

**WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
MINUTES  
June 27, 2024**

**PUBLIC HEARING-SOLAR SYSTEM ORDINANCE:** *Hearing commenced at 7:11 pm and concluded at approximately 7:30 pm.*

**CALL TO ORDER:** 1<sup>st</sup> Chairman Thomas Powanda called the regularly scheduled meeting of the Washington Township Board of Supervisors to order at 7:32 p.m., following the scheduled Public Hearing-Solar System Ordinance, that started at 7:11 pm, at the Washington Township Municipal Building. The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

**ROLL CALL**

The following members were present: Supervisors, 1<sup>st</sup> Chairman Thomas Powanda, Vice Chairman David Moyer, Supervisor Romnie Long, Solicitor, Joan London, Esquire; John Weber of LTL Consultants, Tom Unger of Systems Design Engineering, Township Manager, Susan Brown, Tax Collector, Brenda Breidigan, Township administrative assistant Maria Eddinger, and (29) 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 stated that Maria Eddinger; Township administrative assistant was taping the meeting this evening.

**CODE OF CONDUCT**

1<sup>st</sup> Chairman Thomas Powanda addressed the Code of Conduct to the public in attendance. Commented that the conduct at the previous month's meeting was not in accordance with the Township's Code of Conduct. Printed copies of the Washington Township Berks County Resolution NO. 2024-13 Code of Conduct were made available to the public for taking, if desired.

**SPECIAL REQUEST**

Camp Camino-Request for Preliminary Plan Approval

- ***Bernadette Kearney, of Hamburg & Rubin, Representing Camp Camino, asked that the request for Preliminary Plan Approval be moved to next meeting in July, stating sewer and stormwater plans are ongoing, based on LTL recommendations.***
  - ***Tom Unger requested that the preliminary sewer plans be as complete as possible for the next meeting presentation.***

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

**Bill Piersol-** Mr. Piersol asked that his previous inquiry, made at the May 23<sup>rd</sup>, BOS meeting, asking the Supervisors if they are being paid additional/extra money for BOS Workshop meetings, be added to the minutes. 1<sup>st</sup> Chairman Thomas Powanda reiterated

Vice Chairman David Moyer’s response from last month, that Supervisors do not get paid for BOS Workshop Meetings.

**Robin Gardner**- Mr. Gardner inquired about the street speed limit signs being posted along Audrey & Jenna Drive.

- *Roadmaster, Brian Mohr stated these signs have been ordered and will be scheduled for installation once delivered. All developments and adjacent side roads will be posted at 25 MPH.*

**APPROVAL OF REGULAR MEETING MINUTES OF MAY 23, 2024**

A motion was made by 1<sup>st</sup> Chairman Thomas Powanda, and seconded by Vice Chairman David Moyer approving the BOS regular meeting minutes of May 23, 2024.

**All ayes**

**TOWNSHIP REPORTS**

A motion was made by Vice Chairman David Moyer, and seconded by Supervisor Rommie 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 June 27<sup>th</sup> 2024, and to file the treasurer’s report for audit.

**All ayes**

**TAX COLLECTOR**

Tax Collectors Report for the month of May, 2024, presented by Tax Collector, Brenda Bredigan:

Real Estate Tax	\$ 10,475.69
Light Tax	\$ 128.18
Per Capita Tax	\$ 352.00
Amusement Tax	<u>\$ 10,601.64</u>
 Total	 \$ 21,557.51

**FIRE CHIEF’S REPORT**

The EBFD and Bally EMS Reports were included in the binders.

- *1<sup>st</sup> Chairman Thomas Powanda pointed out the data reporting Washington Township totaling the highest number Y-T-D of EMS calls of all 10 Municipalities Bally Community Ambulance Association responds to.*
- *Vice Chairman David Moyer requested a report from Mike Groff to consist of all 10 municipalities annual donations to the EMS.*

**ZONING/SEO REPORT**

Reports are in the binders.

## **SEWER ENGINEER'S REPORT**

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

- ***Tom Unger introduced Nick Volk, stating that he will remain the interim WWTP Superintendent while our newly hired WWTP Sewer Operator receives his reissued DEP license.***
- ***Butterfly Valve and actuator replacement- Emergency purchase of Butterfly Valve and actuator for the WWTP due to failure, causing the plant to currently run only one of the two tanks, half the plant is operational at this time.***

A motion was made by Supervisor Ronnie Long, and seconded by Vice Chairman David Moyer to ratify the emergency purchase order of the actuator replacement and butterfly valve from Alltek Industrial Services in the amount of \$3,178.00.

**All ayes**

- ***SBR tank cleaning and rail system update- Cleaning is to take place July 8<sup>th</sup>, 2024, replacement of transfer pump and rail system July 10<sup>th</sup>, 2024.***
- ***Authorization to prepare and advertise bid specs for Sludge Hauling Contract- New contract is needed***

A motion was made by Vice Chairman David Moyer, and seconded by Supervisor Ronnie Long authorizing the engineer to prepare and advertise bid specs for Sludge Hauling Contract.

**All ayes**

- ***Marlowe Sewage Facility Planning Module Exemption Mailer discussion. - No Action.***
- ***BlueScope Construction Inc. payment request #1 in the amount of \$145,877.51. - Tom Unger asked that the Board approve this payment.***

A motion was made by 1<sup>st</sup> Chairman Thomas Powanda, and seconded by Supervisor Ronnie Long to approve the first payment to BlueScope Construction in the amount of \$145,877.51.

**All ayes**

- ***CCTV Weinsteiger Pump Station trunk line Co-Star bid not-to-exceed \$22,159.50 - Co-Star bid received for \$22,159.50. Addition quotes expected.***

A motion was made by Vice Chairman David Moyer, and seconded by Supervisor Ronnie Long for the CCTV Weinsteiger Pump Station trunk line bid cost approval not-to-exceed \$22,159.50.

**All ayes**

- **Discussion and action on existing garage building water system. - Well failed, testing found coliform bacteria. Tom Unger recommended the casing be extended above grade and sealed, along with replacing the deteriorating internal and external galvanized pipe lines from inside existing building to new the building. Tom Unger is working on getting quotes for this job. This is also referenced under the Unfinished Business Section of the agenda.**
- **Discussion and action on UGI gas for existing buildings and new garage. - Tom Unger discussed the heating system will initially be a propane system that should be easily converted once natural gas becomes available along Barto Road.**

### **TOWNSHIP ENGINEER**

A copy of the Township Engineer's report is enclosed

- **1606 Main Street review letter- John Weber stated this was addressed with at the June PC meeting; new plans need to be submitted. - No further action until the plans are revised and resubmitted.**
- **Washington CSG 1, LLC- John Weber stated a review letter was also supplied at the June PC meeting, applicant asked that review be tabled until July PC meeting.**
- **Edison Walk, update on progress with municipal improvements including pavement, curbs and stormwater-**
  - **John Weber met with Mr. D'Angelo and his paving contractor, June 26<sup>th</sup> 2024, whom stated these repairs and paving work inclusive of Sugar Maple Rd & Bishop Pine up to Old Rt 100, and sewer repair work are to start the end of July/beginning of August 2024.**
    - **Tentative notice to residents is being worked on due to logistical issues that will occur during this project.**
- **2024 Road project update-**
  - **Roadmaster, Brian Mohr stated concern that some areas of the Victoria Village recycled road were not acceptable and would be addressed at a to-be requested meeting with the contracted paving company, Recon Construction Services, Inc. He also noted this is the first recycled road Washington Township has ever done. Noted road should be swept prior to the final overlay which is scheduled for mid to end of August, prior to the start of the school year. Recon started this project on May 20th, 2024.**
  - **John Weber along with Roadmaster, Brian Mohr addressed the Board in regard to payment to Recon Construction Services, Inc, asking the Board approve 50% of the total invoice dated May 31<sup>st</sup>, 2024, be paid and the remaining balance paid once the job is completed and satisfactory.**

A motion was made by Supervisor Ronnie Long, and seconded by 1<sup>st</sup> Chairman Thomas Powanda to approve paying 50% of the \$432,864.65 invoice dated May 31<sup>st</sup>.2024 and the remaining 50% balance upon completion of the job.

**1<sup>st</sup> Chairman Thomas Powanda- Aye**  
**Supervisor Ronnie Long- Aye**  
**Vice Chairman, David Moyer- Opposed**

**SOLICITOR’S REPORT**

- ***Stauffer Road Subdivision Improvements Agreement- Subdivision & Land Development improvements & Financial Security. Parties reached an agreement for 4 lot minor subdivision in the amount of \$196,924.05. Joan London recommended a motion be made to sign the agreement.***

A motion was made by Vice Chairman David Moyer, and seconded by Supervisor Ronnie Long to approve the signing of the Stauffer Road Minor Subdivision Agreements pending financial securities in the amount of \$196,924.05.

**All ayes**

- ***Stauffer Road Deed of Dedication Agreement- Joan London recommended a motion be made to sign this agreement.***

A motion was made by 1<sup>st</sup> Chairman Thomas Powanda, seconded by Supervisor Ronnie Long to adopt the Stauffer Road Deed of Dedication agreement.

**All ayes**

- ***Stauffer Road Stormwater O & M Agreement- Joan London recommended a motion be made to sign/adopt this agreement.***

A motion was made by Supervisor Ronnie Long, seconded by Vice Chairman David Moyer to adopt and approve the signing of the Operation & Maintenance Agreement Stormwater Facilities.

**All ayes**

- ***Consideration of Solar Energy System Ordinance Adoption- This was the subject of this evenings’ public hearing.***

A motion was made by Vice Chairman David Moyer, seconded by Supervisor Ronnie Long to approve the approval and adoption of the Solar Energy System Ordinance as written.

**All ayes**

- ***Township review of ordinances and codification project- Ongoing***

## **RECREATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Report enclosed

- **Grants-**
  - *Washington Park Pedestrian Safety Improvement & ADA Access Project is looking to apply for the DCED Multimodal Grant. The application requires preliminary plans be submitted to qualify. Mark Bedle requested that the board approve a request for John Weber/LTL Consultants to produce the preliminary plans required and that his services be paid for out of the existing Yeck Foundation Grant Funds.*

A motion was made by 1<sup>st</sup> Chairman Thomas Powanda, and seconded by Supervisor Romnie Long to grant this request to have John Weber/LTL Consultants draw up preliminary plans for the DCED Grant Application, paid for with existing \$10,000 Yeck Foundation grant money funds.

**All ayes**

- *Barto Community Park Master Plan received notice of being awarded a \$20,000 grant from the Pottstown Health & Wellness Foundation. Mark Bedle stated that the Township manager needs to sign to accept the funds and conditions of the Grant documentation. A thank you letter was mailed to the foundation dated June 17<sup>th</sup>, 2024.*

A motion was made by 1<sup>st</sup> Chairman Thomas Powanda, and seconded by Supervisor Romnie Long to authorize the Township Manager, Susan Brown to sign to accept the funds and conditions of the Grant documentation.

**All ayes**

- **Park Field Rental Agreements** –*Continuing to work on revising the Park Field Rental Agreements to be more standardized, up to date and inclusive of updated fees. The Township is looking to increase the current field use rate of \$900 per year, which does not cover all maintenance fees the Township incurs. Discussions and negotiations to continue as the pricing increases must be applied per club accordingly, and entered into the revised rental agreements.*
- **Events-**
  - *1<sup>st</sup> Plant, Veggie Swap & Farmers Market is advertised to be held August 3, 2024 at the Barto Community Park.*
  - **Berks Nature Meeting/Seminar** –*This Seminar was cancelled.*
- **Previous Recommendations Updates-**
  - **Draft Rules and Regulations & Draft Trail Easement-** *With Solicitor, Joan London for review of Mark Bedle’s comments and also as part of the Codification update and draft ordinance, including park rules and regulations revisions that are still ongoing, should be available for review next month.*

- *Sampling of the 2 supply wells on properties was conducted by Suburban Water Testing Labs. Township office well passed and that well supplies the water for the Township Building & Barto Park Pavilion. The access to water will be turned on for future use at the Barto Park Pavilion spigot. The garage building well failed as previously mentioned under the Township Sewer Engineer report/ recommendations.*
- *New Recommendations- The Comprehensive plan recommended the Park and Recreation Board design an official logo. Logos were presented to the Board of Supervisors for opinions and a decision was agreed upon.*
  - ✓ *The agreed upon official Park & Recreation Board logo design is displayed below:*



### **SUPERVISORS UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

- *Pressure washing of siding on Township building- Pressure washing was completed May 29, 2024.*
- *Township Building, slope stabilization, rock scaping – This project has started and is being conducted by our WT Public Works Crew and will be completed once the pouring of the concrete slab at the Township building’s side exit door atop the rock scaping is done.*
- **Public works garage project update**
  - *Plumbing quotes- Public Works Garage existing water line upgrades, additional quote received as per the request of Vice Chairman David Moyer at the May 23, 2024 BOS meeting. This topic was also address by the Township Sewer Engineer this evening.*
    - *Bisbort quote estimate- \$4455.00.*
    - *DeFrain’s Pump Sales & Service quote estimate- \$3986.00 + additional \$1000.00 if digging is requested from building to the new hydrant.*
  - **Gate quote-**
    - *Received one quote from Pro Max Fence Systems, in the amount of \$21,935.00 for gate operators and gate relocation.*

- *1<sup>st</sup> Chairman Thomas Powanda requested we obtain at least one additional quote.*
- **War Memorial needed repairs- *ongoing, possible grant money may be available to assist in these repairs.***
- **Automated External Defibrillator (AED) unit(s)-**
  - *Received quote from Bally Ambulance as offered and requested from the May 23, 2024 BOS meeting. Mike Groff presented quote to purchase 2 AED units, not rent, at significant savings compared to the Cintas quote previously received and presented to the Board last month.*

A motion was made by Supervisor Rommie Long, and seconded by Vice Chairman David Moyer to approve the purchase of 2 new AED units and accessories not to exceed the amount of \$3236.70.

**All ayes**

- **Stormwater basin maintenance issues- *Will revisit, ongoing***
- **Cubbler Court open space-**
  - **Public Comments:**
    - **Aaron Weinstein**- Mr. Weinstein asked the Board of Supervisors what is considered a “motor vehicle”, in regard to the new “No Motor Vehicles” signs posted around the perimeter of the Cubbler Court open space, specifically if an E-Bike would be considered a motor vehicle.
    - ***The Board responded that an E-Bike is not considered a “motor vehicle” and is permitted for use in the open space when conducted in a respective manner.***
      - **Kathy McCluskey**- Mrs. McCluskey read aloud a letter addressed to the Board of Supervisors, also in regard to the new “No Motor Vehicles” signs posted around the perimeter of the Cubbler Court open space. She objected to the placement and displeasure of these signs, stated they are discriminatory. She asked that they be more detailed, including verbal language toward the children playing in the open space or for the signs to ultimately be removed.
      - ***The Board responded that the “No Motor Vehicle” signs should be removed and universal signs with the same updated rules and regulations shall be posted at all Township Parks and open space entrances.***
        - **Lori Zimmerman**- Ms. Zimmerman asked that the conduct of the electric vehicles that are approved for use on the Cubbler Court open space be used in a respective manner so that all residents may safely enjoy the space and not to cause damage to the land.



## **NEW BUSINESS**

- **Traffic signals maintenance contract renewal- Signal Service, Inc.- *The Township service contract is up for renewal with Signal Service, Inc. for servicing the 2 traffic lights within Washington Township; located at Route 100 & Niantic Road and also Route 100 & Barto Road.***

A motion was made by Supervisor Romnie Long and seconded by Vice Chairman David Moyer to approving the renewal of the Signal Service Inc. Traffic Signal Maintenance contract, for the yearly contract amount of \$850.00.

**All ayes**

- **Appointment of Michael Gombar as Zoning Hearing Board Special Conflict Counsel for Solar Energy Ordinance/Validity Challenge**

A motion was made by 1<sup>st</sup> Chairman Thomas Powanda and seconded by Supervisor Romnie Long to approve the appointment of Michael Gombar as Special Conflict Counsel for the Zoning Board.

**All ayes**

- **Waste Water Treatment Plant roof repair- *New roof was installed June of 2017. Vice Chairman David Moyer requested we obtain a few quotes for this roof repair.***
- **Disposal of tax records Resolution No. 2024-23**

A motion was made by Vice Chairman David Moyer, and seconded by 1<sup>st</sup> Chairman Thomas Powanda to adopt Resolution No. 2024-23 for the disposition of tax records.

**All ayes**

- **Request to PennDOT to reduce posted speed limit on Niantic Road- *Township Manager, Susan Brown received a phone call from a resident requesting the Township to consider asking PennDOT about reducing the speed limit on Niantic Road. The Board recommended contacting PennDOT for this request.***
- **Bamboo & winter maintenance concerns- *Roadmaster, Brian Mohr discussed hazards to Township Vehicles that unmaintained bamboo within the Township may cause, along with snow easement concerns within our Township developments in preparation for the upcoming winter season.***

## **SUBDIVISION/PLANNING**

### **Beverly A. Melcher Preliminary/Final Plan**

- **LTL review letter dated 5/15/2024 - *John Aston, Aston Surveyors/Engineers, Inc, addressed the Board of Supervisors, representing Beverly A. Melcher, for reconsideration of previously denied waiver request # 7 listed in the LTL review letter dated 5/15/2024 presented at the May 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2024 BOS Meeting. The***

*Applicant requested a waiver from Conformance with the Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance Sections 107-32.E(4), 107-32.E(1), the requirement to provide street improvements.*

**Public Comment:**

**Beverly Melcher-** Ms. Melcher addressed 1<sup>st</sup> Chairman Thomas Powanda, stating that Bella Vista Lane has been maintained for over 100 years and used for the dog training facility for approximately 20 years. She also stated that the above-mentioned Declaration of Easement would accompany the Deed once obtain.

- *Beverly A. Melcher submitted a letter dated October 19, 2010, from the Vol. Barto Fire Company, stating “no evidence where emergency vehicles would have any issues navigating Bella Vista Lane.”.*

A motion was made by Supervisor Romnie Long, and seconded by 1<sup>st</sup> Chairman Thomas Powanda to approve the requested waiver of Conformance with the Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance Sections 107-32.E(4), 107-32.E(1) for the Beverly A. Melcher Preliminary Final Plan.

**1<sup>st</sup> Chairman Thomas Powanda- Aye**  
**Supervisor Romnie Long- Aye**  
**Vice Chairman, David Moyer- Opposed**

A motion was made by Supervisor Romnie Long, and seconded by 1<sup>st</sup> Chairman Thomas Powanda for the Beverly A. Melcher Preliminary Final Plan approval including all waivers.

**1<sup>st</sup> Chairman Thomas Powanda- Aye**  
**Supervisor Romnie Long- Aye**  
**Vice Chairman, David Moyer- Opposed**

A motion was made by Supervisor Romnie Long, and seconded by 1<sup>st</sup> Chairman Thomas Powanda to approve the request for planning waiver and nonbuilding declaration for sewage facilities for the Beverly A. Melcher Preliminary Final Plan.

**1<sup>st</sup> Chairman Thomas Powanda- Aye**  
**Supervisor Romnie Long- Aye**  
**Vice Chairman, David Moyer- Opposed**

- ***Declaration of Easement- This official document was submitted by Beverly A. Melcher to the Township manager, Susan Brown, and forwarded for review by the Township Solicitor.***

A motion was made by Supervisor Romnie Long, and seconded by 1<sup>st</sup> Chairman Thomas Powanda to approve the Declaration of Easement contingent upon Township Solicitor review.

**1<sup>st</sup> Chairman Thomas Powanda- Aye**  
**Supervisor Romnie Long- Aye**  
**Vice Chairman, David Moyer- Opposed**

**SUBDIVISION/LAND DEVELOPMENT EXTENSIONS**

A motion was made by Supervisor Romnie Long and seconded by 1<sup>st</sup> Chairman Thomas Powanda granting the following Subdivision Extension:

**D’Angelo Minor Plan            07/03/24 to 10/01/24**

**All ayes**

A motion was made by Supervisor Romnie Long and seconded by 1<sup>st</sup> Chairman Thomas Powanda granting the following Subdivision Extension:

**Reserve at Barto                07/03/24 to 10/01/24**

**All ayes**

A motion was made by Supervisor Romnie Long and seconded by 1<sup>st</sup> Chairman Thomas Powanda granting the following Subdivision Extension:

**1606 Main Street                07/03/24 to 10/01/24**

**All ayes**

A motion was made by Supervisor Romnie Long and seconded by 1<sup>st</sup> Chairman Thomas Powanda granting the following Subdivision Extension:

**J.D. McGovern                 07/04/24 to 10/02/24**

**All ayes**

A motion was made by Supervisor Romnie Long and seconded by 1<sup>st</sup> Chairman Thomas Powanda granting the following Subdivision Extension:

**Washington CSG 1, LLC        07/03/24 to 10/01/24**

**All ayes**

**COMMUNICATIONS**

Copy of the ARB Delinquent Account Report is enclosed.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Board of Supervisors Workshop meeting scheduled for Thursday, July 12, 2024 is cancelled.

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

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

None needed

**ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made by 1<sup>st</sup> Chairman Thomas Powanda, seconded by Supervisor Romnie Long, to adjourn the meeting at approximately 9:58 p.m.

**All ayes**

Respectfully submitted,

Susan J. Brown  
Township Manager/Secretary