

**WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 23, 2021**

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson David 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, 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 eight (8) 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

None

PUBLIC COMMENT

Paul Farnsworth, Bally Springs, was present this evening to present phases 2 & 3 of Bally Springs for dedication to the township. Mr. Weber indicated there are still some outstanding issues to be addressed. In phase 2 there are water valves that need to be repaired and phase 3 there is an issue with a no outlet sign which has been removed and a streetlight which has been blackout on one side. Mr. Farnsworth explained the phase 2 issue will be addressed and is willing to post an escrow with the township to ensure the work will be completed. The phase 3 issue is due to a homeowner who took down the no outlet sign and placed it in his shed and painted the light post black to keep the light from shining into his house. Mr. Farnsworth said they have tried talking to the resident however he was belligerent and threatening and Mr. Farnsworth stated he does not know what to do about the situation. Ms. London explained this is vandalism and theft of property and it should be reported to the police. Chairman Moyer stated the boxes need to be raised and the township will not take dedication until it has been completed. Mr. Moyer also stated the two inlet boxes are not parged and need to be completed. Mr. Moyer stated the homeowner needs to be dealt with prior to dedication. Mr. Moyer also stated a \$100,000 cash escrow needs to be posted to ensure all issues are dealt with. Ms. London stated the cash escrow before the deed of dedication is not the same as the for the maintenance agreement where the bond does have to be posted. Ms. London said she

will need the financial security and she does have the agreements prepared. Ms. London will prepare a simple agreement for the cash escrow at the developer's expense. A motion was made by David Moyer and seconded by Thomas Powanda to accept dedication of phase 2 & 3 of Bally Springs based upon the posting of \$100,000 cash escrow for the remaining issues to be addressed. **No comments received.**

All ayes

Jim Treichler, stated there is a public safety concern regarding three trees at the Forgedale apartment property Mr. Treichler owns. Mr. Treichler indicated he is not sure who owns the trees since they are located along the Perkiomen West Branch Creek. Mr. Treichler stated two of the trees are dead and he has contacted Met-Ed who referred him to the tree trimming company who is the contractor for Met-Ed. Mr. Treichler spoke to the supervisor twice about having the trees removed and he was told the trees are not in line with the power lines. Mr. Treichler has had several contactors there to look at the removal of the trees however the problem is there are three guidewires and a guide pole that run about 75 feet back away from the trees and the guidewires run in between the trees which were placed there by Met-Ed. Mr. Treichler is looking for some support from the township to get this resolved. Rich will contact Met-Ed to discuss.

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

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES OF AUGUST 26, 2021 & SECIAL MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 7, 2021

A motion was made by James Roma and seconded by Thomas Powanda to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of August 26, 2021 and the special meeting of September 7, 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 September 23, 2021, and to file the treasurer's report for audit. **No comments received.**

All ayes

TAX COLLECTOR

Mr. Sichler presented the Tax Collectors Report for the month of August 2021 in the absence of Brenda Breidigan:

Real Estate Tax	\$ 1,271.16
Per Capita Tax	\$ 5,781.80
Amusement Tax	<u>\$ 6,233.29</u>
Total	\$ 13,286.25

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.

- The Weinsteiger Pump Station pump control and pump watch system was installed and operational.
- The influent pump from KSB has been tested and ready to ship.
- The Gale Corp has submitted an invoice for stainless steel railing to be installed with the pump. A motion was made by David Moyer and seconded by Thomas Powanda authorizing the payment to Gale Corporation for the rail system for the influent pump station not to exceed \$3,200. **No comments received.**

All ayes

- The hydraulic rerate policy letter was submitted to the township
- The water quality permit was resubmitted to PADEP about two weeks ago

Supervisor Moyer asked if the current tapping fee is still adequate and Mr. Unger replied yes, it is. Mr. Moyer also asked about the connection at 1574 County Line Road. Mr. Unger explained Mr. Lee Moyer at 1574 County Line installed his grinder pump and installed a 2" forced main up to the manhole. The system is sized large enough that in the future that system could allow for additional connections.

- Request for granting of EDU's for three existing model homes in Spring Valley Village- Mr. Unger stated the three model homes do not meet the policy until they come in with agreements of sale therefore it is Mr. Unger's recommendation to not grant connection permits to those three units since they do not meet the policy at this time.

TOWNSHIP ENGINEER

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

- The MS4 Annual Report will be completed by the end of the month
- Mr. Weber reported a request was received from Spring Valley Village to rezone 2115 Old Route 100 from General Industrial to Residential with mobile home park overlay. A sketch plan was received showing an additional 35 modular homes. Mr. Weber asked if there is any interest in pursuing a zoning change for the property. Chairman Moyer called for a motion, no motion was made and request died on the floor.
- 44 Crescent Lane property which is the location of a home which burned some time ago and the property has numerous property maintenance issues. Neighbors have been filing complaints with the township. A violation has been sent to the

property owners in Florida and the letter was returned for insufficient address. Mr. Weber stated the property was posted as well. After October 14th the township can enter onto the property to secure and/or remove dangerous portions of the structure. There has been no response from the property owner at this point. Ms. London said the property must be made safe and her recommendation is to get an order from the court for demolition. A motion was made by David Moyer, seconded by James Roma to proceed with obtaining a court order for the demolition/securing of the property at 44 Crescent Lane. **No comments received.**

All ayes

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Ms. London reported she forwarded to Attorney Adelman the township comments and proposed revisions to the settlement agreement between the township and Mr. Mingey. Ms. London is awaiting a response and will advise the Board when a response is received.

Ms. London said a Memorandum of Understanding was signed for the acquisition of the Rose Gross property for the satisfaction of township open space requirements for Prestige Property Partners. There is a due diligence period with respect to environmental and title search. Ms. London is requesting authorization to retain an environmental firm to conduct a phase 1 environmental assessment to determine that there is no likelihood of environmental contamination and also to ensure good title. A motion was made by David Moyer, seconded by Thomas Powanda authorizing Ms. London's request as outlined. **No comments received.**

All ayes

SUPERVISORS

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- **PADOT Ehst Road/Route 100 stormwater issue**-work is scheduled for spring 2022.
- **Gehringer Road open space tract** – Mr. Moyer's contact will draft something and drop it off to the township
- **Barto Road straightening** – *ongoing*
- **Himmelwright Road paving project** – the project was completed yesterday. The project was well done and came in under budget. Chairman Moyer thanked the roadcrew for a job well done.
- **2022 Budget-major projects & purchases** – the budget meeting is scheduled for Monday, October 18th and October 19th if needed. Rich and Missy have been working on the budget and if there is anything the Supervisors would like researched let Rich know.
- **Temporary large equipment storage solutions for winter 2022** – Rich did check one property for storage and will make contact with the property owner to solidify things.
- **Berks County Dept. of Emergency Svcs. Resolution 2021-20** – At last months meeting authorization was given to enter into an agreement with Berks County

Emergency Services however the County would like the Township to do this in the form of a resolution. A motion was made by David Moyer and seconded by Thomas Powanda adopting Resolution 2021-20 to enter into an intergovernmental agreement for the County of Berks to provide consolidated dispatching services to Washington Township. **No comments received.**

All ayes

NEW BUSINESS

- **Edison Walk** – Rich met with representatives from Prestige Partners expressed their desire to come to a meeting to consolidate and negotiate all municipal improvements, property exchanges and assistance requests.
- **Outfitting of F-350 truck** – Rich has quote from Perkiomen Performance for the fitting of a Whiteout Western 8'-10' plow, Back rack safety rack w/light bracket and a mini LED light bar Mr. Moyer has sourced a back rack that we are able to use. A motion was made by James Roma, seconded by Thomas Powanda authorizing the purchase and outfitting of the plow and light bar by Perkiomen Performance not to exceed \$6,600. **No comments received.**

All ayes

- **Minimum Municipal Obligation (MMO)** – Rich reported the calculated contribution by the township to be made next year to the pension plan will be \$45,908. The calculation for the contribution for the former municipal authority is zero since there are enough funds. *There is no action to be taken at this time.*
- **2022 Holiday and Meeting Schedules** – Chairman Moyer would like to add two (2) workshop dates into the schedule, one in the first quarter and one in the third quarter. A motion was made by James Roma and seconded by Thomas Powanda approving the 2022 Holiday Schedule and the 2022 Meeting Schedule with the addition of two (2) workshop meetings, one in the first quarter and one in the third quarter of the 2022. **No comments received.**

All ayes

- **Two-way radio purchases** – Rich stated there is a need for additional portable radios with very limited suppliers, Triangle Communications has been able to source one (1) new mobile unit and (1) lightly used mobile unit and (2) portable units with a \$500 price for each unit and accessories and mounting hardware are extra. A motion was made by David Moyer and seconded by Thomas Powanda authorizing the purchase of the four (4) units for a price not to exceed \$2,100. **No comments received.**

All ayes

- **Sewer Payment Agreement** – Account 100610 payment agreement for payment of \$300 per month. A motion was made by David Moyer, seconded by James Roma to accept a payment agreement for \$300 per month for account #100610. **No comments received.**

All ayes

SUBDIVISION/PLANNING

None

SUBDIVISION EXTENSION

A motion was made by Thomas Powanda and seconded by James Roma granting the following subdivision extension:

Edison Walk Residential 09/30/21 to 03/29/2022

No comments received.

All ayes

COMMUNICATIONS

- Copy of 8/27/21 Safety Committee Meeting Minutes enclosed.
- Copy of the ARB Delinquent Account Report is enclosed.

Mr. Moyer announced there has been a scam within the township by a roofer and asked residents to please be careful.

Rich reported the township has been receiving calls about hazardous trees and would like to look into inventorying trees in the township right-of-way and will address this at a future meeting.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Budget Workshop is scheduled for Monday, October 18, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. and Tuesday, October 19, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. *if needed.*

The next board of Supervisors meeting will be held on Thursday, October 28, 2021 at 7:00 pm.

Public Comment:

Peg Stuart, asked if the new F-350 truck will be for the Roadcrew, Rich indicated the truck would go to the Roadcrew and the F-250 will go to the Sewer Department. The F-250 is a 2018 with a value probably higher than the new truck because the used market is very high. Chairman Moyer did indicate both trucks will be used for both departments.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by James Roma and seconded by Thomas Powanda to adjourn the meeting at approximately 8:22 p.m. **No public comment received.**

All ayes

Respectfully submitted,

Susan J. Brown
Township Secretary