

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

CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Powanda called the regularly scheduled meeting of the Washington Township Board of Supervisors to order at 7:02 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 twelve (12) members of the public were 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 taping the meeting this evening.

SPECIAL REQUEST

JD McGovern Land Development Plan – Rich said Mr. McGovern was not able to make the meeting tonight and will have more information available for next month's meeting.

Melissa Feight, Cubbler Court open space, grass treatment and potential purchase – Rich stated Ms. Feight had another appointment tonight but did provide a price quote for grass treatment and she should have an appraisal for the open space parcel for next month's meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Gregg Foster, 3096 County Line Road, East Greenville, requested any future legal correspondence should be sent directly to him and not his attorney. Ms. London stated as long as Mr. Foster is being represented the correspondence should be sent to the attorney. Ms. London suggested Mr. Foster contact his attorney and have him send Ms. London an email authorizing Ms. London to communicate directly with Mr. Foster. Mr. Foster will contact his council.

Richard Mingey, Barto Mall, 1606 Main Street, stated as part of the Settlement Agreement he is required to submit a preliminary plan by April 5, 2023 and is here tonight to ask for an extension of time of sixty (60) days as granted to the other property owners. Mr. Mingey explained he has been in contact with Bally Borough to request public water to service the site and has been informed by Bally Borough they will not take the request until April 11, 2023. There is also some concern that Bally is having

problems getting the permitting for the former Shuhler site for a secondary source of water for a well and possible storage tank. As of now there is no commitment from Bally Borough for a public water source and will know more after the next meeting.

A motion was made by David Moyer, seconded by Romnie Long amending the agenda to include Mr. Mingey’s request for extension.

All ayes

Motion made by David Moyer and seconded by Romnie Long granting Barto Mall a one time, sixty (60) day extension, for the submission of the 1606 Main Street Preliminary Plan.

All ayes

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

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 23, 2023 MEETING

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

All ayes

TAX COLLECTOR

Tax Collectors Report for the month of February 2023 presented by Rich Sichler:

Interim Tax	\$	817.51
Per Capita Tax	\$	<u>27.50</u>
Total	\$	845.01

FIRE CHIEF’S REPORT

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

Residents are reminded that the annual Fund Drive is underway

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 has been drafted and Mr. Unger has made his revisions and comments and will meet with the managers for input.
- **Treatment Plant expansion design authorization** – *ongoing*
- **Treatment Plant influent lift station upgrade** – A preconstruction meeting is being scheduled. The Contractor made suggestions regarding the junction box and electronics. There is also a change order for the junction box, comminutor servicing and exhaust fan switch.
Motion made by David Moyer, seconded by Rommie Long authorizing the change order for MGK Industries for the junction box, servicing the exhaust fan switch and flipping over the comminutor.

All ayes

- **Treatment Plant phone dialer replacement** – Rich is getting costs for the replacement of the phone dialer.
- **Chapter 94 Report** – A motion was made by Rommie Long and seconded by David Moyer authorizing the Township Manager to sign the Chapter 94 Report and to submit the report to PADEP.

All ayes

TOWNSHIP ENGINEER

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

Mr. Weber reported two plans were reviewed by the Planning Commission meeting in March. First was the JD McGovern Land Development Plan and also the Eddinger Propane Accessory Building Land Development Plan. There was no action taken on either plan. The Beverly A. Melcher Subdivision Plan will be reviewed at the April meeting.

- **2023 Road Project update** – The core samples were taken from the road last week and are currently working on the mix design. The FDR work is tentatively scheduled for the middle of April. Rich asked Mr. Weber to assist with what could be done with discharge from the pipe on Washington Road.
- **Barto Road straightening project update** – Mr. Weber reported the NPDES Permit was received today and the Construction Easement is still needed from Padre Pio. Mr. Weber said he is trying to coordinate the utilities.
- **Bally Springs Phase 2 & 3-** Punch list items have been completed. Any security being held can be released and projects can be closed out.
A motion was made by Rommie Long, seconded by Thomas Powanda authorizing the release of any security remaining from the 18-month maintenance agreement.

All ayes

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. Ms. London explained that even though all parties are in agreement for the removal of the deed restriction, court approval is needed because it was a deed restriction for a public purpose. An authorization has been

prepared to seek court approval and to file with the court. A motion was made by David Moyer, seconded by Romnie Long authorizing the filing of the petition for the removal of the deed restriction.

All ayes

- **Rose Gross deed of dedication** – The Deed of Dedication for twenty-six (26) acres of land from Prestige Property Partners to Washington Township requires authorization to sign and record. A motion was made by David Moyer and seconded by Romnie Long authorizing the signing of the Deed of Dedication from Prestige Property Partners to Washington Township, 26 acres of land and to record the deed.

All ayes

- **Camp Camino Gathering Barn Appeal** – Ms. London explained Mr. Keating filed an appeal with respect to the permit application denial for the gathering barn. There was a request to connect the gathering barn to the septic system for the existing farmhouse so a building permit could be issued for construction/renovations to the gathering barn. The gathering barn will eventually be either connected to the guest barn septic system or to public sewer. Upon issuance of the permit, the appeal will be withdrawn. A motion was made by Thomas Pownada, seconded by David Moyer allowing the building permit and conditional certificate of occupancy to be issued for the gathering barn with sewage disposal as outlined.

All ayes

- **Martin Stone Quarry Agreement Amendment** – This would allow the waiver of the required amount of stone to be removed from the Gabel Quarry for 2023. A motion was made by David Moyer and seconded by Romnie Long authorizing the waiver request and to execute the agreement.

All ayes

- **PennDOT Contribution Agreement** – Ms. London has prepared suggested modifications to the Route 100 stormwater project agreement and has submitted to PennDOT and is awaiting a response.
- **Approval to amend the Agenda** - A motion was made by Romnie Long to amend the agenda to include the appointment of an auditing firm, motion seconded by David Moyer.

All ayes

- **Resolution 2023-18 - Auditor Resolution** – Authorization was given to advertise for the appointment of an auditor to examine the accounts of the township for fiscal year ending December 31, 2022. A motion was made by Romnie Long, seconded by Thomas Powanda to adopt Resolution No. 2023-18 appointing Herbein + Company as the auditing firm for the township.

All ayes

Supervisor Moyer asked how the update to the Codebook is coming along. Rich explained a contract was signed with General Code and they have started the work by updating newer ordinances. They will look for outdated ordinances and information going forward.

SUPERVISORS

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- **Nighttime sign audit** – Brian stated he will be receiving information from Retro Sign next week.
- **Public Works garage project** – Meeting held last month and first draft of the floor plan design is out and waiting for comments. Next phase of the design is the design of the building off of the floor plan with elevation and cross sections.
- **Public Works position/hiring** – Rich is still collecting applications and will distribute to the Supervisors for review.
- **Right of Way maintenance, removal of ash trees** – Authorization was given last month to proceed with the project and it is estimated the project is 80% complete. Chairman Powanda thought the tree service company was doing a great job. Rich said he is obtaining pricing for tree removal on Sycamore Road which was not part of the original scope of work. The next phase will be to address remaining stumps.
- **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.
- **Knox boxes** – Rich presented a sample ordinance for consideration. The information regarding the Knox boxes as well as the address signage should be included in the future newsletter. Rich suggested having the township administer the sign orders which the Board agreed with. Rich would like to get the newsletter out sometime in May. Rich will work with the Fire Dept. on this.
- **Washington Park ADA, fencing & crosswalk grant application** – Rich has reviewed the first draft with the grant writer this morning. LTL is assisting with the quote for the crosswalk. The grant must be submitted by April 10th. As of right now the total cost is at \$48,000 with a 50% match so it would be a \$24,000 grant.
- **County Line Road traffic calming** – Brian got cost estimates for street markings in white. Each installation is approximately \$400 with the Roadcrew doing the actual installation with their heat gun. These would be placed in the crow of the road so there would be minimal wear. A motion was made by Rommie Long, seconded by David Moyer authorizing the purchase of four (4) road markings not to exceed \$1,600.

All ayes

NEW BUSINESS

- **1177 Route 100 double penalty fees** – A notice of violation was issued for the installation of a wood burning stove without a permit. The resident did apply for a permit however he was assessed double penalty fees. A complaint was filed by a township resident with PADEP regarding the smoke and PADEP did tell him he was not in compliance and he will remove the stove. The resident is requesting

the reduction of the fee to what the regular permit fee is. A motion was made by Thomas Powanda, seconded by Ronnie Long authorizing the waiver of the double penalty fees and to charge him the just the regular permit fee.

Thomas Powanda **aye**
Romnie Long **aye**
David Moyer **opposed**

- **Kriebel Security contract renewal** – The contract is up for renewal with a 30% price increase from \$15 to \$19 per month for each building. The price has not been increased for several years. A motion was made by David Moyer and seconded by Thomas Powanda to extend the security contract with Kriebel Security with the cost increased as outlined.

All ayes

- **Clover Hill – Natalie Circle dedication** – Rich said he has until September to update the liquid fuels reimbursement amount but is waiting to hear back from the PADOT representative regarding the completion of paperwork. *Table until next meeting.*
- **Basketball court purchase of pole guards** – Rich reported the fencing has been repaired from the fallen tree and now would like to replace the pole guards. The price is from Swing Set Warehouse which is significantly less than a competitor. A motion was made by Thomas Powanda, seconded by Ronnie Long authorizing the purchase of two (2) pole guards not to exceed \$1,000.

All ayes

- **Authorization of direct deposit for employees** – *tabled until next meeting*

SUBDIVISION/PLANNING

None

SUBDIVISION/LAND DEVELOPMENT EXTENSIONS

A motion was made by Thomas Powanda, seconded by Ronnie Long granting the following subdivision extensions

J.D. McGovern Land Dev. Plan	04/06/23 to 07/05/23
Eddinger Propane Land Dev. Plan	04/05/23 to 07/04/23
D’Angelo Minor Plan	04/05/23 to 07/04/23
All ayes	

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 Romnie Long to adjourn the meeting at approximately 8:07 p.m.

All ayes

Respectfully submitted,

Susan J. Brown
Township Secretary