

**WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
MINUTES
OCTOBER 26, 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, Rich Sichler, Township Manager, Township Secretary, Susan Brown, and fifteen (15) members of the public were in attendance.

Absent: Tom Unger

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 Session was held this evening for personnel matters.

SPECIAL REQUESTS

Padre Pio, John Shields-rehab of 1357 Route 100 – *tabled until November meeting*

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

**APPROVAL OF SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES OF AUGUST 8, 2023 AND
REGULAR MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 28, 2023**

Motion to approve the special meeting minutes of August 8, 2023 and the regular meeting minutes of September 28, 2023 was made by Romnie Long and seconded by David Moyer.

All ayes

TOWNSHIP REPORTS

A motion was made by David Moyer 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 October 26, 2023, and to file the treasurer's report for audit.

All ayes

TAX COLLECTOR

Tax Collector Brenda Braidigan presented her report for the month of September 2023:

Real Estate Tax	\$ 2,739.75
Light Tax	\$ 30.25
Interim Tax	\$ 37.84
Per Capita Tax	\$ 694.77
Amusement Tax	<u>\$ 7,625.87</u>
Total	\$ 11,128.48

FIRE CHIEF’S REPORT

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

ZONING/SEO REPORT

Reports are in the binders.

SEWER ENGINEER’S REPORT

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

- **Treatment Plant expansion design authorization, PADEP request for information** – PADEP had a question regarding the Chapter 94 report with respect to a schedule for which Mr. Unger is preparing a response.

TOWNSHIP ENGINEER

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

- **Barto Road straightening update** – LTL will be staking out the center line tomorrow as requested.
- **Consider updating Township ordinances to include setting speed limit & addition of stop signs** – the current traffic ordinance and there are a number of roads that could be added for the 25-mph speed limit. The roads that could be added are Apple Street, Jenna Drive, Audrey Drive, Westfield Drive, Back Country Road, Joy Circle, Tiffany Circle, Christi Drive, Chase Circle, O’Donoghue Way, Docwill Drive, Natalie Circle and Gehringer Road and of those roads, nine already are posted at 25-mph. Mr. Weber also suggested adding the stop signs for the new subdivision to the ordinance as well. The streets without speed limit signs are Apple St., Jenna Dr., Audrey Dr., Westfield Dr., and Back Country Road. The stop signs are the new subdivision streets in Bally Springs and Clover Hill.

A motion was made by Thomas Powanda, seconded by David Moyer authorizing the preparation and advertisement of the traffic ordinance as outlined.

All ayes

- **Raised cross walk specification** – Mr. Weber provided the specifications to Rich for the raised crosswalk at Gehringer Road and Christi Dr./Joy Circle. Rich stated

Brian has made an appointment with LTAP on 11/7/23 to talk about crosswalks, speed limits, etc. and see if they have any suggestions.

- **Cubbler Court/Hoffman Estates detention basin clean-out** – LTL sent letters to the property owners responsible for the maintenance of the detention basins in Cubbler Court and Hoffman Estates and currently has only heard back from the Hoffman Estates property owner.

Mr. Weber also reported concrete repairs have begun on Bishop Pine Road and Sugar Maple Road replacing damaged curb and sidewalks and inlet tops. They are also going to televise the sewer line and repair manholes. Mr. D'Angelo indicated they are still intending to pave before the end of the year.

Rich also added that they looked at the temporary pump station on Monday with Prestige and their contractors. They discussed jetting the lines, repair lines and install baskets prior to paving.

Supervisor Moyer said his idea is to start digging the road out on the weekends and get things going. John stated there needs to be a preconstruction meeting with PADEP and the Conservation District before construction begins. John will get the meeting set up. Supervisor Moyer also reported there were poles replaced on Hoffmansville Road and the wire is laying in the grass. Rich will contact the PUC regarding the line in the grass.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

- **Request to Bally Borough to amend Intergovernmental Sewage Agreement** – The draft agreement has been reviewed and has been sent to Bally's Solicitor. Joan will review with Bally's Solicitor on Monday to review and have final document for the November meeting.
- **Hazardous tree removal, review of draft Ordinance** – *tabled*
- **Passmore/Hoffmansville Roads open space tax exemption** – *this item is in progress*
- **Edison View temporary pump station removal/permanent connection to gravity system** – *has already been addressed*
- **Township review of Ordinances & codification project** – *in progress*
- **Public Works garage project, Gorski Engineering MOU** – a draft memorandum of understanding has been prepared and forwarded to Gorski Engineering. There are a few changes requested by Mr. Gorski which Joan will address. A motion was made by Romnie Long, seconded by David Moyer authorizing the execution of the MOU prior to the next meeting if it is to the satisfaction of the Solicitor.

All ayes

Public Comment

Dan Stauffer stated the hazardous tree draft ordinance has been tabled for the time being. If in the future there is a new draft, because he has a right to know request into the township, can he be forwarded a copy of the new draft or does he need to submit another request? Ms. London suggested this item be removed from the agenda and if there is another version considered in the future, it would be placed back on the agenda and the agenda would be on the website and it could be requested at that time.

SUPERVISORS

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- **Cougle's Recycling/recycling program** – Rich reported the two 8-yard dumpsters have been delivered and the roll-off has been removed and the trailer is scheduled for removal. The next recycling event is on November 4th so this will be a trial run. The thought is to locate the dumpsters side by side in front of the far-right door which would allow for the middle door to be open on recycling day. Rich is working on new signage to inform residents what items will be taken, etc. Douglas Township will be taking the cardboard.
- **Request for speed limit signs on Kulps Road between Crow Hill Rd & Bally Borough** - Brian will be discussing this with LTAP.
- **Stauffer Road widening by Spring Valley Village & potential road project for the remainder of Stauffer Road** – Dave and Brian went out to look at the road width. Currently it is 20 feet wide and Spring Valley would be adding an additional two feet on each side which Dave feels will open this road up to more speeding. Mr. Weber said the original subdivision plan shows a two-foot widening on each side however Eric Williams proposed doing four feet on one side which could potentially be used as a pedestrian walkway. Dave suggested taking a fee in lieu of and installing two raised walkways but the timing should coincide with the resurfacing of Stauffer Road. Rich will talk with Lee John Williams regarding Stauffer Road.

NEW BUSINESS

- **Recreation Advisory Committee appointment** – A motion was made by David Moyer, seconded by Thomas Powanda appointing Dwayne Henne to the Recreation Advisory Committee with a term to expire December 31, 2023.

All ayes

It was suggested putting something on the Facebook page to recruit volunteers for the vacancies on the various committees.

- **2024 Budget** – It was noted the budget meeting minutes reflected an increase to the EBFD contribution however it was not changed in the budget. Rich will make the necessary change. Supervisor Moyer stated the wish list totals more than \$200,000 and there is a new building that has been approved and it does not need to be filled this coming year. Mr. Moyer would be okay with the purchase of the Wacker plat, the John Deere zero turn mower, and the blower attachment.

Chairman Powanda asked if the township can purchase auction items. Ms. London said it depends if it is under the competitive bidding limit.

Public Comment

Bill Piersol, stated when he attended the audit review he requested a tax decrease of 1 mil for 2024. Rich explained he will do a five-year projection when he has a final draft of the budget. Rich expects to have the projection for the November meeting. Mr. Piersol said the tax increase was to help bail out the Sewer Authority. Mr. Moyer stated the additional mil was always put into the general fund and did not go into the sewer fund.

- **2023 Budget adjustment** – *this will be on the November agenda*
- **Barto Park lot lights** – A quote to upgrade pole lights to LED was received in the amount of \$5,500. Most of the expense is for the material not the labor and the wall packs are an additional \$800. A motion was made by Thomas Powanda and seconded by Romnie Long authorizing the upgrade of pole lights to LED and include new LED wall packs not to exceed \$6,500.

All ayes

- **Transportation Committee** – Rich requested to disband the Transportation Committee since there has not been a member in the past 7 years. In addition, the Planning Commission does perform an all-encompassing plan review. A motion was made by Romnie Long, seconded by David Moyer to disband the Transportation Committee.

All ayes

- **Approval of 2024 meeting dates** – *this schedule will be reworked and put on the November agenda*
- **2024 Holiday Schedule** – A motion was made by David Moyer, seconded by Romnie Long approving the 2024 Holiday Schedule.

All ayes

SUBDIVISION/PLANNING

None

SUBDIVISION/LAND DEVELOPMENT EXTENSIONS

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

Beverly A. Melcher Minor Plan	11/01/23 to 01/29/24
Stauffer Road Minor Plan	11/01/23 to 01/29/24
All ayes	

COMMUNICATIONS

- Copy of the ARB Delinquent Account Report is enclosed.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The next regular board of Supervisors meeting will be held on Thursday, November 16, 2023 at 7:00 pm.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

An Executive Session was called at 8:12 p.m. to discuss a personnel matter. The meeting reconvened at 8:31 p.m.

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