

**WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
MINUTES
NOVEMBER 18, 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, 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 fourteen (14) 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

Prestige Partners - Edison Walk Land Exchange – The 1.57-acre parcel along Barto Road was deeded to the Township in 2011 by the prior developer. Prestige proposes a land exchange for the 1.5 acres under the following terms:

- Prestige will dedicate a portion of its currently owned property consisting of approximately 3.42 acres located adjacent to the township parking lot and ball fields.
- In exchange the township will convey the 1.57-acre parcel to Prestige which will be incorporated into its current Edison Walk project.
- Prestige will request that Barto Mall agree to affirmatively release the deed restriction via a deed of correction or a deed of confirmation
- The Township will petition the Court of Common Pleas to approve the proposed land exchange. Prestige agrees to absorb the townships legal expenses and recording costs in conjunction with that petition.

Chairman Moyer asked that monuments be placed so the boundary is defined. A motion was made by David Moyer and seconded by Thomas Powanda authorizing the Township to proceed with the land exchange with Prestige Partners in accordance with the terms set forth in Attorney Brown's letter of October 12, 2021. **No comments received.**

All ayes

PUBLIC COMMENT

Leroy Renson, Wissinger Road, asked when the property next door to him is going to be cleaned up. The trash from inside the house has now been moved outside the house and Mr. Renson questions if the house is even structurally sound. The Board of Supervisors asked LTL Consultants to check on the property.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES OF OCTOBER 28, 2021

A motion was made by James Roma and seconded by Thomas Powanda to approve the minutes of the meeting of October 28, 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 November 18, 2021, and to file the treasurer’s report for audit. **No comments received.**

All ayes

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

TAX COLLECTOR

Tax Collectors Report for the month of October 2021:

Real Estate Tax	\$ 3,101.87
Light Tax	\$ 121.00
Per Capita Tax	\$ 836.23
Amusement Tax	<u>\$ 343.00</u>
Total	\$ 4,402.10

A motion was made by David Moyer and seconded by James Roma authorizing the Tax Collector to utilize the township office for tax collection in 2022. **No comments received.**

All ayes

FIRE CHIEF’S REPORT

A copy of the Eastern Berks Fire Department Report is in the binders. Chairman Moyer urged residents to support the annual fund drive.

ZONING/SEO REPORT

Reports are in the binders

SEWER ENGINEER’S REPORT

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

- **WWTP influent pump station upgrade** – ongoing
- **Weinsteiger Pump Station Primex Control System** - ongoing

- **Hydraulic Plant Rerate** – continuing with the water quality permit for the rerate.

TOWNSHIP ENGINEER

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

- **Barto Road straightening** – A plan submission and review fee of \$3,000 is required to Buckeye Partners L.P., for their review and approval due to the gas line crossing Barto Road. A motion was made by David Moyer and seconded by Thomas Powanda authorizing LTL Consultants to submit the Barto Road reconfiguration plan along with a check in the amount of \$3,000 to Buckeye Partners, L.P. **No comments received.**

All ayes

Mr. Weber also stated the project will exceed an acre of disturbance so an NPDES permit will be required.

- **Bally Springs Phase 2 & 3 completion of site improvement repairs** – The final repair item was the glass globe at Avalon Circle and County Line Road which has been completed by Rotelle. Mr. Weber is recommending the release of the \$5,000 being held by the township. A motion was made by Thomas Powanda, seconded by James Roma authorizing the release of \$5,000 to Rotelle for phase 2 & 3. **No comments received.**

All ayes

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

- **Gehring Road open space property** – Ms. London reported the title search and phase 1 environmental study have come back clear. A motion was made by David Moyer and seconded by Thomas Powanda authorizing the Solicitor to proceed working with Prestige Partners for acceptance of the property. **No comments received.**

All ayes

- **Mingey litigation update & status of agreement** – Ms. London indicated the settlement agreement is progressing and are very close to finalization.

SUPERVISORS

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- **PADOT Ehst Road/Route 100 stormwater issue**-work is scheduled for spring 2022. PADOT has applied to PADEP for an NPDES Permit.
- **Gehring Road open space tract** – this is ongoing.
- **Barto Road straightening** – this was addressed as part of the Township Engineer report
- **2022 Budget Approval, setting of tax & sewer rates** – It was discussed and the Board approved at budget meeting to increase the Bally Ambulance contribution from \$12,500 to \$14,375 next year which did not make it into the advertised budget. A motion was made by James Roma and seconded by Thomas Powanda authorizing Mr. Sichler to amend the advertised budget to include the increased Bally Ambulance contribution from \$12,500 to \$14,375. **No comments received.**

All ayes

Rich reviewed the five-year projection of the General Fund and also the Sewer Fund. Upon review it is recommended the tax rate remain the same at 2.7 mills. The sewer fund 5-year projection is not consistent however it is not a downward trend. The Chairman suggested taking a look at the sewer fund again in June of 2022. A motion was made by David Moyer and seconded by Thomas Powanda setting the tax rate at 2.7 mills and sewer rate at \$318.29 and to authorize Rich to submit the tax sheets to Berks County.

No comments received.

All ayes

- **Temporary large equipment storage solutions for winter 2022** – The Roadmaster checked with the local quarry to see if they could provide storage for the township equipment. Martins will be able to provide storage at Gables Quarry in the old garages, which is a fenced in area, beginning on December 10, 2021. The storage will be donated by the Martins and the township will provide insurance coverage on all equipment. In addition, a storage area on North Reading Avenue will be used to store the trailers. It was suggested the township send a thank you letter to the Martins for their generosity.
- **American Tower Lease Agreement** – Rich has been investigating the lease agreement and has done some comparisons with other municipalities as well. The Township is receiving a competitive rate at this point. American Tower is looking for a 35-year lease agreement with the township to enable them to attract additional tenants for the tower. The Solicitor will review the contract prior to next month's meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

- **Sale of Case Backhoe** – Rich reported the 2003 Case backhoe was on Municibid for 18 days with the highest bid of \$27,100 which is \$2,100 over the trade-in value. The bid was received from Lance Madgwick of Melba, Idaho. A motion was made by David Moyer, seconded by Thomas Powanda authorizing the sale of the 2003 Case backhoe to the high bidder, Lance Madgwick of Melba Idaho, for the sum of \$27,100. **No comments received.**

All ayes

- **Berks County Farm Service Agency (FSA) election of member-** Rich explained there is an open seat at the County. There are two candidates, township resident Ben Masemore, and Troy Alderfer and voting is open to each municipality in Berks County. The Board voted as follows:

David Moyer voted for Ben Masemore

James Roma voted for Troy Alderfer

Thomas Powanda voted for Ben Masemore

Rich will complete the ballot card and return it to the County.

- **Board Vacancies** – Rich reviewed all the board vacancies on the various committees.
- **New Supervisor Training** – Rich is requesting to send the newly elected Supervisor to the PSATS Boot Camp for Township Officials training. A motion was made by David Moyer and seconded by James Roma authorizing the newly elected Supervisor to attend the PSATS Boot Camp training at a cost of \$169. **No comments received.**

All ayes

- **2022 Budget approval** – A motion was made by David Moyer and seconded by Thomas Powanda approving the 2022 Budget. **No comments received.**

All ayes

SUBDIVISION/PLANNING

None

SUBDIVISION EXTENSION

None

COMMUNICATIONS

- Copy of the ARB Delinquent Account Report is enclosed.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chairman Moyer stated Public Works did an excellent job at the War Memorial with the tree/shrub trimming.

The next board of Supervisors meeting will be held on Thursday, December 16, 2021 at 7:00 pm.

The Board of Supervisors reorganization meeting will be held Monday, January 3, 2022 at 5:30 p.m.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by James Roma and seconded by Thomas Powanda to adjourn the meeting at approximately 7:54 p.m. **No public comment received.**

All ayes

Respectfully submitted,

Susan J. Brown
Township Secretary