

**WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
MINUTES
APRIL 25, 2024**

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 Thomas Powanda, David Moyer, Romnie Long, Solicitor, Joan London, Esquire; John Weber representing LTL Consultants, Nick Volk, Systems Design Engineering, Nick Bieber representing Herbein & Company Inc., Township Manager, Susan Brown, and sixteen (16) members of the public were in attendance.

Absent: None

Chairman Powanda announced Executive Sessions were held on 4/4, 4/5, and tonight 4/25 on personal matters. An amendment to the agenda was also announced.

TAPING OF MEETING

The meeting was recorded as an aid in the preparation of the minutes. It was noted Melissa Swanson; Township Treasurer was taping the meeting this evening.

SPECIAL REQUEST

2023 Audit presentation- Nick Bieber, Herbein & Company Inc. reviewed the December 31, 2023 audit results and noted the township had a clean audit report.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Dan Stauffer – Inquired as to why the BOS agenda has not been posted on the website since January 2024. It was explained that this was an oversight and going forward the agenda and minutes will be posted however it was noted the agenda was posted for public viewing monthly in the vestibule of the township building.

APPROVAL OF REGULAR MEETING MINUTES OF MARCH 28, 2024

A motion was made by Thomas Powanda, and seconded by Romnie Long approving the meeting minutes of March 28, 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 April 25, 2024, and to file the treasurer's report for audit.

All ayes

TAX COLLECTOR

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

Real Estate Tax	\$139,450.61
Interim Tax	\$ 3.38
Light Tax	\$ 1338.68
Hydrant tax	\$ 339.06
Per Capita Tax	\$ 33.00
Amusement Tax	<u>\$ 1254.40</u>
 Total	 \$142,479.13

FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT

The EBFD and Bally EMS Reports were included in the binders. It was announced a Chicken BBQ will be held on Saturday April 27th.

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-** Board previously approved the signing of the planning module consistency report submitted by HRG. Now waiting for Bally Borough to sign the report to accept flows from Washington Township to Bally Borough.
- **SBR tank Cleaning and rail system update-** Sent COSTAR request for proposals of the installation of the guide rails for the sludge waste pumps at the WWTP Plant, SBR Tanks, and new sludge waste pump. - *Will review at the next meeting 6/6/2024.*
- **Weinsteiger Pump Station televising inspection project-** A motion was made by David Moyer, and seconded by Ronnie Long to authorize solicitor to draft an agreement with the property owner of 52 Passmore Rd to gain temporary access to the sewer facilities to televise the lines and make necessary repairs if required.

All ayes

TOWNSHIP ENGINEER

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

- **Planning Commission** - Regarding Planning Commission matters, the Planning Commission recommended additional preliminary final plan approval for the Beverly Melcher subdivision plan at their meeting in April and currently the

applicants and their attorneys are working on an operation and maintenance agreement for the private street for Bella Vista Lane and anticipate that the plan and that agreement will be back before the board at the May meeting for consideration.

- **Edison View update on progress with municipal improvements including pavement, curbs and stormwater – Edison Walk-** Mr. D’Angelo tentatively scheduled to repave Sugar Maple Road and base repair and overlay on Bishop Pine for early June.
- **2024 Road Project, Victoria Village** - Mr. Weber stated he has received all the contract documents and the notice to proceed was issued today. The contractor is currently working on the mix design for that project and the work is tentatively scheduled for early June.

SOLICITOR’S REPORT

- **Consideration of draft solar energy system ordinance** – The draft solar energy system ordinance was forwarded to Berks County after last meeting and should be on the May agenda.
- **Light tax exemption 96 Victoria Drive**-The county requires a resolution of the township to forgive the light tax and exempt the property from the tax in the future. A motion was made by David Moyer, seconded by Romnie Long to adopt Resolution No. 2024-21 Light Tax Exemption.
All ayes
- **Township ordinance and codification project-ongoing**
- **Correspondence with Mr. Mingey-** and his attorney regarding some past due fees going to be addressed this week and early next week

SUPERVISORS

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- **Township Hiring**-Interviews were conducted and an offer of employment was made for a full-time administrative assistant. She's scheduled to start on Monday 4/29 at a starting salary of \$23 per hour with no health care benefits. A motion was made by Romnie Long, seconded by David Moyer to hire Full time administrative assistant at \$23/hr. and no health benefits.
All ayes
- **Pressure washing of Township building siding** – Brian received four quotes for pressure washing of the administration building and sidewalks. Revive Power Wash quoted an extra item for gutter restoration in the amount of \$516.60, which if removed from the quote, the total quote price is \$836.88. Motion made by Romnie Long, seconded by David Moyer to contract with Revive Power Washing for a quoted price of \$836.88.
All ayes
- **Public Works Garage Project-** A quote was received from Gorski Engineering for site work which for the new Public Works building which Joan is checking out.

Supervisor Moyer said the building needs to be set back 10 to 12 feet from the original staked location. At this point the building will temporarily be placed on hold until all issues are addressed and the cost estimate is agreed upon.

- **Replacement of the damaged guide rail on County Line Road-** Last month the Board approved the Collinson quote of \$4,900 for guiderail replacement however the price quote expired. Brian received a new quote from Collinson in the amount of \$5,200. A motion was made by Romnie Long, and seconded by David Moyer for the replacement of the damaged guiderail of County Line Road, in the amount of \$5,200.

All ayes

- **Barto Road straightening project-**The straightening of Barto Road is on hold for another year.
- **Authorization to accept high bid and selling of equipment:**

A motion was made by David Moyer, and seconded by Romnie Long to accept the high bid on the vibratory Wacker plate for a bid price of \$650.

All ayes

A motion was made by David Moyer, and seconded by Romnie Long to accept the high bid on the 2017 Scag 72” zero turn mower for a bid price of \$4,656.00

All ayes

A motion was made by David Moyer, seconded by Romnie Long to accept the high bid on the 2008 Ford F-550 dump truck for a bid price of \$19,300.00

All ayes

A motion was made by David Moyer, seconded by Romnie Long to accept the high bid on the 2009 International Dump Truck in the amount of \$23,700

All ayes

NEW BUSINESS

- **Adoption of Berks County Hazard Mitigation Plan, Resolution No. 2024-22-** The manager was contacted by Phillip Spence from Berks County requesting that Washington Township adopt a hazard mitigation plan update by resolution. The county is looking for 100% municipality participation. A motion was made by David Moyer, seconded by Romnie Long authorizing the adoption of Resolution No. 2024-22 for the Berks County Hazard Mitigation Plan.

All ayes

- **WWTP Operator resignation-** Gary Kellon submitted his resignation; his last day will be Sunday, May 5th. The position has been listed on Indeed and will run for 14 days. As of today, there have been five resumes received. A motion was made by Romnie Long, seconded by David Moyer accepting the resignation of Gary Kellon effective May 5, 2024.

All ayes

The Board thanked Gary for his years of service and noted that Gary made every effort to save the township money when possible.

- **262 Kulps Road well isolation waiver request** -Joan prepared agreement with the owner of 262 Kulp's Road whose septic system is malfunctioning. The septic system is within the 100-ft isolation distance from the well and a replacement system will also have to be within that isolation distance. An Indemnification and Hold Harmless Agreement was forwarded to property owner for execution. A motion was made by David Moyer, and seconded by Rommie Long granting the isolation distance exemption.

All ayes

- **Weisstown Road weight restriction**-The Board has been made aware of increased truck traffic on Weisstown Road and it is believed it is a result of trucks taking a shortcut to Martin Stone Quarries. Mr. Weber noted a weight restriction would involve an extensive traffic study which would include the composition of the road, the history of the damage to the road and core samples to determine the construction of the road. Supervisor Moyer suggested sending a letter to Martin Stone Quarry to clarify the existing restrictions. Sue will draft a letter to the quarry.
- **WW2 Memorial Repairs**- Pictures in your agenda package of the war Memorial. It is starting to crack. At this point we have a little over \$6,000 in the budget that could be used for repairs and possible relocation. This will be kept on the agenda for future discussion.
- **Hoffmansville Road open space planting**- The Supervisors requested Mr. Chris Yerger be contacted to see if he is interested in continuing to farm the open space on Hoffmansville Road. Joan has a simple agreement which she will get to Sue for Mr. Yerger to sign.
- **OLD 100 Bridge**- Dave suggested sending PennDOT a letter and ask them to restrict the length of trucks that come in from South New RT 100 to South Old 100. Brian will contact PennDOT.

RECREATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE:

Mark, Sue and Brian will meet with the Boyertown Soccer Club, Optimist Club and Pine Forge to review their rental agreements. The township is looking to increase the current field use rate which is \$900 per year.

Mark will approach Washington Elementary requesting to enter into a joint access agreement which adds parking & access to recreation activities. The joint access will also allow the school to apply for grants. Mark will supply a draft of the agreement to Joan.

Following are some Planned events and items being addressed:

- Veggie Swap/mini farmer's market: July august September
- Trunk or Treat – October
- Bon Fire- November- need Chief Mutter and Bally EMS in attendance

- Summer Newsletter to be going out late May early June
- Hollenbach LED sign-considering purchase of sign

SUBDIVISION/PLANNING

None

SUBDIVISION/LAND DEVELOPMENT EXTENSIONS

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

Edison View	04/26/24 to 08/24/24
Beverley A. Melchoir	04/30/24 to 07/28/24
Camp Camino	05/01/24 to 07/29/24

All ayes

COMMUNICATIONS

- Copy of the ARB Delinquent Account Report is enclosed.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Board of Supervisors Workshop meeting scheduled for Thursday, May 9, 2024 at 7:00 p.m.

The next regular Board of Supervisors meeting will be held on May 23, 2024 at 7:00 pm.

Supervisor Moyer reported the following:

Light out on Cubbler Court; approx. 2 years -Sue will look into this.

Disappointed with voter turnout which was very low.

Bill Pearsol asked what the rules are for signs along roads- new billboards on RT 100 Burt's Butcher and Wendy's Flowers Per John Weber Zoning allows for Billboards on Rt 100 off premise advertising 200 SQ FT 10 x 20- John Weber will continue to look into this.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

None needed

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Romnie Long, seconded by Thomas Powanda, to adjourn the meeting at approximately 8:48 p.m.

All ayes

Respectfully submitted,

Maria D. Eddinger
Township Administrative Assistant