

**WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
MINUTES  
APRIL 27, 2023**

**CALL TO ORDER:** Vice-Chairman Moyer called the regularly scheduled meeting of the Washington Township Board of Supervisors to order at 7:00 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 (via Zoom), David Moyer, Ronnie Long, Solicitor, Joan London, Esquire; John Weber representing LTL Consultants, Tom Unger, Systems Design Engineering, Township Manager, Rich Sichler, Township Secretary, Susan Brown, and ten (10) 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**

None

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

**Tom Link, 7 Nuthatch Court East**, stated he is new to the township and routinely attends public meetings. Supervisor Moyer welcomed Mr. Link to the township.

**APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES OF MARCH 23, 2023 MEETING**

A motion was made by Ronnie Long and seconded by Thomas Powanda approving the meeting minutes of March 23, 2023 as prepared.

**All ayes**

**TOWNSHIP REPORTS**

A motion was made by Ronnie Long and seconded by David Moyer 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 April 27, 2023, and to file the treasurer's report for audit.

**All ayes**

**TAX COLLECTOR**

Tax Collectors Report for the month of March 2023:

Real Estate Tax	\$156,993.00
Light Tax	\$ 1,215.20
Hydrant Tax	\$ 486.82
Per Capita Tax	\$ 11.00
Amusement Tax	<u>\$ 1,215.20</u>
Total	\$159,921.22

**FIRE CHIEF’S REPORT**

A copy of the Eastern Berks Fire Department & Bally Ambulance Assoc. reports are enclosed.

Residents are reminded that the annual Fund Drive is underway and Saturday is their chicken BBQ at the Bechtelsville station. Supervisor Powanda announced the burn ban has been lifted.

**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 draft agreement is being circulated within the borough and the township.
- **Treatment Plant expansion design authorization** – this is now with the Developer.
- **Treatment Plant influent lift station upgrade** – A preconstruction meeting was held with the contractor. The change order was executed at last month’s meeting. The project should be underway sometime in May.

**TOWNSHIP ENGINEER**

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

- **2023 Road Project update** – There is a preconstruction meeting scheduled with Recon, Tuesday, May 2<sup>nd</sup> and hope to get the work done sometime in May.
- **Barto Road straightening** – LTL is still working with Windstream and Buckeye for utility relocation.
- **Planning Commission** – The Camp Camino subdivision & land dev. Plan was accepted for review and will be reviewed at the June meeting. The Richard Black subdivision located at Hillcrest and Kulps Roads will be reviewed at the May meeting.

**SOLICITOR’S REPORT**

- **Prestige Property Partners/Barto Mall, Inc. deed of correction, Phase Q-1, Lot B, removal of deed restriction** – Ms. London stated the Deed of Correction

has been signed but the land swap needs approval by the court in order to have the plan recorded. Ms. London has prepared the petition to be filed with the court this month after it has been executed.

- **Rose Gross deed of dedication** – The Deed of Dedication for twenty-six (26) acres of land from Prestige Property Partners has been prepared and signed.
- **Camp Camino appeal** – the building permits have been issued under the agreement reached at last month’s meeting.
- **PennDOT Contribution Agreement** – Ms. London reported PennDOT commented on the revisions and the agreement will be ready for signature at either the May or June meeting.

## **SUPERVISORS**

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

- **Nighttime sign audit** – Brian and Rich spoke with Miller Service who supplies the township sign’s and has done this type of project before. Miller suggested going out at night and use the truck headlights to find the worst signs and replace them.
- **Public Works garage project** – Mr. Unger said he would like to meet with Dave and Brian to look at the sample wall sections and investigate the potential for doing the project as a design build and putting it out for contract as such.
- **Public Works position/hiring** – Rich reported interviews were held and salary will need to be discussed.
- **Knox boxes** – Rich discussed with EBFD about how many locations they are requesting. Currently the fire department is looking into the number and will report back. The property address markers (green & red) are being offered to residents at a cost of \$15.00 per sign. Township staff will help with the administration of the property markers by taking the applications, collect the fee, etc.
- **County Line Road traffic calming** – Speed limit markings for the road were purchased and will get this on the Roadcrew work schedule for application. Rich stated PADOT is reevaluating the criteria and developing some standardized criteria and will have a new handbook by the end of the year.
- **Authorization of Direct Deposit for employees** – Rich polled employees and said there are two (2) employees who do not want direct deposit. There is an end of week summary of payroll and employees will receive a pay stub for their records. Chairman Powanda said he is in favor of direct deposit and Supervisor Long said she would like employees to have the option. Supervisor Moyer said he feels if the township is going to do direct deposit then all employees need to participate in direct deposit. Chairman Powanda stated he doesn’t want this to be difficult for Missy when she is doing payroll. It was discussed starting with employee payroll and possibly expanding to committee meeting pay etc. in the future. A motion was made by Thomas Powanda, seconded by David Moyer authorizing direct deposit for all employee payroll beginning July 1, 2023.

<b>Thomas Powanda</b>	<b>aye</b>
<b>David Moyer</b>	<b>aye</b>
<b>Romnie Long</b>	<b>opposed</b>

- **Addition of roads, including Natalie Circle, to liquid fuels inventory** – *this is ongoing*

## **NEW BUSINESS**

- **File storage rooms, humidity control** – Rich explained the binder covers have a mildew accumulation in the downstairs storage area and spoke to an indoor air quality expert. His recommendation is to get airflow into the room and also possibly a dehumidifier. Supervisor Long stated she has concerns with having staff clean the binders. Supervisor Moyer stated he has the cleaning solution and will take care of cleaning the binders.
- **Weisstown Road, chip seal potential & budget estimate** – A cross pipe will be replaced on Weisstown Road this year. Brian reported the age and traffic has really taken a toll on the road and asked if the Supervisors would be interested in a chip and seal on this road this year. AMS has quoted \$28,700 with township crew doing some of the work. This would be done later this year and a budget revision would be necessary. Rich will have more detailed information for next meeting.
- **Safety harness purchase, public works** – Rich said the harness we currently have is good however it could be upgraded. Supervisor Moyer suggested taking the safety harness out of the box and hang it somewhere in the shop.
- **Authorization to seek quotes for refreshing road markings at Niantic & Barto Road traffic lights** – Rich reported the signal contractor that maintains the two traffic signals reported the road markings at both traffic signals are thin in spots. Rich said he would like to seek professional help with the application. Rich was directed to get a price quote.
- **Public Works crew schedule** – A request was made by Public Works to work an 8-hour day instead of 8 ½ and get paid for lunch. Rich suggested having a meeting with the Roadcrew to discuss their request. Supervisor Long said her concern is of unequal treatment among staff and also stated this is offered in neighboring municipalities. Rich said the office staff is answering phone calls and waiting on customers during their lunch time versus the crew sitting in their breakroom eating lunch. Supervisor Moyer stated he was in the shop this morning at 7:35 and the entire crew was still in the shop. Mr. Moyer would like to see the summer hours at 6:00 am to 2:30 pm. and the regular hours at 6:45 am to 3:15 pm. Mr. Moyer said he received a call last week that the crew went for pizza and there is not a pizza shop in the township. Mr. Moyer stated no, he is not interested in giving a paid lunch. Mr. Moyer also stressed the use of cell phones for personal use should be limited and said the cell phone use is getting out of hand. Chairman Powanda stated he also is in favor of changing the summer hours to 6:00 am to 2:30 pm but he is willing to sit down and talk with the crew before making a decision. Mr. Moyer said the crew did a good job maintaining the flower beds.

- **Resignation and vacancy for Township Planning Commission** – Rich said Romnie would like to resign her position from Planning Commission if there is someone interested in filling her position. Rich said a letter of interest should be submitted for consideration. A motion was made by Romnie Long and seconded by David Moyer authorizing Rich to publicize the potential vacant position.

**All ayes**

**SUBDIVISION/PLANNING**

None

**SUBDIVISION/LAND DEVELOPMENT EXTENSIONS**

A motion was made by Romnie Long, seconded by Thomas Powanda granting the following subdivision extension:

**Beverly A. Melcher Minor Plan      05/03/23 to 08/01/23**

**All ayes**

A motion was made by Romnie Long, seconded by Thomas Powanda granting the following subdivision extension:

**Stauffer Road Minor Plan                      05/03/23 to 08/01/23**

**All ayes**

A motion was made by David Moyer, seconded by Romnie Long granting the following subdivision extension:

**Edison View    04/30/23 to 08/28/23**

**All ayes**

**COMMUNICATIONS**

- Copy of the ARB Delinquent Account Report is enclosed.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The next board of Supervisors meeting will be held on Thursday, May 25, 2023 at 7:00 pm.

Supervisor Moyer said he is proud of being able to lower the sewer rate and said Exeter Township sold their sewer system and their rates are now \$300 per month.

Supervisor Moyer also reported voting precinct #2 which was located at Calvary UCC on Route 100 has now moved to Morning Star Fellowship on Limekiln Road.

Supervisor Long announced spring clean up is next Saturday, May 6<sup>th</sup>.

Supervisor Moyer announced an Executive Session was held earlier this evening for land use and personnel. Also, an Executive Session was held on Tuesday, April 18<sup>th</sup> for personnel matters.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

None needed

**ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made by Ronnie Long, seconded by Thomas Powanda to adjourn the meeting at approximately 7:51 p.m.

**All ayes**

Respectfully submitted,

Susan J. Brown  
Township Secretary