

**WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
MINUTES
FEBRUARY 23, 2023**

CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Powanda 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, Chairman Powanda, David Moyer, Romnie Long, Solicitor, Joan London, Esquire; John Weber representing LTL Consultants, Tom Unger, Systems Design Engineering, Township Manager, Rich Sichler, Township Secretary, Susan Brown, and fifteen (15) members of the public were in attendance.

Absent: None

Chairman Powanda announced an Executive Session was held this evening for personnel matters.

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 taping the meeting this evening.

SPECIAL REQUEST

Pierce Keating, Gathering Barn – A representative from All County & Assoc. was present this evening to discuss the issuance of building permits for the Gathering Barn. It was explained this barn will have an office, gym and great room. Eventually this barn will be connected to the Guest Barn which is proposed to be connected to the public sewer system. Currently, there is a septic system in place for the Keating residence and the Gathering Barn is an accessory structure to the residence and there will be no additional flows generated from the barn. It is the request of Mr. Keating to allow the issuance of the permits for the Gathering Barn so construction may begin. Chairman Powanda stated the Board will take the request under advisement and will have a decision at the March meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Matthew Rhoads, recycling update – Mr. Rhoads stated the committee appreciates the township's decision to continue operation of the recycling center this year. The final financial numbers for 2022 are a net expense of \$296.90. Mr. Rhoads stated the recycling center went from two (2) co-mingled containers to one (1) which will also help to save money on service fees. Mr. Rhoads reported the committee has had positive feedback from the community regarding the continued operation of the recycling program. The committee would like the Board to consider signing a yearly contract with

Cougles. There was brief discussion regarding the items being taken at the recycling center as well as the spring clean up which is scheduled for the first Saturday in May.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES OF JANUARY 26, 2023 MEETING

A motion was made by David Moyer and seconded by Romnie Long approving the meeting minutes of January 26, 2023 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 February 23, 2023, and to file the treasurer’s report for audit.

All ayes

TAX COLLECTOR

Tax Collectors Report for the month of January 2023 presented by Tax Collector, Brenda Breidigan:

Interim Tax	\$ 1,575.81
Per Capita Tax	\$ <u>71.50</u>
Total	\$ 1,647.31

FIRE CHIEF’S REPORT

A copy of the Eastern Berks Fire Department and Bally Ambulance reports is enclosed.

Donation letters have gone out in the mail. Please consider supporting the local fire department.

ZONING/SEO REPORT

Reports are in the binders.

SEWER ENGINEER’S REPORT

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

- **Request to Bally Borough to amend Intergovernmental Sewage Agreement** – The Agreement is being drafted and should be available by the next meeting.
- **Treatment Plant expansion design authorization** – Currently waiting for a check.
- **Chapter 94 Report** – The PADEP spreadsheet has been completed for the year as well as the five (5) year projection. There are no projected overflows and there are approximately 81 edu’s available however most of that capacity has been spoken for at this point.
- **Sale of EDUs** – edu requests (4) for R. Mingey, (3) for Prestige Properties and (1) from Spring Valley Village. The edu’s are available on a first come, first served basis.

- **Core borings** – The soil core borings have been completed for the proposed Public Works building.

TOWNSHIP ENGINEER

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

- **2023 Road Project update** – The core samples will be taken next week. Supervisor Moyer stated there is a ravine on Washington Road which should be looked at prior to the start of this project.
- **Barto Road straightening project update**
 - Padre Pio Construction Easement – Rich has provided the easement agreement to Padre Pio. Mr. Weber reported he is still waiting on the NPDES Permit and is in communication with Windstream regarding the relocation of two (2) poles. There was brief discussion regarding the Public Works crew doing stone hauling and black top work with the remainder of the project being bid. Rich stated Padre Pio is looking at what they could do with the residual parcel after the road is straitened and are considering a meditation garden with possibly a footbridge and a split rail fence between the two properties.
- **Clover Hill Subdivision**
 - Stormwater basins agreement-stormwater basins A and B have not yet been completed. The agreement requires \$10,000 financial security which has been provided to the township. A motion was made by David Moyer, seconded by Romnie Long approving the escrow agreement for the Clover Hill stormwater basins.
All ayes
 - Accept Deed of Dedication for Natalie Circle – A motion was made by Thomas Powanda, seconded by Romnie Long to accept dedication for the right of way of Natalie Circle.
All ayes
 - Approval of 18-month maintenance agreement – A motion was made by David Moyer, seconded by Romnie Long approving the 18-month maintenance agreement for Clover Hill Subdivision with financial security of \$40,695.
All ayes
 - Approval of improvements agreement escrow release #5 – A motion was made by David Moyer and seconded by Romnie Long approving Clover Hill escrow release #5 in the amount of \$46,833.40.
All ayes
- **Bally Springs Phase 2 & 3**
 - Expiration of 18-month maintenance period expires on March 23, 2023. The punch list items are about 85% complete.

Mr. Weber reported the Planning Commission will be reviewing two (2) Plans at their March 2nd meeting which include the J.D. McGovern Land Development Plan and the Eddinger Land Development Plan for an accessory building. At the February Planning

Commission meeting, the Beverly A. Melcher Minor Subdivision Plan was accepted and will be reviewed at the April Planning Commission meeting.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

- **Prestige Property Partners/Barto Mall, Inc. deed of correction, Phase Q-1, Lot B, removal of deed restriction** – Ms. London explained there had been a deed restriction on a 1.56-acre lot on the former West Tract transferred to the township in 2011. The restriction required a fire station or other open space use. This will be acquired by Prestige as part of a land exchange agreement and Prestige and Mr. Mingey have agreed to remove the deed restriction. The township will have to sign off on the deed as a party to it. Motion made by David Moyer and seconded by Ronnie Long authorizing the execution of the corrective deed.

All ayes

- **Sewer Reservation Agreement, Edison View** – Execution of the agreement was authorized at the last meeting and has been signed by the parties.
- **Amendment of Martin Stone Quarry Agreement** – A motion was made by Thomas Powanda, seconded by David Moyer authorizing the preparation of the 2023 amendment as amended in 2021 and 2022.

All ayes

- **Contribution Agreement Route 100 stormwater project** – Ms. London was asked to review the Contribution Agreement with the township contributing approximately \$21,000 for work on the stormwater project. There are some indemnification portions which Ms. London has concerns and will be discussing with PADOT.
- **Zoning Hearing Board Application for Fronheiser Pools** – This is a property located on Old Route 100 with the hearing scheduled for March 13, 2023. Ms. London asked if the Board would like to participate in the hearing. The Board takes no position.

SUPERVISORS

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- **Nighttime sign audit** – ongoing
- **Public Works garage project** – has already been addressed.
- **Public Works position/hiring** – There is one more interview to be held.
- **Right of Way maintenance, removal of ash trees** – The Roadmaster has located and marked almost 100 ash trees on various roads. Pricing received for the removal of the trees is estimated to be between \$90,000 to \$105,000 and Rich also stated there most likely are still some trees yet to be identified. Ms. London stated this work would qualify as a professional service. Rich said a budget adjustment would be necessary. A motion was made by David Moyer and seconded by Ronnie Long authorizing the removal of the dead ash trees in the township right of way for a cost not to exceed \$120,000.

All ayes

It was suggested taking 75/5 of the funds out of ARP money and the remainder out of Liquid Fuels.

- **Barto Park basketball court repair update** – Insurance funds have been received. Montco Fence has set the poles and will stretch the fabric tomorrow.
- **Recreation and Open Space Plan survey progress update** – The survey notifications went out in the mail. Rich also stated one of the PARRC activities is bird watching and had the Valley Forge Audubon Society come to various parks and run programs and asked if Washington Township wants to get involved.
- **County Line Road traffic calming** – Steve Markley was present and stated the speeding on County Line Road continues and asked if there is an update on what the township is going to do about it. Chairman Powanda explained PADOT will not approve stop signs or speed humps, and the school transportation will not enter into Avalon Circle to pick up students so he stated the township is kind of at a loss of what to do at this point. Mr. Markley said there was an accident last month and the excessive speeding is an issue. Mr. Markley said the speed limit should be reduced to 25 mph. Mr. Weber said the township can do pavement markings, such as the speed limit and SLOW. Supervisor Long said she was in favor of the electronic speed limit sign and possibly purchasing an additional electronic speed limit sign and having it permanently installed. Supervisor Moyer asked how to lower the speed limit. Mr. Weber said possibly talking to LTAP for ideas or recommendations for traffic calming.

Public Comment

James Mains, said possibly Washington Township could partner with a neighboring police department to monitor and ticket the speeders on that roadway for a fee.

It was discussed contacting Bally Borough and also Douglass Township to see if some type of traffic monitoring could be arranged. Also, Rich was asked to check into a permanent speed limit sign.

- **Knox boxes** – Rich is still investigation the Knox boxes.

NEW BUSINESS

- **2023-2024 Costars Road Salt Contract**-The deadline date for ordering salt is March 15, 2023. It was decided to purchase 300 tons. A motion was made by David Moyer, seconded by Romnie Long to purchase 300 tons of salt under the 2023-2024 Costars Road Salt Contract.

All ayes

- **1606 Main Street water service request to Bally Borough** – Request from property owner to supply water service for 48 units. A motion was made by David Moyer and seconded by Thomas Powanda to request water service from Bally Borough for the property at 1606 Route 100.

All ayes

- **BWB updated Emergency Operations Plan** – A motion was made by David Moyer, seconded by Romnie Long adopting the BWB Emergency Management Operations Plan.

All ayes

- **Gas meter purchase** – Rich got a CoStars quote for a new gas meter for Public Works and WWTP \$1,096.46 and calibration every six (6) months is \$109. Motion made by David Moyer, seconded by Romnie Long authorizing the purchase of a gas meter not to exceed \$1,400.
All ayes
- **Park system trash cans** – Rich reported the trash can chosen for the park system was very expensive at about \$900 per can and twelve (12) cans are needed. Therefore, it was decided to go with 55-gallon drums as in the past and purchase lids for the barrels. The plastic lids are \$115 each and the galvanized are \$175 each. A motion was made by David Moyer and seconded by Thomas Powanda authorizing the purchase of twelve (12) 55-gallon drums and lids not to exceed \$2,400.
All ayes
- **Excavator purchase** – Rich received three (3) price quotes for 60G compact excavator. Groff Tractor & Equipment quoted \$92,075.64, Little’s quote is \$101,735 and CAT for \$92,300 and the CAT has more capabilities and all are CoStar pricing. A motion was made by Romnie Long, seconded by David Moyer authorizing the purchase of CAT model 305 Excavator for \$92,300.
All ayes
- **EAC & Ag Advisory Committee appointment** – A motion was made by David Moyer and seconded by Romnie Long appointing Richard Black to the Environmental Advisory Council and also to the Agricultural Advisory Council.
All ayes
- **Purchase of used two-way radios** – Rich reported Douglass Township, Montgomery County has offered Washington Township to purchase their used two-way radios at a price of \$75 each. A motion was made by Thomas Powanda and seconded by Romnie Long authorizing the purchase of four (4) used radios at a cost of \$75 each.
All ayes
- **Former railroad right of way, potential uses** – Chairman Powanda has concerns of any dead trees on the property and also wondered if it would be possible to get grant money to put a walking path on this property. Rich will bring this to the Park/Rec Committee for discussion.

SUBDIVISION/PLANNING

None

SUBDIVISION/LAND DEVELOPMENT EXTENSIONS

None

COMMUNICATIONS

- Copy of the ARB Delinquent Account Report is enclosed.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The next board of Supervisors meeting will be held on Thursday, March 23, 2023 at 7:00 pm.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

None needed

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by David Moyer, seconded by Thomas Powanda to adjourn the meeting at approximately 8:47 p.m.

All ayes

Respectfully submitted,

Susan J. Brown
Township Secretary