

**WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 28, 2023**

CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Powanda 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.

ROLL CALL

The following members were present: Supervisors, Chairman Powanda, David Moyer, Rommie Long, Solicitor, Joan London, Esquire; John Weber representing LTL Consultants, Tom Unger, Systems Design Engineering, Township Secretary, Susan Brown, and twenty-six (26) members of the public were in attendance.

Absent: Rich Sichler

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.

Chairman Powanda announced Executive Sessions were held on September 7, 14 and also this evening for personnel matters.

Chairman Powanda also stated an agenda amendment is necessary for this evening. A motion was made by David Moyer and seconded by Rommie Long to add Camp Camino to the agenda under unfinished business.

All ayes

SPECIAL REQUESTS

None

PUBLIC COMMENT

Robin Gardner, 18 Audrey Drive, regarding speed limit signs, which will be addressed later on the agenda.

Ericka Nicole, 14 Chase Circle, asked what it would take to get dark sky reflectors for the street lights in her neighborhood. It was suggested Ms. Nicole address her request with Met-Ed however if Med-Ed would be inclined to change the fixture Ms. Nicole was asked to make the township aware prior to the change of the lighting fixtures.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES OF AUGUST 24, 2023

Motion to approve the meeting minutes of August 24, 2023 was made by Romnie Long and seconded by Thomas Powanda.

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 September 28, 2023, and to file the treasurer’s report for audit.

All ayes

TAX COLLECTOR

Tax Collector Brenda Bredigan presented her report for the month of August 2023:

| | |
|-----------------|--------------------|
| Real Estate Tax | \$ 3,469.26 |
| Interim Tax | \$ 161.11 |
| Per Capita Tax | \$ 6,094.90 |
| Amusement Tax | <u>\$ 5,970.65</u> |
| Total | \$ 15,695.92 |

FIRE CHIEF’S REPORT

A copy of the Eastern Berks Fire Department report is enclosed. It was reported there were 43 calls in the month of August. Supervisor Long asked if anyone saw the signs that are being placed around the township that say what if you called and no one came, which is a call for volunteers. Ms. Long suggested a sign could be placed at the township building.

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 was edited and revised in accordance with the Manager’s comments and went out to Managers and Solicitors this morning.
- **Treatment Plant expansion design authorization** – *ongoing*
- **Award manufacture and installation of the influent sewer bar screen** – there are two price quotes for the influent bar screen. Levan Machine & Truck quoted \$3,462.20 and Z-Weldco, Inc. quoted \$15,529.00. A motion was made by David Moyer, seconded by Romnie Long awarding the job to Levan Machine & Truck in the amount of \$3,462.20.

All ayes

- **Edison View Temporary Pump Station removal/permanent connection to gravity system** – The temporary pump station has been on line now for several years and is worn out and was not meant to be for long term use. The pump station has been causing numerous operation problems and there are issues getting the appropriate parties to maintain, fix and provide funding for the operation. Long term the pump station is to be removed and replaced with a trunk gravity line that would connect to an existing gravity line in Stauffer Road. This connection would probably take about two or more years to connect. The other option would be to upgrade the pump station to a more permanent pump station which would happen more quickly. It was suggested a letter be sent to the appropriate party putting him on notice that the pump station has to be either upgraded immediately or the trunk line installed. A motion was made by David Moyer, seconded by Rommie Long authorizing the Solicitor and Mr. Unger to draft a letter to the responsible party giving him 90 days to begin work on this project.

All ayes

Mr. Weber will be meeting with Mr. D’Angelo on Monday to discuss the necessary road repairs in Edison View. Mr. Weber stated Sugar Maple needs to be widened at Old Route 100 and is not sure why Mr. D’Angelo wants to apply the waring course before the road is widened.

TOWNSHIP ENGINEER

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

- **Planning Commission** – Mr. Weber reported plan reviews were completed for the Reserve at Barto, 1606 Main Street and Camp Camino for the September meeting however no one came to the meeting for Reserve at Barto and 1606 Main Street.
- **Barto Road straightening update** – Chairman Powanda said he spoke with Representative Maloney regarding the road straightening and Rep. Maloney said he would provide contact information for Windstream and UGI.
- **MS4 Annual Report** – the MS4 Stormwater Annual Report was submitted to PADEP

SOLICITOR’S REPORT

- **PennDOT Contribution Agreement** – Ms. London stated she is waiting for a fully executed report copy.
- **Hazardous tree removal, review of draft Ordinance** – A draft ordinance was reviewed at last months meeting. After some public input the Board of Supervisors decided the draft ordinance was broader than it needed to be so Ms. London was asked to narrow the ordinance. A draft copy has been provided to the Board of Supervisors. Ms. London explained the redrafted ordinance would be

for the removal of downed or partially downed trees that were on private property and fell on power lines, utility lines, etc. As the property owner you would bear the cost of the tree removal as opposed to the township. If the tree fell on the roadway the township would remove the tree. The township would first give notice to the property owner, failure to comply would result in the removal of the tree by the township and the cost would cause a lien to the property and penalty for violation would be up to \$1,000.

Public Comment

Joseph Kincade III, spoke with D & E (Denver & Ephrata) and also at First Energy and they disapprove of what the township is trying to do with this ordinance. Mr. Kincade stated he has spoken to the Forestry Engineer from D & E and he has stated that they have the right of way to maintain and keep the lines clear and they will remove any hazardous trees. Ms. London said she would like to speak to D & E's legal department and if what Mr. Kincaid is saying is correct that would change the proposed ordinance.

Jim Treichler, stated he had three trees on his property on Dale Road and got Representative Maloney involved to get Met-Ed to remove the trees.

Dan Stauffer, stated he read the draft ordinance and said it is the most ill-conceived ordinance that he has ever read. It is not the responsibility of the residents or the land owners of the township to maintain Met-Ed or any public utility lines or the public road way. Mr. Stauffer said the township is creating a huge liability with this ordinance.

Bill Piersol, stated he wants to have copies of draft ordinances prior to the meetings. The Chairman stated a right to know request must be submitted to the township.

Tara Christman, stated at times it has taken them several days to get someone out to take a tree down and expressed concerns regarding timeline for removal of trees.

- **Passmore/Hoffmansville Roads open space tax exemption** – A motion was made by David Moyer, seconded by Rommie Long authorizing the Solicitor to file with the Berks County Assessment Office for tax exemption for the Passmore Rd & Hoffmansville Rd open space parcel.

All ayes

- **Township review of Ordinances & codification project** – Ms. London and Rich Sichler continue to work on this project.

SUPERVISORS

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- **Public Works garage project** – Mr. Unger stated the contracts have been reviewed the boilerplate portion of the contract are adequate however after discussion the scope of work is not complete enough to protect the township against potential change orders. It was discussed to enter into a MOU (memorandum of understanding) so the steel could be ordered since it is a 16 week wait time for the steel. Ms. London said she would need authorization to prepare an MOU on the scope of work. A motion was made by Thomas Powanda, seconded by Romnie Long authorizing the Solicitor to prepare a Memorandum of Understanding

All ayes

Public Comment

Doug Stetler, asked what the final cost will be on the new building which is 50' x 82'. The design/build quote from Gorski Engineering is \$930,920. There were other options that would have pushed the price higher however the Board has declined those options. Mr. Stetler also asked about the cost of running the gas line to the building. Mr. Powanda stated it would not just be a gas line to the Public Works building but rather a gas line to the entire campus.

- **Energy contract renewal, Constellation Energy/World Kinect Corp.** – Missy reported she has been working with a representative from World Kinect Corp. and she has suggested the township go with the 24-month CNE-Premium/Incumbent fixed for .07779. A motion was made by David Moyer, seconded by Romnie Long authorizing the renewal of the contract with Constellation Energy/World Kinect Corp at the rate of .07779 for the 2-year premium incumbent.

All ayes

- **Public Works hiring** – It was reported a part time person has been hired and started work on 9/18 and a full-time person has accepted the township's offer of employment and will begin work on 9/30.
- **Facebook Page** – The Facebook page is up and running and was implemented to get information out to residents quickly.
- **Recreation Grant application** – It was explained this is a non-matching grant for a push to activate pedestrian crosswalk on Niantic Road in the amount of \$90,331.00. A motion was made by David Moyer seconded by Thomas Powanda adopting Resolution No. 2023-22 authorizing the submission of a grant application to DCED for pedestrian crosswalk.

All ayes

- **Camp Camino** – Roger Lehmann was present this evening to request resolution to a few outstanding items. A secondary access has been provided off of Schwenkfelder Road about 470 feet south of the main entrance. A motion was made by Thomas Powanda, seconded by Romnie Long accepting the secondary access located 470 feet south of the main entrance off Schwenkfelder Road as acceptable.

All ayes

Supervisor Powanda asked if the septic will be on one lot or two lots. It depends on if it is a public or private line. Mr. Lehmann said the homestead and camp will be on one lot temporarily and this will be revisited later to determine how to split them. In the future the township would be asked to take over the force main however the pump station would remain the responsibility of the camp.

Motion made by Thomas Powanda and seconded by Romnie Long accepting the recommendation of the Feasibility Study to not provide an access off of Kutztown Road.

Thomas Powanda – aye

Romnie Long – aye

David Moyer – opposed

Mr. Lehmann stated there are 78 total proposed parking spaces, 54 paved spaces with an additional 24 pavers in reserve. A motion was made by Thomas Powanda and seconded by Romnie Long accepting the proposed number of parking spaces as adequate.

All ayes

There are three proposed handicapped parking spaces which exceeds ADA requirements. A motion was made by Romnie Long, seconded by Thomas Powanda accepting the handicapped parking spaces as adequate.

All ayes

A trip generation study anticipates 10 PM hour trips to be generated by Camp Camino which would require a traffic impact fee of \$10,110. A motion was made by Thomas Powanda, seconded by Romnie Long accepting 10 PM hour trips as the traffic impact by Camp Camino with a traffic impact fee to be paid to the township in the amount of \$10,110.

All ayes

NEW BUSINESS

- **2024 Minimum Municipal Obligation (MMO)** – It was reported the Municipal Authority will have no obligation however the MMO for current township employees is \$54,739. A motion was made by David Moyer, seconded by Romnie Long authorizing Sue to send a letter certifying the MMO information was provided to the Board of Supervisors.

All ayes

- **Cogle’s Recycling/recycling program** – It was discussed switching from a large roll off to an 8-yard dumpster for mixed recyclables. Since recycling is only once a month it was felt two 8-yard dumpsters would be needed. The baled

cardboard will be given to Douglas Township to deliver to a papermill with their bales. If the dumpster is picked up monthly it is a cost of \$65.86 for one dumpster. There was discussion regarding where to take aluminum; Dwayne Henne will check into possible places to take aluminum. A motion was made by David Moyer, seconded by Thomas Powanda providing the cardboard bales to Douglas Township, Montgomery County, and to get two 8-yard containers to be emptied monthly contingent upon the October 9th EAC meeting.

All ayes

- **Pennsylvania State Police Reports** – It was reported the PSP monthly report will be available at the township building.
- **Consideration of setting speed limit (25 mph) in all subdivisions** – There have been a few requests for speed limit signs in areas that do not currently have them. Brian was asked to compile a list of all township roads that are not currently posted and/or have known issues.

Public Comment

Timothy Strittmatter, 18 Natalie Circle, asked to have the posted speed limit of 25 mph reduced to 15 mph in the Clover Hill subdivision due to speeding. Mr. Weber stated 25 mph is the statutory speed limit, to get it changed to anything else would require a traffic study. Supervisor Moyer stated he believes the best resolution would be to install a speed hump since the road is relatively short. Chairman Powanda asked the Roadmaster to place the flashing speed limit sign on Natalie Circle however it was determined the road markings could not be used at this location since the road is short.

- **Request for speed limit signs on Kulps Road between Crow Hill Rd & Bally Borough** - Mr. Weber again stated a traffic study would need to be done for this location.
- **Request for stop sign at Gehringer Road & Christi Dr/Joy Circle** – Ms. Nicole explained there is speeding on Gehringer Road every day. Supervisor Moyer said this would be a good location for a raised walkway. Mr. Weber explained the reason there is a four way stop intersection at Gehringer and Docwill is because of the site distance issue on Gehringer coming up the hill and again stated you cannot use stop signs for speed control. A motion was made by Thomas Powanda, seconded by David Moyer authorizing the installation of a raised crosswalk at Gehringer Road and Christi Dr/Joy Circle and to install the speed limit on the roadway on both sides of the crosswalk.

Thomas Powanda – aye

David Moyer – aye

Romnie Long - opposed

- **Stauffer Road widening by Spring Valley Village & potential road project for the remainder of Stauffer Road – *tabled until next month***

- **Appointment of Mark Bedle to Recreation Advisory Committee** – Motion made by Romnie Long, seconded by Thomas Powanda appointing Mark Bedle to the Recreation Advisory Committee with the term to expire in 2025.

All ayes

- **Camp Camino Zoning Hearing Board Application** – A Zoning Hearing is scheduled for October 11th to address three matters, the height of the gymnasium, the size of the sign on the side of the barn and also a second sign when one is allowed. The Board of Supervisors have decided to take a position against the requests. A motion was made by David Moyer and seconded by Romnie Long opposing the Camp Camino Zoning Hearing Board application and authorizing the Solicitor to attend the Hearing on their behalf.

All ayes

- **Cubler Court/Weinsteiger Rd & Audrey Drive/Hoffmansville Road detention basin clean-out** – The Township Secretary/Acting Manager was directed to send the property owners a registered letter advising them to clean out and maintain the detention basins.

SUBDIVISION/PLANNING

None

SUBDIVISION/LAND DEVELOPMENT EXTENSIONS

A motion was made by Romnie Long and seconded by Thomas Powanda granting the following Subdivision Extensions:

| | |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| D’Angelo Minor Plan | 10/04/23 to 01/02/24 |
| Reserve at Barto | 10/04/23 to 01/02/24 |
| Camp Camino | 10/04/23 to 01/02/24 |
| 1606 Main Street | 10/04/23 to 01/02/24 |
| All ayes | |

A motion was made by Romnie Long and seconded by David Moyer granting the following Subdivision Extension:

| | |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| J.D. McGovern Land Dev. Plan | 10/05/23 to 01/03/24 |
| All ayes | |

COMMUNICATIONS

- Copy of the ARB Delinquent Account Report is enclosed.

Supervisor Moyer thanked all the Emergency Management people who were at the township building on Tuesday night to participate in the Limerick drill.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

It was pointed out by a resident that the meeting agenda was not on the township website.

Township Budget meeting will be held Monday, October 16th & Tuesday, October 17th (if needed), at 6:00 p.m.

The next regular board of Supervisors meeting will be held on Thursday, October 26, 2023 at 7:00 pm.

Public Comment

Dan Stauffer, stated the township seems to have gotten more restrictive with information and again discussed his right to request draft ordinances. Mr. Stauffer also stated he was aware of someone who requested a copy of the meeting agenda and was denied access to the agenda and asked what is going on and has there been a collective decision to that effect. Mr. Stauffer asked why is every person asked to fill out a form that has to get reviewed when everyone already knows the public has a right to know and this is a hinderance to the public. It was explained to Mr. Stauffer that the request was made to calm the heated discussion that was taking place at that time. Supervisor Moyer said no one should be calling the professional staff unless they have the approval of the township to do so or unless it is an emergency nor should they be directing the professionals to do things on their behalf. All complaints are important however not at the expense of all tax

payers. Ms. London stated most municipalities require a complaint form to be signed by the complainant.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

An Executive Session was called at 10:20 p.m. to discuss a personnel matter. The meeting reconvened at 10:51 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Romnie Long, seconded by Thomas Powanda to adjourn the meeting at approximately 10:51 p.m.

All ayes

Respectfully submitted,

Susan J. Brown
Acting Township Manager/Secretary