

**WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
MINUTES
MARCH 25, 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.

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, seventeen (17) residents in attendance and approximately four (4) 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

Linda McCoy, 36 Christi Drive, requesting lot line waiver for Clover Hill lot #7. Ms. McCoy submitted a waiver request for relief from Section 107-31.B required setback of 50' from a petroleum pipeline right of way. It is requested the setback be reduced to a distance of 32' to allow for the construction of a home and future deck. A motion was made by Thomas Powanda and seconded by James Roma granting the waiver request from SALDO Section 107-31.B. **No comments received.**

All ayes

Ryan Hottenstein, Financial Solutions, was present via Zoom. Mr. Hottenstein reported the results of the RFP for refinancing of the 2012 Series B Bond Issue with a remaining balance of \$7,990,000 with an average interest rate of 3.084%. One RFP was received from People's Security Bank & Trust with a fixed interest rate through maturity of December 2032 at 1.49%. There is no prepayment penalty and fees are limited to \$2,500. By accepting this proposal, the estimated net savings to the township will average \$65,000 per year from 2021 through 2032; a total savings of \$781,347. The term of the financing would remain the same and the closing date would be some time around April 30, 2021. Mr. Pete Edelman was present with the prepared Ordinance which accepts the terms of the proposal as outlined and authorize the issuance of a general obligation note to complete the refunding transaction. A motion was made by David Moyer and seconded by James Roma adopting Ordinance No. 2021-1 authorizing the

refinancing of the sewer debt with People's Security Bank & Trust with a fixed rate of 1.49%. **No comments received.**

All ayes

Eric Westrich, Boyertown Soccer Club, JK Memorial Field-reported the Soccer Club discussed the JK Memorial Field signage and proposed a \$500 annual fee paid to Washington Township regardless of the number of signs they sell for advertisement. A motion was made by Thomas Powanda and seconded by James Roma accepting the JK Memorial Field annual sign fee of \$500 as proposed by the Boyertown Soccer Club in accordance with the township ordinance. **No comments received.**

All ayes

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

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

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 25, 2021

A motion was made by David Moyer and seconded by Thomas Powanda to approve the minutes of February 25, 2021 as prepared.

No comments received.

All ayes

TOWNSHIP REPORTS

A motion was made by Thomas Powanda 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 March 25, 2021, and to file the treasurer's report for audit. **No comments received.**

All ayes

TAX COLLECTOR

Tax Collectors Report for the month of February 2021:

Interim Tax	\$	262.76
Per Capita Tax	\$	44.00
Total	\$	306.76

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. Chief Mutter reported so far this month they have responded to 21 calls, which is average and they were on average for January and February as well. Supervisor Roma asked what the majority of calls are and Chief Mutter stated they are medical assistance calls.

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 based on the tapping fee analysis the current tapping fee of \$9,700 could be raised to a maximum of \$13,507. That tapping fee would also change depending upon future expansion and any rerates that may occur.
- Evaluation of a Connection Management Plan which includes what EDU's are on the books as being requested, purchased and required to finish existing projects. At this time the Chapter 94 Report shows there are 38 EDU's available for connection until overload. Currently, there are 38 EDU's that have been pre-purchased or purchased by permits that were issued prior to January 25, 2021. At this time the township's policy is no EDU's would be sold for permits that were issued after January 25, 2021 deadline. DEP has been contacted with regards to expansion and re-rate and DEP has indicated for both the procedure will be basically the same. There will need to be a special study planning and after the planning is approved there would be a construction permit for the Plant. The length of time for the entire process is about two and a half years. DEP also noted they are not going to increase the phosphorus loading to the stream which means even though you are taking in more capacity into the plant, discharge can only be to the current level which means treatment will have to increase. The next step would be to start discussions with the developers who have requested capacity and to enter into sewer service agreements with the developers.

Public Comment:

Gregg Adelman, representing Spring Valley Village has requested the 30 EDU's listed on the Chapter 94 Report be sold to his client for connection this year. Mr. Adelman is requesting a staff meeting with the township, Mr. Unger, Mr. Weber, Ms. London as well as any Board Members who wish to participate to explore some solutions. Mr. Adelman indicated his client has an immediate need not a future need. One item for discussion is a pump and haul agreement which would allow his client to continue on with units he has received deposits on. Currently Spring Valley has 20 agreements of sale with deposits. A motion was made by David Moyer and seconded by Thomas Powanda authorizing a staff meeting with professionals on a date to be determined. **No comments received.**

All ayes

A motion was made by David Moyer, seconded by Thomas Powanda authorizing System Design Engineering to start the Planning Process. **No comments received.**

All ayes

Chairman Moyer announced the Township Plant is at capacity and will not sell EDU's for any permits not issued prior to January 25, 2021.

A copy of the EEMA O & M Report is enclosed

Public Comment

Doug Stetler, stated the township is losing money by not have charging a fee for holding EDU's. It was stated the township is charging a non-connect fee of \$415 per EDU annually but it was stated this only applies to about 6 or 7 EDU's. Supervisor Roma suggested checking into the maximum fee for the non-connect fee.

- **Influent Pump Station** materials have been ordered, this will probably be a late summer project
- **Surge suppressor replacement contract** from MGK Industries and will be covered under the township insurance. A motion was made by David Moyer and seconded by James Roma authorizing the replacement of the surge suppressor at Weinstein Pump Station by MGK Industries in the amount of \$2,632. **No comments received.**

All ayes

TOWNSHIP ENGINEER

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

- **2021 Road Project** -two (2) bids were received and opened on March 23rd. A bid was received from Recon Construction Services in the amount of \$75,210.00 and E.J. Breneman in the amount of \$71,794.00. A motion was made by Thomas Powanda and seconded by James Roma awarding the 2021 Road Project to E.J. Breneman in the amount of \$71,794.00 subject to their submission of required bonds and insurance information. **No comments received.**

All ayes

- **GP11 Application**-Mr. Weber stated the GP11 Application has been completed for Heydt's Schoolhouse Road for minor repairs and submitted to DEP.

Public Comment

Connie Cordova, asked if the crosswalks at Spring Valley Village could be redone. The Roadmaster stated when the weather improves.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Ms. London reported argument took place on the appeal from the Conditional Use denial for Kelly Group/Shadeland Development on March 1st and there will be a continuation of that argument on April 13th.

Ms. London also stated there were two developers who issued checks for EDU's, those checks should be returned to the developers. A motion was made by David Moyer, seconded by James Roma authorizing the return of the two checks received by the township for payment of EDU's. **No comments received.**

All ayes

SUPERVISORS
UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- **PADOT Ehst Road/Route 100 stormwater issue**-the Solicitor is working on an agreement which has not been returned from PADOT.
- **Gehringer Road open space tract** – Rich reported they did not yet walk the property due to the weather. Rich will schedule a new date to walk the property.
- **Barto Road straightening** – *ongoing*
- **Personnel Policy review** – *ongoing*
- **Public Works building** – Tom Unger stated he did reach out to Shirk and asked for a quote on an insulation package to meet code and also include a concrete slab. The price increase for lumber, etc., since August has increased the base price to \$77,400 for the building shell and with the addition of the concrete floor and insulation package the price is \$135,600, this price does not include electric or mechanicals. Mr. Unger also reached out to Pioneer Pole Buildings, who are COSTARS approved, will be providing a quote.
- **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** – The fencing was advertised and two bids were received with the low bid from Promax Fence Systems \$23,383. The second bid was from AKA, The Fence Co. was \$23,980. This price does not include any ground work and would require clearing and leveling. A motion was made by James Roma to award the bid to Promax Fence Systems for \$23,383 having no second to the motion, motion failed.
- **Wastewater Treatment Plant operator**– this will be discussed in Executive Session.
- **Audio equipment update** – Rich provided quotes from three vendors, BSGI quoted \$6,750, one quote was \$15,000 and the last quote was \$25,000. A motion was made by James Roma and seconded by Thomas Powanda authorizing the purchase of the audio equipment for the meeting room in the amount of \$5,785 from BSGI without the optional Assistive Listening System. **No comments received.**

All ayes

- **Credit card payments**-Rich explained if the township absorbs the credit card fees of \$816.50, if the charges are passed on to the customers it raises the fees to \$1,466.30 because of the different merchant charges. The fees equate to, at the most \$3.50 per customer per year. The hope is receivables will improve and less will go to collections. It will also allow customers to pay on-line which would reduce the foot traffic in the office. A motion was made by James Roma, seconded by Thomas Powanda authorizing the implementation of Xpress Bill Pay System for the purpose of accepting credit card/EFT payments. **No comments received.**

Thomas Powanda – aye

James Roma – aye

David Moyer – abstained

- **Truck Purchase** – Several price quotes were received for the purchase of a new Ford F-550 truck. Rich stated about \$65,000 was budgeted for this year and if the truck is not delivered until 2022 the remainder could be put into the 2022 budget. Brian stated each man has a 4 ½ hour plow route and they are really in need of this truck. This truck will be used for the subdivisions and should include a 10-foot plow. Brian will check to see if Perkiomen has a 10-foot plow. After lengthy discussion a motion was made by David Moyer and seconded by Thomas Powanda authorizing the purchase of a 2022 Ford F-550 chassis diesel from New Holland in the amount of \$50,060. **No comments received.**

All ayes

Mr. Moyer stated Brian should get the prices for the drop-down sides and a 10-foot plow.

- **Basketball Court** – Last year we obtained a price to resurface the basketball court from Maloney. Rich contacted the company and they will hold the quoted price for this year. Rich was asked to go ahead and get the job scheduled.

NEW BUSINESS

- **Traffic control plan** – Rich stated if PennDOT has to detour on all state roads the detour route will be an hour detour. PennDOT is asking the township to use township roads for the detour around the bridge. A motion was made by James Roma and seconded by Thomas Powanda approving the PennDOT traffic control plan for the Hill Church Road bridge replacement. **No comments received.**

All ayes

- **Laser Printer** – A motion was made by David Moyer and seconded by James Roma authorizing the purchase of a laser printer for the Treasurer’s Office in the amount of \$450. **No comments received.**

All ayes

- **Backhoe Purchase** – Brian said the 2003 backhoe is very worn and they are constantly rebuilding cylinders and also the hydraulic tank is leaking. Brian said a 310SL John Deere Backhoe sells for \$124,200 and a 410L is about \$130,000. Mr. Moyer directed Brian to get demo backhoes to see which model they like before they purchase one.

- **John Deere replacement brushes** – A motion was made by David Moyer and seconded by Thomas Powanda authorizing the purchase of replacement brushes for the John Deere tractor from Lecal Equipment in the amount of \$803.04. **No comments received.**

All ayes

SUBDIVISION/PLANNING

None

SUBDIVISION EXTENSION

None

COMMUNICATIONS

- Copy of the ARB Delinquent Account Report is enclosed.
- EAC meeting minutes of March 8, 2021
- Safety Committee meeting minutes of March 12, 2021

The Safety Committee has concerns with old overgrown wire fencing some of which are in the right-of-way and get into the mower. The areas of concern have been mapped out and property owners should be contacted before they are removed. The concern is how to dispose of the wire/debris. Rich will explore how this can be done and how to dispose of the removed material. Mr. Moyer would like to know the location of the fencing. Rich will report back to the Board at the next meeting.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The next board of Supervisors meeting will be held on Thursday, April 22, 2021 at 7:00 pm.

The PSATS Conference has been canceled.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Executive Session convened at 8:43 p.m. The regular meeting reconvened at 8:58 p.m. A motion was made by David Moyer, seconded by Thomas Powanda authorizing to hire a licensed full time Waste Water Treatment Plant Operator with a possible start date of May 1, 2021. **No comments received.**

- David Moyer – aye**
- Thomas Powanda – aye**
- James Roma - opposed**

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Thomas Powanda and seconded by James Roma to adjourn the meeting at approximately 8:59 p.m. **No public comment received.**

All ayes

Respectfully submitted,

Susan J. Brown
Township Secretary