

**WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
MINUTES
FEBRUARY 22, 2024**

CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Powanda called the regularly scheduled meeting of the Washington Township Board of Supervisors to order at 7:03 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 sixteen (16) 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.

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

SPECIAL REQUEST

PUBLIC COMMENT

**APPROVAL OF SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES OF DECEMBER 15, 2023,
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES OF JANUARY 25, 2024 & WORKSHOP
MEETING MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 8, 2024**

A motion was made by David Moyer and seconded by Romnie Long approving the special meeting minutes of December 15, 2023 as prepared.

All ayes

A motion was made by David Moyer and seconded by Romnie Long approving the meeting minutes of January 25, 2024 as prepared.

All ayes

A motion was made by David Moyer and seconded by Romnie Long approving the workshop meeting minutes of February 8, 2024 as prepared.

David Moyer-aye

Romnie Long-aye

Thomas Powanda-abstained

TOWNSHIP REPORTS

A motion was made by Romnie Long and seconded by Thomas Powanda 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 February 22, 2024, and to file the treasurer’s report for audit.

All ayes

TAX COLLECTOR

Tax Collectors Report for the month of January 2024 presented by Tax Collector, Brenda Braidigan:

Interim Tax	\$	180.42
Per Capita Tax	\$	<u>121.00</u>
Total	\$	301.42

FIRE CHIEF’S REPORT

A copy of the Eastern Berks Fire Department and Bally Ambulance reports are enclosed. Chief Mutter announced the annual fund drive will begin soon. Mike Groff, Chief of Operations, Bally Community Ambulance, provided a review of their 2023 Annual Report.

ZONING/SEO REPORT

Reports are in the binders.

SEWER ENGINEER’S REPORT

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

- **Edison View update on progress with municipal improvements including sewage lift station and sewer lines – *No update***
- **Camp Camino sewer review – *No update***
- **2024 Capital Project** – Requesting to proceed with the budgeted capital projects for 2024 which includes pumping and cleaning the SBR 1 & 2 tanks, installing new pipe rail systems for the sludge pumps and replace the butterfly valve in the boiler room for a total cost of \$47,700. A motion was made by David Moyer, seconded by Romnie Long authorizing to proceed with advertising and receiving bids for the work as described.

All ayes

TOWNSHIP ENGINEER

A copy of the Township Engineer’s Report dated 2/9/24 is enclosed.

John indicated a review was completed for the Stauffer Road Subdivision at the February Planning Commission meeting. The Eddinger Propane Land Development Plan revision to Plan of Record was reviewed by LTL Consultants and the Review Letter was submitted to the Township and will be on the March 7th Planning Commission agenda for consideration.

- **Barto Road straightening project update** – John reported that there is one utility pole that needs to be relocated and one pole that needs to be reset. John

also said there will need to be a preconstruction meeting with the Conservation District and there will need to be barrier's placed for Bog Turtles and will need to be evaluated by a Bog Turtle Specialist before the project can begin. John suggested have a meeting prior to construction.

- **Edison View update on progress with municipal improvements including pavement, curbs and stormwater –**
- **2024 Road Project, Victoria Village budget adjustment and authorization to advertise-** John explained this project would consist of cold in place recycling with a 1 ½” overlay. A motion was made by David Moyer and seconded by Rommie Long authorizing the advertisement of the cold in place recycling and overlay bid for Victoria Village.

All ayes

- **2024 Road Project Assistance Contract, revision of scope and authorization to advertise –** This item was previously authorized to be bid however the scope of the project has changed. Chairman Powanda stated the township no longer wants to rent equipment therefore there is no need to proceed with this bid.

SOLICITOR’S REPORT

- **Consideration of draft solar energy system ordinance –** Joan stated the BCPC review letter for the draft Solar Ordinance was received by the township. They are asking for buffers from solar development along main corridors in Commercial District, safety measures for ground installed accessory systems and consideration of historic districts and properties. Joan stated she has made some revisions to the draft ordinance and added some safeguards for environmentally sensitive features.

Public Comment

Bill Piersol asked if someone has a multi-level property is this considered one system? Joan said it is not clear however she would assume it would be considered one system.

Ge questioned putting panels on his barn and said 2,000 sq. ft would not be enough for his farm and said he has a very large barn. Joan said typically 1,000 and 2,000 sq. ft systems are used for an accessory system however she will take a further look at this to see if there is an exception for agriculture.

- **Executed Contribution Agreement Route 100 stormwater project –** Rich explained PADOT has executed the previously approved agreement and are now asking for payment. A motion was made by David Moyer, seconded by Rommie Long authorizing payment to PADOT not to exceed \$24,000.

All ayes

- **Intergovernmental Sewage Agreement with Bally Borough – ongoing**
- **Township review of ordinance & codification project – ongoing**
- **Public Works garage project contract –** The Plans have been reviewed and steel delivery is scheduled for April.
- **Barto Mall 1606 Main Street water & sewer –** The sewer agreement has been sent to the applicant’s attorney and the water request is before the Bally Water Authority.

- **Amendment of Martin Stone Quarry Agreement** – A motion was made by Thomas Powanda and seconded by David Moyer authorizing the deferment of the required amount of extraction from Gabel Quarry for 2024.

All ayes

SUPERVISORS

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- **Naming of Township parks** – Motion made by David Moyer, seconded by Romnie Long naming the Parks at Gehringer Road and Hoffmansville Road over to Passmore, Naigle Nature Preserve and Woodlands.

All ayes

- **Township hiring, Administrative Assistant** – A part-time Admin Assistant has been hired and is working out well. We are still taking resumes for a full time Admin Assistant.
- **Pressure washing of Township building siding** – *spring project*
- **Township building slope stabilization-rock scaping** – *spring project*
- **Salt shed wall repair** – Motion made by Romnie Long, seconded by Thomas Powanda authorizing the purchase of materials, not to exceed \$500, for the repair of salt shed.

All ayes

- **2024-2025 Costars Road Salt contract** – Motion made by Romnie Long, seconded by Thomas Powanda authorizing to enter into the Costars contract for the purchase of 500 tons of road salt.

All ayes

- **2024-2025 BCCPC Road Salt contract** – Motion made by David Moyer, seconded by Romnie Long authorizing to enter into the BCCPC road salt contract for the purchase of 200 tons of road salt.

All ayes

- **Street light issues** – Rich explained he has been having a difficult time getting First Energy to respond to issues with disabled lights within the township. Supervisor Moyer asked Rich to inform First Energy that residents are paying for a light that is not working.

NEW BUSINESS

- **Perkiomen Stream clean-up** – Stream clean up is April 13th from 9 am to 12 pm.
- **DCNR Application, Resolution and letters** – Barto Park is the best option for funding of a master plan. Rich received a quote of \$57,000 and DCNR will fund 50% the township will need to match that and Trisha will apply for an additional grant to cover the match amount. Motion made by David Moyer, seconded by Romnie Long adopting Resolution No. 2024-19 authorizing DCNR Grant Application for Barto Community Park Master Plan.

All ayes

A motion was made by Thomas Powanda, seconded by Romnie Long authorizing the submission of the Grant Application and the commitment of funds in the amount of \$26,050 as a 1:1 match.

All ayes

Rich stated he will be writing a letter to the Berks County Planning Commission informing them the township is applying for a DCNR grant.

- **Disposal of records, resolution to authorize** – Motion made by David Moyer and seconded by Ronnie Long adopting Resolution No. 2024-20 authorizing the disposal of records for on-lot sewage system pumping and right to know requests.

All ayes

- **2023 Per Capita Tax exonerations** – Motion made by David Moyer, seconded by Ronnie Long approving the 2023 Tax Exoneration list as presented.

All ayes

- **John Deere Track Steer 30” mill head** – Motion made by Ronnie Long, seconded by Thomas Powanda authorizing the purchase of CP30G Cold Planer for John Deere Track Steer in the amount of \$32,496.42.

All ayes

SUBDIVISION/PLANNING

RGM Development Group-Stauffer Road Minor Subdivision – Richard Mingey was present this evening to discuss the Stauffer Road Minor Plan and to seek conditional final approval. Mr. Mingey has submitted five waiver requests for Board consideration. Mr. Mingey stated Stauffer Road currently does not have any curbs or sidewalks and said there is only 120 feet of frontage and by the time he does the driveway aprons for the four houses there would basically be no upright curb and feels it would be a safety issue. Ms. London stated Mr. Mingey is entitled to the four-lot subdivision per the settlement agreement and is being reviewed as a minor plan. The January 24, 2024 LTL Review letter had a significant number of comments and the revised plan was submitted six days prior to this meeting and LTL has not had sufficient time to review the revision. Supervisor Long asked about the significance of the recommendation for an easement for the existing stone driveway. Mr. Mingey said there is a small portion of a stone driveway that encroaches on his property and stated he is not going to agree to an easement and the property owner will need to remove the portion of driveway that encroaches onto his property. Mr. Mingey also stated there are no other sidewalks on Stauffer Road and feels installing sidewalks would be a safety hazard especially for kids on bicycles. Supervisor Moyer said Stauffer Road is on the townships list to be updated within the next few years and said maybe a fee-in-leu should be considered. In addition, Dave suggested a fence for a buffer along the side yard area. Mr. Mingey suggested working with the township engineer to establish the value of the curb and sidewalk and provide the funds to the township and move the plan forward to keep things moving. Dave wants this plan to go back to the Planning Commission for another look after LTL reviews the latest submission.

Waiver Requests:

A motion was made by Thomas Powanda, seconded by Ronnie Long granting the waiver request from SALDO section 107-32.E.(4) widening Stauffer Road to 28 feet wide.

Thomas Powanda – aye

Ronnie Long – aye

David Moyer - opposed

Motion made by Romnie Long and seconded by David Moyer granting a waiver from SALDO section 107-35.A installing curbing along Stauffer Road to match existing roadway conditions contingent upon an acceptable fee-in-leu of agreement.

All ayes

Motion made by Romnie Long and seconded by David Moyer granting a waiver from SALDO section 107-36.A installing sidewalks along Stauffer Road to match existing roadway conditions contingent upon an acceptable fee-in-leu of agreement.

All ayes

A motion was made by Romnie Long, seconded by Thomas Powanda granting a waiver from SWMO 99-51.C from using a minimum 15” pipe size as it is not warranted based on required flow capacity.

All ayes

Motion made by Romnie Long and seconded by David Moyer granting a waiver from SALDO section 107-75 landscape buffer screening along the perimeter of the property contingent upon buffer screening suitable to the township engineer.

All ayes

Supervisor Moyer made a motion that the Stauffer Road Plan will go back before the Planning Commission for another review, motion seconded by Thomas Powanda.

All ayes

Supervisor Moyer said if possible this will be placed on the agenda for the March 14th workshop and if not, it will be placed on the March 28th regular meeting agenda. Mr. Mingey asked if the Planning Commission is averse to the Plan what happens then. Ms. London stated the Plan will still go before the Board of Supervisors as stated as the Board has the ultimate decision.

Brian Mohr said the storm sewer system on Stauffer Road is not in the best shape and suggested taking a look at the basins and the water situation.

SUBDIVISION/LAND DEVELOPMENT EXTENSIONS

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

Kate’s Place 03/02/24 to 08/29/24

Thomas Powanda – aye

Romnie Long – aye

David Moyer - opposed

COMMUNICATIONS

- Copy of the ARB Delinquent Account Report is enclosed.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Board of Supervisors Workshop meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 14, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. *(if needed)*

John Weber stated if the Board is inclined to review the Stauffer Road Plan at the workshop meeting, he will not be in attendance due to a conflict.

The next regular Board of Supervisors meeting will be held on Thursday, March 28, 2024 at 7:00 pm.

Supervisor Moyer announced a meeting hosted by the Berks County Oath Keepers will be held at the Township Building on Saturday, April 20th , time to be announced.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

None needed

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Ronnie Long, seconded by David Moyer to adjourn the meeting at approximately 8:40 p.m.

All ayes

Respectfully submitted,

Susan J. Brown
Township Secretary