. Ms. Tantaros is actively seeking to lease the restaurant but many are hesitant due to the inability to find employees. Rich stated Bally Borough is able to turn off the water for a \$100 fee. Chairman Moyer said the Board of Supervisors will take Ms. Tantaros' request under consideration however the current bill must be paid.

Prestige Partners, return of EDU's to the township – Mr. D'Angelo was present this evening to offer the return of 27 edu's to the township. Rich explained there are two requirements in the ordinance, one is the edu's must be returned to the township and second the township would reimburse the original purchase price. Additionally, the edu's would need to be returned within one year of being purchased. Mr. D'Angelo stated he is not going to sell them back unless they are purchased at the current rate. Mr. D'Angelo stated he is not looking to profit from the sale however he is not looking to loss money either. Unless the Board of Supervisors would consider taking the edu's back at the current rate Mr. D'Angelo is not interested in selling them for less. The Supervisors will take Mr. D'Angelo's offer under consideration.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Gregg Foster, 3096 County Line Road, E. Greenville – Mr. Foster stated he is aware Mr. Mingey provided a revised proposal and asked if there have been any discussions regarding the proposal. Ms. London stated there have been some discussions but there have been no agreements reached. There is another conference in court on July 8th. Ms. London said Mr. Foster’s attorney will be included in any discussions.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES OF MAY 27, 2021

A motion was made by James Roma and seconded by Thomas Powanda to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of May 27, 2021 as prepared. **No comments received.**

All aye

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 June 24, 2021, and to file the treasurer’s report for audit. **No comments received.**

All ayes

TAX COLLECTOR

Tax Collectors Report for the month of May 2021:

Real Estate Tax	\$ 5,720.64
Light Tax	\$ 49.00
Per Capita Tax	\$ 5.50
Amusement Tax	<u>\$ 3,770.55</u>
Total	\$ 9,545.69

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. Unger reported the Waste Water Treatment Plant met all compliance discharges for May and the new Operator is doing a good job.
- The Influent Pump Station project is delayed due to delays in receiving material. Pumps are not due in until the end of July and the stainless-steel rails are not due in until September.
- The hydraulic rerate report is complete and what the analysis has shown is an additional 25,000 gpd out of the existing plant which would provide

approximately 83 additional edu's. The report is complete and is being reviewed by Mr. Ebert.

- The Planning Module discussed for Weinsteiniger and County Line Roads area is complete. This is the planning requirements for County Line Road so if anyone would want to do the combined system and use the common force main the planning aspect is finished.
- Weinsteiniger Pump Station control system has been approved and all the equipment for the upgrade is on order

TOWNSHIP ENGINEER

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

- Mr. Weber reported the biggest item worked on this month was the Edison Walk Subdivision. A revised plan was submitted and was reviewed at the June 3, 2021 Planning Commission meeting.
- 2021 Road Project – the contractor submitted the approved FDR mixed design which was approved by PADOT. The contractor will be starting the project the week of July 12th.
- Mr. Weber stated he will have budget numbers for Rich with respect to the MS4 project.

Supervisor Moyer stated there are permanent residents living at the Lazy-K Campgrounds. Ms. London asked if it is zoned as seasonal or recreational campground with a specific prohibition against year-round residents. Supervisor Moyer was not sure and Mr. Weber stated LTL could take a look at this and Supervisor Moyer stated yes, LTL should check into this.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Ms. London reported she has been working on settlement proposals as directed by the judge in advance of the conference.

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

SUPERVISORS

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- **PADOT Ehst Road/Route 100 stormwater issue**-Supervisor Moyer spoke with Chuck Smith who is ready to move forward with the project. Mr. Smith provided a phone number for the PADOT attorney. Ms. London will contact the attorney. Mr. Smith thought the project would start in August.
- **Gehring Road open space tract** – Rich is still searching for a tree removal company.
- **Barto Road straightening** – *ongoing*
- **Personnel Policy review** – Rich has made the changes as discussed at the May meeting and has provided a draft copy to the supervisors. Rich reviewed all changes with the supervisors. Rich said he would like to provide a township cell

phone to the Waste Water Treatment Plant Operator. Supervisor Moyer also stated the township pays \$30 per month toward cell phone for Public Works employees however feels the payments should stop when an employee is out on short term disability since they are not able to work and therefore are not using their cell phone for work purposes. Rich will add this to the personnel policy. A motion was made by Thomas Powanda and seconded by David Moyer to approve the modifications to the personnel policy as discussed. **No comments received.**

All ayes

- **Public Works building** – Mr. Unger stated there is a proposal out to Earth Engineering to provide a quote to do four core drillings.
- **Basketball court paving project** – The paving was completed on Monday and looks good. Some fence was dismantled so one new post will be needed. There has been some discussion on how to finish the court. Supervisor Powanda asked if there is grant money available for a project like this. Rich will check around for possible grant money possibly with Pottstown Wellness.
- **Optimist Club field dedication, proposed sign & location** – The Optimist Club looked at two locations for a sign and feel the sign would be best placed on the scoreboard facing the field. A motion was made by James Roma and seconded by Thomas Powanda approving the proposed sign location. **No comments received.**

James Roma-aye

Thomas Powanda-aye

David Moyer-opposed

Public Comment

Connie Cordova, said the pedestrian crossing was done on Stauffer Road closer to Route 100 but did not do the one closer to Old Route 100. Ms. Cordova stated the one that needs to be done should be moved down because it is not located where people walk.

- **Washington Park Sign**-Supervisor Powanda asked Rich when the park sign is going to be installed. Rich stated he has been trying to work out how to install the sign and has looked at other signs to get an idea of how to do the installation.
- **Twp. Acceptance of electronic payments, xpressbillpay.com** – The township is now taking electronic payments and it has been working very well. Sewer payments can now be made with e-checks, visa, Mastercard or EFT from a bank account. Xpress Bill Pay can be accessed from the homepage of the township website.

NEW BUSINESS

- **Request to lease or purchase former railroad parcel, Stauffer Road** – Mr. Bill Sheriff who lives in Spring Valley Village has asked to lease or purchase the former railroad parcel. Rich explained it is difficult to purchase township property. Mr. Sheriff would like to erect a gazebo on the property. Ms. London stated there would need to be an appraisal of the property and the transaction would have to be for market value.
- **Recognition of Jake Long**-Supervisor Moyer announced a long-time resident contacted the township regarding the roadside mowing and stated Jake does a

very professional job with the roadside mowing. Mr. Moyer thanked Jake for a job well done.

Public Comment

Laura Pagotto, asked what the zoning is at Route 100 at Kutztown Road? Ms. Pagotto stated on the north west corner there are numerous vehicles parked on the lot and wanted to know if zoning allows for this. It was stated the business across Route 100 owns the land and it is zoned commercial.

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, July 22, 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 8:12 p.m. **No public comment received.**

All ayes

Respectfully submitted,

Susan J. Brown
Township Secretary