

**WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
MINUTES
MAY 25, 2023**

CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Powanda called the regularly scheduled meeting of the Washington Township Board of Supervisors to order at 7:08 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 eleven (11) 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

None

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES OF APRIL 27, 2023 MEETING

A motion was made by David Moyer and seconded by Romnie Long approving the meeting minutes of April 27, 2023 as prepared.

All ayes

TOWNSHIP REPORTS

A motion was made by Romnie 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 May 25, 2023, and to file the treasurer's report for audit.

All ayes

TAX COLLECTOR

Tax Collectors Report for the month of April 2023:

Real Estate Tax	\$500,662.53
Interim Tax	\$ 485.07
Light Tax	\$ 4,692.24
Hydrant Tax	\$ 2,360.91
Per Capita Tax	\$ 5.50
Amusement Tax	\$ <u>2,757.72</u>
Total	\$510,963.97

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.

- **Request to Bally Borough to amend Intergovernmental Sewage Agreement –** The Intergovernmental Agreement has been reviewed with the municipality managers and the edits are being incorporated into the draft document which will go out to Solicitors for their review.
- **Treatment Plant expansion design authorization – *ongoing***
- **Treatment Plant influent lift station upgrade project update –** The upgrade has started and is going very well. The pump start up is scheduled for tomorrow.
- **Longacre Dairy renewal of Industrial User Permit –** A motion was made by David Moyer, seconded by Rommie Long authorizing the renewal of the Industrial Use Permit for Longacre Dairy.

All ayes

TOWNSHIP ENGINEER

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

- **2023 Road Project update –** The FDR process was completed on Meitzler and Washington Roads on May 11th through May 15th. The paving is scheduled to begin on Tuesday, May 29th.
- **Barto Road straightening update –** Buckeye Pipeline has said they need to move some of their facilities with a cost of \$52,000 and are asking if Washington Township would be willing to reimburse them for some of their costs. The pipeline has been abandoned for many years and the right of way needs to be maintained. Washington Township is not inclined to contribute to this expense.

- **Authorization review/update Stormwater Ordinance** – A motion was made by Romnie Long and seconded by Thomas Powanda authorizing the review and update of the stormwater ordinance.
All ayes
- **Review of parking space requirements in Zoning Ordinance** – A motion was made by David Moyer, seconded by Thomas Powanda authorizing LTL Consultants to review the parking space requirements in the Zoning Ordinance.
All ayes
- **Planning Commission** – Camp Camino Land Development Plan will be reviewed at the 6/1/23 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 reported the hearing will be held on August 24, 2023 at 2:30 p.m.
- **Rose Gross deed of dedication** – *ongoing*
- **PennDOT Contribution Agreement** – Ms. London forwarded the revisions to Mr. Hubbard at PADOT. A motion was made by Thomas Powanda and seconded by Romnie Long authorizing the Chairman to sign the Contribution Agreement with PADOT as revised.
All ayes

SUPERVISORS

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- **Public Works garage project** – Mr. Unger said they are proceeding with the plans. Brian asked what the hold up is with moving forward on the project. Mr. Unger explained his firm started the process in March and it is a six (6) to nine (9) month process for design, permitting, bidding and then an additional six (6) months for construction. That building will not be operational for this year and should plan accordingly for equipment storage.
- **Public Works position/hiring** – Rich would like authorization to offer a public works position to an interviewee at a rate of \$22.50 per hour with an increase to \$23.25 per hour after a successful completion of a probationary period. A motion was made by David Moyer, seconded by Romnie Long authorizing Rich to make the employment offer as outlined.
All ayes
- **County Line Road traffic calming** – Brian reported he has the material for the curve at Gehringer Road and he can schedule to put that material down. He is waiting for the plan for the area of Avalon and County Line.
- **Authorization of Direct Deposit for employees** – Chairman Powanda made a motion revising the prior motion making direct deposit optional to employees. Motion seconded by Romnie Long.
All ayes

- **File storage rooms, humidity control – ongoing**
- **Weisstown Road, chip seal project scope & authorization** – Brian worked with AMS on options for this project. There were two (2) options, to bid out the project at a cost of about \$43,000. The second option is to rent the specialty equipment to the township at a reasonable rate and the township would provide the labor which would reduce the cost by \$14,000. This could be scheduled for later this summer and a budget adjustment could be done later in the year. A motion was made by David Moyer, seconded by Thomas Powanda authorizing the chip seal project for Weisstown Road.

All ayes

- **Traffic light road marking renewal scope & purchasing** – Cost of approximately \$4,170 for everything including traffic control. A motion was made by David Moyer and seconded by Rommie Long authorizing the traffic light road marking renewal at Route 100 and Niantic Road and Route 100 at Barto/Gehringer Roads not to exceed \$4,500 based on CoStar purchasing.

All ayes

- **Summary of costs for right of way tree removals** – Up to \$120,000 was authorized for Ash tree removal within township road rights of way. Trees were identified for removal and the total cost for removal was \$90,350. *So noted.*
- **Ongoing projects with no report this month:**
 - Addition of roads to PADOT Liquid Fuels Inventory
 - Fire Company request for Knox boxes
 - Township review of ordinances and codification project

Supervisor Moyer suggested the installation of a three way stop sign at the intersection of Old Route 100 and Barto Road since there is a site distance issue at this location. Mr. Weber stated the township cannot put up stop signs on state roads. Mr. Weber and Rich will discuss and contact PADOT.

Public Comment:

Doug Stetler asked if drilling has taken place at Barto and Old Route 100 for detection of mine shafts. Chairman Powanda stated there was test boring done at that location in the last week or two. Mr. Weber said the mine shaft issue will certainly be raised during the subdivision approval process.

NEW BUSINESS

- **Township Planning Commission vacancy** – There is a vacancy on the Planning Commission and there are two (2) applicants. Rich identified the applicants as Michael Ewing and Joe Kincaid and both applicants were present this evening. Chairman Powanda asked the applicants why they would like to be on the Planning Commission. Mr. Ewing said he interested in volunteering and is currently on the Zoning Hearing Board as an alternate. Mr. Ewing stated he does this type of work quite often in his current job. Mr. Kincaid stated he wanted to

bring a younger perspective to the Planning Commission and help shape the future of the community. An Executive Session will be called at the end of the meeting to discuss the application/applicants.

- **Recreation Advisory Committee volunteer for vacancy** – A motion was made by Ronnie Long and seconded by David Moyer appointing Mark Bedle to the Recreation Advisory Committee.

All ayes

- **Revision of Personnel Manual , Public Works summer hours & break periods** – It was proposed to revise the Public Works summer hours to 6:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. with a 30-minute unpaid lunch and the availability of a 10-minute a.m. break and 10-minute p.m. break. A motion was made by Thomas Powanda, seconded by David Moyer revising the personnel manual as outlined for Public Works.

All ayes

- **Property tax refunds** – A motion to refund the following properties for the reduction of assessed property tax values was made by Thomas Powanda and seconded by David Moyer:

1. **Renninger, 19 Woods Lane, Barto**
2. **Longenhagen, 90 Crow Hill Road, Barto**
3. **Camp Camino, 16 Kutztown Road, Bally**

All ayes

- **Rental property inspection ordinance** – Chairman Powanda would like to see rental inspections done every two to three years. Mr. Powanda stated he is not trying to penalize landlords but is interested in the safety of the tenants. Ms. London stated she has a self-certification that could be used by the township. If the self-certification was not completed or if there were reason to believe there are violations then there would be an actual inspection. Ms. London does have an ordinance to that affect and will supply a sample.

Public Comment

Doug Stetler, asked about the recycling barn for use as storage for township equipment. Mr. Stetler stated a lot of taxpayer money is being spent on equipment and the equipment should be taken care of. Chairman Powanda said if the recycling center is closed money will be owed to the state since grant money was obtained to purchase the recycling barn. One third of the building has already been turned over to Public Works.

SUBDIVISION/PLANNING

None

SUBDIVISION/LAND DEVELOPMENT EXTENSIONS

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

Richard Black Minor Plan

06/01/23 to 08/30/23

All ayes

COMMUNICATIONS

- Copy of the ARB Delinquent Account Report is enclosed.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The next board of Supervisors meeting will be held on Thursday, June 22, 2023 at 7:00 pm.

Chairman Powanda announced an Executive Session was held this evening and on May 16, 2023 regarding personnel matters. There was also an Executive Session held in May to conduct employee interviews.

Beth Ann Bittner Mazza from State Senator Tracy Pennycuick's office was present this evening to touch base with residents from the township. Starting in June there will be mobile office hours which are listed on the Pennycuick website.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Executive session was called at 8:18 p.m. The meeting reconvened at 8:29 p.m. A motion was made by Thomas Powanda, seconded by David Moyer accepting the resignation of Romnie Long from the Planning Commission.

All ayes

A motion was made by Thomas Powanda appointing Michael Ewing to the vacant position on the Planning Commission; motion seconded by David Moyer.

All ayes

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Romnie Long, seconded by Thomas Powanda to adjourn the meeting at approximately 8:31 p.m.

All ayes

Respectfully submitted,

Susan J. Brown
Township Secretary