

**WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
MINUTES  
MARCH 28, 2024**

**CALL TO ORDER:** Chairman Powanda 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, David Moyer, Romnie Long, Solicitor, Joan London, Esquire; John Weber representing LTL Consultants, Tom Unger & Nick Volk, Systems Design Engineering, Township Manager, Rich Sichler, Township Secretary, Susan Brown, and twelve (12) members of the public were in attendance.

Absent: None

Chairman Powanda introduced Nick Volk from Systems Design Engineering, who will be filling in for Tom Unger at various times going forward.

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

**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**

**Pierce Keating, Camp Camino**, wants to discuss Camp Camino. Chairman Powanda stated the Camp Camino items will be addressed as part of the agenda this evening.

**APPROVAL OF REGULAR MEETING MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 22, 2024 & WORKSHOP MEETING MINUTES OF MARCH 14, 2024**

A motion was made by Romnie Long and seconded by Thomas Powanda approving the meeting minutes of February 22 and March 14, 2024 as prepared.

**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 March 28, 2024, and to file the treasurer's report for audit.

All ayes

**TAX COLLECTOR**

Tax Collectors Report for the month of February 2024 presented by Tax Collector, Brenda Breidigan:

Interim Tax	\$ 1,576.13
Per Capita Tax	\$ 33.00
Total	\$ 1,609.13

**FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT**

A copy of the Eastern Berks Fire Department and Bally Ambulance reports are enclosed. Chairman Powanda stated EBFD had settlement on their new building and the property they previously purchased across Route 100 is now up for sale. It was also announced there is a chicken bbq coming up on April 27<sup>th</sup>.

**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** – The engineer for Camp Camino, HRG, submitted their engineering report and Mr. Unger stated it is excellent and he has no comments on it. The system as designed will work and everything will be gravity flow to a centralized pump station which will pump to the Bally Waste Water Treatment Plant.

A motion was made by David Moyer, seconded by Ronnie Long authorizing the Chapter 94 consistency approval.

All ayes

Mr. Unger recommended the Applicant begin work on the agreement for the operation and maintenance of the pump station which should be part of the Planning Module.

- **Generator contract renewal** – Annual renewal contract for each of the three generators with the Generator Guy. The cost is the same for each generator of \$875 service rate, \$425 for operational check, load bank testing \$1,000 each, the hourly rate is \$110, regular rate \$165 time and \$220 holiday rates. A motion was made by David Moyer, seconded by Ronnie Long authorizing the renewal of the annual generator contract with the Generator Guy.

All ayes

- **NPDES discharge permit renewal** – The NPDES permit application was submitted and approved by PADEP for a five (5) year discharge permit for the WWTP discharge.
- **2023 Chapter 94 Report Authorization** – Report is complete and is required to be submitted to PADEP by the end of March. Mr. Unger reported currently there are 162 edu’s available at the Treatment Plant with 151 that are allocated at this time. A motion was made by Romnie Long, seconded by Thomas Powanda authorizing the execution and submittal of the Chapter 94 report to PADEP.

**All ayes**

### **TOWNSHIP ENGINEER**

A copy of the Township Engineer’s Report dated 3/21/24 is enclosed.

Mr. Weber reported the Beverly A. Melcher subdivision revised plan was submitted and reviewed and will be on the Planning Commission agenda at the April 4<sup>th</sup> meeting. At the last Planning Commission meeting, the members recommended preliminary/final plan approval of the Eddinger Propane Land Development revised plan of record which is on this evening’s agenda for action. Mr. Weber also reported he has worked with the Solicitor throughout the month on the proposed Solar Energy System Ordinance.

- **Edison View update on progress with municipal improvements including pavement, curbs and stormwater** – Mr. D’Angelo has the paving of Sugar Maple and Bishop Pine Roads tentatively scheduled for the middle of May.
- **2024 Road Project, Victoria Village budget adjustment and authorization to advertise-** Mr. Weber stated the bids for the project were opened on Monday, March 25<sup>th</sup>; two bids were received. The first bid was from H & K Group in the amount of \$622,615 and the second bid was from Recon Construction Services in the amount of \$569,395 for the cold-in-place recycling process with 1.5” overlay for all road in Victoria Village. A motion was made by David Moyer, seconded by Romnie Long awarding the contract 2024 road project to Recon Construction Services in the amount of \$569,395 subject to the submission of the required contract documents.

**All ayes**

### **SOLICITOR’S REPORT**

- **Consideration of draft solar energy system ordinance** – Ms. London explained the Board has been given the draft ordinance to review. The draft ordinance has been reviewed by the BCPC as well as the Township Planning Commission. The recommended changes have been incorporated into the draft ordinance. Chairman Powanda stated he is okay with the Agricultural Zoning District being added to the ordinance as a permitted use for PSES however does not feel the Watershed Conservation District should not be included for PSES as a use permitted by Special Exception. Motion made by Thomas Powanda, seconded by David Moyer to forward to BCPC for a second review with the removal of PSES from the Watershed Conservation District as a use permitted by Special Exception.

### Public Comment

**Dan Stauffer** asked for clarification on the Chairman's comment regarding the PSES in Agriculture. Mr. Powanda stated he is okay with Agriculture District being included as a permitted use because it is protected and prime soils are not usable. Mr. Stauffer asked why Mr. Powanda is against allowing WSC? Mr. Powanda stated the ordinance has nothing to do with the substation or three phase electric and comes down to not wanting the PSES in the Watershed Conservation District. Mr. Moyer said he does not believe the solar panels are good for the environment. Ms. London explained the ordinance deals with what is an appropriate land use in the district and what meets the objectives of the district and the Board has taken the position that it does not meet the objectives of a Watershed Conservation District to have a PSES taking up a great deal of land. Mr. Stauffer asked Supervisor Long what her view is to which she stated she lives in the WSC and does not feel turning the WSC into a commercial business venture is what the WSC land was designed for. Mr. Stauffer stated the Board has no problem with developing with houses and if that's what the Board wants, that's what you're going to get.

**All ayes**

- **Intergovernmental Sewage Agreement with Bally Borough** – The agreement has been provided to the Board. A motion was made by Ronnie Long, seconded by Thomas Powanda authorizing the execution of the Sewage Agreement with Bally Borough.

**All ayes**

- **Township review of ordinance & codification project** – *ongoing*

### SUPERVISORS

#### UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- **Township hiring, Administrative Assistant** – Sue will schedule interviews
- **Pressure washing of Township building siding** – Brian will get quotes
- **Township building slope stabilization-rock scaping** – Sue provided pricing from Rolling Rock Building Stone Inc. The total area is 480 sq. ft which will require about 15.5 tons for a cost of approximately \$550. A motion was made by David Moyer, seconded by Ronnie Long authorizing the purchase of stone not to exceed \$700.

**All ayes**

It was discussed pouring a concrete pad outside the exit door on the south end of the building at the same time as the pads are poured for the park benches to make them ADA compatible and make the work payment-in-kind as part of the grant process with time and materials as part of the township contribution.

- **Perkiomen Stream clean-up** – Stream clean-up is April 13<sup>th</sup> from 9 am to 12 pm. Volunteers can go to the Perkiomen Watershed Conservancy website and sign up.
- **Public Works garage project** – The contracts are in place and they will be coming out to stake grade on Monday.

- **Barto Road straightening project** – A meeting was held on Tuesday, March 12<sup>th</sup> to discuss the scope of the project. It was recommended getting budgetary estimates now to include in next years budget.
- **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

- **Public Works Equipment Purchases:**
  - **Tractor PTO mount 3-point hitch blower**-motion made by Thomas Powanda, seconded by Romnie Long authorizing the purchase of the 3-point hitch blower for a cost of \$8,049.41. **All ayes**
  - **Zero turn mower**-John Deere Z970R Ztrak mower from Little's. A motion was made by David Moyer, seconded by Romnie Long authorizing the purchase of the John Deere zero turn mower for a cost of \$17,021.03. **All ayes**
  - **Vibratory plate compactor**-This is to replace the current piece of equipment which is about 15 years old. A motion was made by David Moyer, seconded by Romnie Long authorizing the purchase from Stoney Creek for a Weber CF2A Compactor for a purchase price of \$2,195. **All ayes**
- **Authorize sale/auction of surplus equipment** – Motion made by David Moyer and seconded by Romnie Long authorizing the sale of the following equipment:
  1. Scag 60" zero turn mower
  2. Wacker vibratory plate compactor
  3. 2008 Ford F550 dump truck
  4. 2009 IH heavy duty dump truck**All ayes**
- **2024 Freightliner upfitting change orders** – There are three (3) additional items for consideration:
  1. Prewet system for salt spreader \$6,489
  2. Automatic tire chain system \$3,496
  3. LED lights for front grill \$485
 Motion made by David Moyer, seconded by Romnie Long authorizing the purchase of the three items for the 2024 Freightliner as outline above for a total cost of \$10,419  
**All ayes**
- **Tree removal-Weisstown Road** – Two (2) quotes were received, Merkel for a price of \$4,500 and Dallas Tree Service \$2,500. A motion was made by David Moyer, seconded by Thomas Powanda awarding the job to Dallas Tree Service for a cost of \$2,500.  
**All ayes**
- **Traffic light maintenance** – The glare shields at Niantic Road are broken and need to be replaced for a cost of \$1,605 and the pedestrian signs have faded at Barto Road traffic light and need to be replaced however this will be done in-

house. A motion was made by Romnie Long, seconded by David Moyer authorizing the replacement of the glare shields at Niantic Road traffic light for a cost of \$1,605.

**All ayes**

- **Confined Space Training** – The Township is looking to host a confined space training session with lunch here at the township building. This would be for a maximum of 20 participants. The cost for eight (8) participants is \$1,200 or \$150 per person. The participating municipalities would be billed for their portion of the training. For a portion of the training Brian would like to use the inlet box in the cul-de-sac at Hoffman Estates. A motion was made by David Moyer, seconded by Thomas Powanda authorizing to host the confined space training with the cost of lunch not to exceed \$250.

**All ayes**

- **Center for Excellence 2024 sponsorship** – A motion was made by David Moyer, seconded by Romnie Long authorizing the 2024 budgeted contribution to the Center for Excellence in Local Government.

**All ayes**

- **Replacement of damaged guiderail, County Line Road** – Motion made by David Moyer, seconded by Romnie Long authorizing the replacement of the guiderail on County Line Road as proposed for a cost of \$4,900

**All ayes**

- **PADOT Mowing contract renewal** – A motion was made by David Moyer, seconded by Romnie Long authorizing the mowing contract renewal with PADOT in the amount of \$4,051 per year for the three years.

**All ayes**

- **Heydt's Schoolhouse Road bridge inspection results** – Brian and Sue met with the PADOT representative to hear the bridge inspection results. There is moderate scour with undermining as well as sediment deposits blocking flow. Brian stated the scouring can be addressed by Public Works however getting the sediment out from in under the bridge is a task because of the height and will most likely need specialty equipment to address the matter.
- **Proposals for contracted IT services** – Three (3) professional services proposals were received for IT services from Aperion (Moyer-Drabick), Solve IT Solutions and Ridge Support Technologies. After some discussion it was decided to contract with Ridge Support Technologies. The more urgent items will be addressed as soon as possible and the optional/budgetary items will be budgeted for the 2025 budget. It was also decided to have 60% of payment from the general fund and 40% from the sewer budget. A motion was made by David Moyer, seconded by Thomas Powanda to contract with Ridge Support Technologies with upgrades not to exceed \$17,000.

**All ayes**

- **Recreation Committee recommendations for:**
  - Grants-Mark Bedle said the grant for the sidewalk crossing, barrier and signage at Washington Park was denied, we were however awarded \$22,000 from Pottstown Area Health and Wellness for the guiderail, crosswalk design and installation and \$10,000 to also help with that

project and we also budgeted \$22,000. Mark said they will be submitting another grant application to DCED for a multimodal transportation grant which is due at the end of May for the sidewalk crossing.

A motion was made by Thomas Powanda, seconded by David Moyer authorizing LTL Consultants to proceed with the design and permitting process.

**All ayes**

- Parks Comprehensive Plan-the final copy was received and Mark will post a copy on the township website.
- Barto Park Community Master Plan grant was submitted today to DCNR grant for \$26,050 and on 3/7/24 a grant was submitted to Pottstown Area Health and Wellness for \$26,000 to cover the cost of the Barto Community Park Master Plan.
- Trail Easements-The number one recreational items residents are looking for are trails. Mark suggested developing private/public partnerships which is working with adjacent land owners and see if they would be willing to allow trails to be expanded onto their property. A motion was made by David Moyer, seconded by Rommie Long authorizing the Solicitor to review the template trail easements.

**All ayes**

- Official Map-A map of the township which identifies lands that, in the future, the township would like to obtain for recreational purposes, transportation improvements, etc. It involves the homeowners and is a long process and this has an ordinance that backs the official map and if a landowner decides to develop the land that contains the portion that the township would like to purchase, the township is afforded the right to purchase that land for up to one year before the development can go forward. At this point this is just for discussion purposes and Joan will look into this further.

**SUBDIVISION/PLANNING**

**Eddinger Propane Land Development Plan, Preliminary/Final approval** – This is a revision to a plan of record approved in August 2023 which is changing the size of the building.

**Waiver requests:**

A motion was made by Thomas Powanda, seconded by Rommie Long granting a waiver from Section 107-75.C(1)(a) of the subdivision and Land Development ordinance as it relates to providing a property line buffer along the northeast property line (adjacent to the Lee property).

**All ayes**

A motion was made by David Moyer, seconded by Rommie Long to recommend the granting of the waiver from Section 99.50.B.12 requiring 1 foot of freeboard between the 100-year routed water surface elevation and 1 foot of freeboard over the 100 year “un-

routed” flow through the emergency spillway. As designed 0.63 feet and .075 are provided respectively.

**All ayes**

Motion made by David Moyer, seconded by Romnie Long granting Preliminary/Final Plan approval of the Eddinger Propane revised plan of record.

**All ayes**

**SUBDIVISION/LAND DEVELOPMENT EXTENSIONS**

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

<b>J.D. McGovern</b>	<b>04/04/24 to 07/03/24</b>
<b>D’Angelo Minor Plan</b>	<b>04/03/24 to 07/02/24</b>
<b>Reserve at Barto</b>	<b>04/03/24 to 07/02/24</b>
<b>1606 Main Street</b>	<b>04/03/24 to 07/02/24</b>

**COMMUNICATIONS**

- Copy of the ARB Delinquent Account Report is enclosed.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Board of Supervisors Workshop meeting scheduled for Thursday, April 11, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. is cancelled.

The next regular Board of Supervisors meeting will be held on Thursday, April 25, 2024 at 7:00 pm.

The Board of Supervisor’s thanked Rich for his years of service to the township.

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

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

None needed

**ADJOURNMENT**

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

**All ayes**

Respectfully submitted,

Susan J. Brown  
Township Secretary