

**WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
MINUTES  
JULY 28, 2022**

**CALL TO ORDER:** Chairman Moyer called the regularly scheduled meeting of the Washington Township Board of Supervisors to order at 7:07 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 concerning land use and personnel matters. The Chairman also amended the agenda for tonight to include Locust Road conduit. A motion was made by Thomas Powanda, seconded by Rommie Long amending the July 28, 2022 agenda to include Locust Road conduit.

**All ayes**

**ROLL CALL**

The following members were present: Supervisors, Chairman Moyer, Thomas Powanda, Rommie Long, Solicitor, Joan London, Esquire; John Weber representing LTL Consultants, Tom Unger, Systems Design Engineering, Township Manager, Richard Sichler, Township Secretary, Susan Brown, and thirteen (13) 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**

**Eastern Berks Fire Department – Commercial Land Purchase** – Chief Mutter spoke regarding the department’s continued search for land to build a new firehouse. Chief Mutter stated the Barto station is in the process of being sold and are hoping to finalize the sale by the end of August or beginning of September. A three-acre parcel of land along Route 100 has come up for sale for which EBFD placed an offer and the offer was accepted. Chief Mutter explained the parcel of land was recently changed from residential to commercial zoning and is asking for the township to allow the proper zoning so they may proceed with the purchase and construction of the new fire station. Ms. London explained there must be a request for a variance to the Zoning Hearing Board to which the Board of Supervisors can make a recommendation and can appear or submit a letter of recommendation in support however it is not a guarantee the variance will be granted. The Board of Supervisors agreed to grant a zoning amendment for this parcel of land for the good of the community. A motion was made by David Moyer and seconded by Thomas Powanda authorizing Kozloff Stoudt to prepare the zoning ordinance amendment and prepare and advertise for the hearing process and for the township to pay the associated expenses.

**All ayes**

Chief Mutter reported there were two structure fires in Washington Township in the past month and stated address signs are very important and asked the township to encourage residents to purchase the reflective signs from EBFD. Chief Mutter also expressed there were hazardous conditions at the one fire location due to poorly constructed buildings and overgrowth of the property. Chief Mutter also said the tractor trailers continue to be an issue on Old Route 100 bridge.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF JUNE 23, 2022**

A motion was made by David Moyer and seconded by Thomas Powanda to approve the regular Board of Supervisors meeting minutes of June 23, 2022 as prepared.

**All ayes**

**TOWNSHIP REPORTS**

A motion was made by Thomas Powanda and seconded by Romnie Long 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 July 28, 2022, and to file the treasurer's report for audit.

**All ayes**

**TAX COLLECTOR**

Tax Collectors Report for the month of June 2022 was presented by Rich Sichler on behalf of the Tax Collector, Brenda Breidigan:

|                 |              |
|-----------------|--------------|
| Real Estate Tax | \$ 23,696.82 |
| Interim Tax     | \$ 2,961.11  |
| Light Tax       | \$ 106.50    |
| Per Capita Tax  | \$ 115.50    |
| Amusement Tax   | \$ 4,975.46  |
| Total           | \$ 31,855.39 |

**FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT**

A copy of the Eastern Berks Fire Department Report is enclosed.

**ZONING/SEO REPORT**

Reports are in the binders.

**SEWER ENGINEER'S REPORT**

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

- **WWTP Influent lift station upgrade** – Two bids were received from Eastern Environmental Contractors in the amount of \$109,600. The second bid was from MGK Industries Inc. in the amount of \$82,864. It is the recommendation of SDE to award the bid to MGK Industries, Inc. A motion was made by David Moyer

and seconded by Romnie Long to award the bid for the WWTP influent lift station upgrade to MGK Industries, Inc. in the amount of \$82,864.

**All ayes**

- **Swamp Creek & Weinsteiger Pump Stations** – The PRIMEX pump systems are up and operating and reporting data correctly.
- **2022 I & I field work bids for televising** – SDE prepared bid documents for light cleaning and CCTV inspection of approximately 4,295 ft of sanitary sewer line to the Weinsteiger Pump Station.

### **TOWNSHIP ENGINEER**

A copy of the Township Engineer's Report dated June 17 – July 20, 2022 is enclosed.

- **Planning Commission:** There were three plans in for review, Schwenkfelder Road Plan, Kutztown Road Plan and J.D. McGovern Land Development Plan. There was no action taken on any of the plans. There were also two new plans accepted for review, the D'Angelo Minor Plan and the Longenhagen Subdivision and will be reviewed at the September meeting.
- **2022 Road Project:** Preconstruction meeting was held on July 11<sup>th</sup> with the project start date of August 8<sup>th</sup>. The contractor will be distributing door hangers to notify residents of the upcoming project.

### **SOLICITOR'S REPORT**

- **Comcast cable franchise agreement:** A public hearing will need to be held on the renewal agreement. A motion was made by Thomas Powanda, seconded by Romnie Long authorizing the hearing regarding the Comcast Franchise Agreement.

**All ayes**

- **Snow Emergency parking ban enforcement:** A draft Snow Emergency Parking Ban has been distributed to the Supervisors with a projected authorization to advertise at the August meeting.

### **SUPERVISORS**

#### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

- **PADOT Ehst Road/Route 100 stormwater issue** – Mr. Moyer will check with Chuck Smith on any new information.
- **Gehring Road open space tract** – waiting for the weather to break.
- **Basketball Court painting** – project has been on going all week and it is looking good. The project should be finished up tomorrow.
- **County Line Road speeding issues** - Traffic study is being conducted and it is reported to be half completed. A requirement of PennDOT is a neighborhood survey and must determine what neighborhood is affected by the speed issues. A motion was made by David Moyer, seconded by Thomas Powanda authorizing the Township Manager to work on surveying residents on County Line Road from Hoffmansville Road to Niantic Road and to include any subdivision that exits onto County Line Road in the defined area.

**All ayes**

- **Nighttime sign audit** – still waiting on the PennDOT equipment.

- **Recycling Center operations update by Tara Christman** – Ms. Christman reported there is a lack of communication as far as what is accepted at the Recycling Center. It was suggested to put out flyers and post updates on social media, the newsletter and on the township website. The EAC has been meeting monthly to discuss ways to better serve the community and have been exploring grant opportunities as well as other educational opportunities for other EAC members and networking with other EAC that have been successful with obtaining grant money. The EAC is aware of the growing community and would like to explore opportunities to help minimize the impact on the community such as pre-watershed education, information on waste reduction, rain gardens, replacing trees, etc. The EAC would like to collaborate with the Recreation Committee to discuss different opportunities and grants that go hand in hand with recreation.
- **Recycling Center contract** – Rich has not received a proposal from Total Recycling.
- **Tree removals** – Two trees in Barto Park and seven trees at Weinstein Pump Station have all been removed.
- **2022 Road Project update** – The entire length of Wilt Road, Passmore Road from Wilt to Hoffmansville preliminary work has been completed. The FDR will begin on August 8<sup>th</sup>. Residents may notice the road will look like a dirt road and will sit like that for about two weeks and then it will be paved.

#### NEW BUSINESS

- **Bank account interest rates & proposed purchase of CD's** – The Treasurer researched all of the township accounts to see if there are any better options for return on our money. The township does have accounts with Pennsylvania Local Government Investment Trust (PLGIT) and also with Truist. Comparing the two PLGIT is offering the better rates therefore Rich would like to transfer more money to PLGIT and would also like to purchase one-year CD's. The rate varies but when checked the rate was 3.73%. A motion was made by David Moyer, seconded by Thomas Powanda authorizing the transfer of funds from Truist to PLGIT to purchase one-year CD's.  

**All ayes**
- **Township Personnel Manual** – A draft has been distributed and a workshop will be scheduled for review of the document.
- **2022 budgeted purchases to consider:**
  - **Barto Park playground equipment** - \$30,000 has been set aside for playground equipment. Missy checked what could be purchased with \$30,000 and provided information for the supervisors to review. Rich will get price quotes on a similar playground layout for consideration.
  - **Township Building electronic sign** - \$25,000 was budgeted for an electronic sign. Rich suggested placing the sign closer to the driveway entrance. Rich will work on some quotes and placement of a sign.

- **Recreation study** – Rich will contact the members of the Recreation Committee and get them meeting again. The Recreation Study has been budgeted the past two years. Rich will get the study quote refreshed.
- **Newsletter preparation** – Hometown Press does almost all the local municipality newsletters which are really very nicely done. The newsletter would be done at no cost to the township, they sell advertising to cover the cost. The township would generate all the text for the articles and provide any pictures you want and they will do all the formatting and print according to whatever schedule the township wants. They are looking for a commitment from the township of two newsletters. A motion was made by David Moyer, seconded by Rommie Long authorizing to contract with Hometown Press for the publication of the township newsletter.

**All ayes**

- **Codification of Township Code** – Table until future meeting.
- **Locust Road Occupancy Permit Application** – Occupancy Permit Application received for 318 Locust Road to install 3” PVC for electric service. Motion made by David Moyer, seconded by Thomas Powanda authorizing the issuance of the Road Occupancy Permit for 318 Locust Road conditioned upon meeting the requirements of the Roadmaster and Township Manager with regard to the location of the piping outside the right-of-way and at sufficient depth under the right-of-way.

**All ayes**

#### **SUBDIVISION/PLANNING**

None

#### **SUBDIVISION EXTENSION**

Motion made by David Moyer, seconded by Thomas Powanda granting the following subdivision extension:

**J.D. McGovern Land Development Plan from 7/7/22 to 10/5/22**

**All ayes**

#### **COMMUNICATIONS**

- Copy of the ARB Delinquent Account Report is enclosed.

#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The next board of Supervisors meeting will be held on Thursday, August 25, 2022 at 7:00 pm.

Mr. Moyer suggested residents contact state and U.S. Senators and request expedited trails for the Jan. 6<sup>th</sup> insurrectionists who have been arrested and are still detained.

#### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

None needed

**ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made by Thomas Powanda, seconded by Romnie Long to adjourn the meeting at approximately 8:13 p.m.

**All ayes**

Respectfully submitted,

Susan J. Brown  
Township Secretary