

**WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
MINUTES
May 23, 2024**

CALL TO ORDER: Vice Chairman David Moyer 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, Vice Chairman David Moyer, Rommie Long, Solicitor, Joan London, Esquire; John Weber representing LTL Consultants, Tom Unger, Systems Design Engineering, Township Manager, Susan Brown, Maria Eddinger, and twenty (20) members of the public were in attendance.

Chairman Thomas Powanda joined meeting via speaker phone @ 7:17 pm

Absent: None

Vice Chairman David Moyer announced Executive Sessions were held on 5/9 and tonight 5/23 on personnel matters.

TAPING OF MEETING

The meeting was recorded as an aid in the preparation of the minutes. It was noted Maria Eddinger; Township Administrative assistant, was taping the meeting this evening.

SPECIAL REQUEST

None

PUBLIC COMMENT

Bill Piersol- Express concern on Township spending, the cost of new building.

Bill Beaver- Complaint about neighbors driving dirt bikes all hours of the day and night. Solicitor Joan London reviewed the Noise Ordinance, and the Peace and Good Order Ordinance.

Lori Zimmerman- Open space behind Cubbler Court; Questioned clarification on what property can cannot be used for. Requested signs to be posted stating “No Motor Vehicles Permitted”

**APPROVAL OF REGULAR MEETING MINUTES OF APRIL 25, 2024 &
WORKSHOP MEETING MINUTES DATED MAY 9, 2024**

A motion was made by David Moyer, and seconded by Rommie Long approving the BOS regular meeting minutes of April 25, 2024 and Workshop meeting minutes of May 9, 2024 as prepared.

All ayes

TOWNSHIP REPORTS

A motion was made by Romnie Long, and seconded by David Moyer 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 May 23, 2024, and to file the treasurer’s report for audit.

All ayes

TAX COLLECTOR

Tax Collectors Report for the month of April 2024 presented by Manager Susan Brown at the request of Tax Collector, Brenda Braidigan:

| | |
|-----------------|-------------------|
| Real Estate Tax | \$459,846.35 |
| Interim Tax | \$ 362.48 |
| Light Tax | \$ 5555.62 |
| Hydrant tax | \$ 2452.74 |
| Per Capita Tax | \$ 198.50 |
| Amusement Tax | \$ <u>4930.38</u> |
| Total | \$473,346.07 |

FIRE CHIEF’S REPORT

The EBFD and Bally EMS Reports were included in the binders. It was announced there will be a fund drive to raise money for the new building purchase located at existing Gross Bus property.

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 Action***
- **Camp Camino sewer review- *No Action***
- **SBR tank Cleaning and rail system update- COSTAR bid \$14,300, coming in under \$15,000 budget for the installation of the guide rails for the sludge waste pumps at the WWTP Plant, SBR Tanks, and new sludge waste pump.**

Motion was made by David Moyer, seconded by Romnie Long, to award COSTAR bid of \$14,300 for installation of the guide rails for the sludge waste pumps at the WWTP Plant, SBR Tanks, and new sludge waste pump.

All ayes

- **Approval of Temporary Access Easement Agreement 52 Passmore Road**

Motion was made by Romnie Long, and seconded by David Moyer to approve solicitor’s 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

- Tom stated LSA Grant opens up in July. Will prepare application for emergency generator at Weinstein Pump Station

TOWNSHIP ENGINEER

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

- **Edison View update on progress with municipal improvements including pavement, curbs and stormwater – Edison Walk-** John Weber has scheduled meeting with Mr. D’Angelo June 6, 2024. Mr. D’Angelo intends to begin road work repairs in June.
- **2024 Road Project, Victoria Village** - Mr. Weber stated project began Monday May 20, 2024. Roadmaster, Brian Mohr stated there was an equipment failure causing a temporary delay in the project

SOLICITOR’S REPORT

- **133 Stauffer Road Subdivision Agreements-** 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 approval subject to placement of security, expected as letter of credit.

Motion was made by Romnie Long, and seconded by David Moyer for approval of 133 Stauffer Road Subdivision Agreements subject to placement of security, expected as letter of credit.

All ayes

- **Blanket Easement, Operation & Maintenance Agreement Stormwater Facilities Agreement** – Joan London recommended be approved subject to Solicitor & engineer final review.

Motion was made by David Moyer, seconded by Romnie Long to approve Blanket Easement, Operation & Maintenance Agreement Stormwater Facilities subject to Solicitor & engineer final review.

All ayes

- **Consideration of draft solar energy system ordinance** –BCPC issued letter and 2nd Draft Ordinance.
 - **Public Comments**
 - Daniel Stauffer- Referenced previous BCPC letters.
 - Joe Kincade- Opposed current ordinance, spoke about potential benefits of solar energy and solar farming.
 - Bill Piersol- Commented he agrees that solar energy is clean energy.

- Fangyuan Ge- Commented that Federal and state recommend the use of solar energy. Expressed concern on regulations of personal property.

Motion made by Ronnie Long, seconded by David Moyer, to advertise the current Ordinance.

All ayes

Public Comment after vote- Dan Stauffer & Bill Piersol conversing - “Move them out, that’s what we got to do, clean house again, clean house it’s time”

- **Township ordinance and codification project-ongoing**

RECREATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Report enclosed

- **Grants-** Working on several grants discussed with Trisha McCloskey, currently have approximately \$30,000 in grant money.
- **Barto & Washington Community Master Plans-** still in the works, advised would save money if both parks are done at once.
Park Field Rental Agreements – Currently revising the agreements to be more standardized. Mark, Sue and Brian met 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, which does not cover all maintenance fees the Township incurs.
- **Events-** 1st Plant, Veggie Swap & Farmers Market is advertised to be held July, August & September. Plan to have sign-up sheet at Township building and offer paper bags and containers for residents free of charge to transport their items. Mark requested Recreational funds be available to purchase the bags and containers in the amount of \$94.00.

A motion was made by Ronnie Long and seconded by David Moyer authorizing to spend \$94.00 from Recreation Fund for Veggie Swap/Farmers Market.

All ayes

- **Berks Nature Meeting/Seminar** – Environmental advisory committee requesting use of the meeting room during the last 2 weeks in July free of charge.
- **Draft Rules and Regulations & Draft Trail Easement-** With Solicitor, Joan London for review of Marks comments and also as part of the Codification update that is still ongoing.
- **Washington Elementary Agreement** -Did not receive a response from 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 to install trails and playgrounds, etc.
- **New Recommendations-** Letter from RAC, in their comprehensive plan one recommendation for Board of Supervisors to form a Park and Recreation Board.

Would like to have the RAC codified, currently no defined rules, no defined purpose or responsibilities. Mark is requesting approval to forward draft Ordinance to Solicitor, Joan London for review.

Motion was made by David Moyer and seconded by Rommie Long to forward draft Ordinance to Solicitor, Joan London for review.

All ayes

- RAC would like to set up their own Facebook page for advertising only, no comments permitted. Strictly RAC events advertising.
- Also recommend sampling of the 2 supply wells on properties, currently no water turned on at the pavilions. Has been more than 7 years since water was last tested. Received estimate from Suburban Water in the amount of \$610.00, for collection of water samples and analyzation of samples for both wells.

Motion was made by David Moyer and seconded by Rommie Long to spend a maximum of \$700.00 for water testing at the 2 wells.

All ayes

SUPERVISORS UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- **Pressure washing of Township building siding** –Pressure washing of the administration building and sidewalks to be done Wednesday, May 29, 2024.
- **Slope stabilization to begin after power washing**
- **Public Works Garage Project-** Roadmaster, Brian Mohr received a quote in the amount of \$5,500.00 from Sacks & Sons, Inc for milling of parking area (fence to fence)

Motion was made by David Moyer and seconded by Rommie Long, to mill the parking area (fence to fence) per quote of \$5,500.

All ayes

- Blue Scope Construction Owner Change order; additional \$50,153.00 added to Contract for general condition/site work.

Motion was made by Rommie Long, seconded by Thomas Powanda.

Vice Chairman David Moyer -Opposed

- Quote received from Gorski Engineering in the amount of \$7098.00 for grading of all existing asphalt in parking lot and new area in front of the new building/Public works garage.

Motion was made by Rommie Long, seconded by Thomas Powanda.

Vice Chairman David Moyer -Opposed

- Public works garage existing water line upgrades- Roadmaster, Brian Mohr received a quote from Bisbort Plumbing & Heating Water Treatment in the amount of \$4,455.00. - Vice Chairman David Moyer requested additional quotes be pursued for these water line upgrades.
- **Weisstown Road weight restriction-** Manger, Susan Brown was in contact with Rod Martin of Martin Stone Quarry about the truck traffic on Weisstown Road hauling from the quarry. Mr. Martin assured his trucks are not using Weisstown Road in accordance to Township agreement, however he has no way of controlling private contractors. This could only be enforced by posting weight restrictions which would require extensive road and traffic studies that are very expensive as noted by Solicitor, Joan London.
 - **Public Comments-** Dan Stauffer questioned how would this be enforced. Bill Piersol does not agree taxpayer funds should pay for these road/traffic studies.
- **WW2 Memorial Repairs-** Ongoing
- **Hoffmansville Road open space planting-** Mr. Chris Yerger contacted Manager, Susan Brown to see if he was permitted to bail and store on the open space land July-February. Vice Chairman David Moyer has no concern with this as long as it is at Mr. Yeager's own risk.

NEW BUSINESS

- Automated External Defibrillator (AED) unit(s) – Current unit in Township Administrative building is 14 + years old. Requesting upgraded unit for Township Administrative building and also a new mobile unit for Road Crew Truck. Current rental for existing unit from Cintas has been \$59.00 monthly. New quote for the new AED unit is \$150.00 per month, per unit.
 - **Public Comment-** Mike Groff of Bally EMS offer to provide a quote on the cost of (2) new AED units as requested.
- **WWTP Operator Hiring-** Interview conducted May 9, 2024 for Waste Water Treatment Operator new hire. An offer of employment was extended and accepted at a starting salary of \$30.00 per hour. New hire is to start on May 28, 2024. A motion was made by David Moyer, seconded Ronnie Long, to hire new Waste Water Operator at starting salary of \$30.00 per hour.

All ayes

- **Road Foreman position** Vacancy- Roadmaster Brian Mohr, recommended existing road crew employee Josh Berner to fill this position with a \$1.00 increase in salary.

Motion was made by David Moyer, seconded by Thomas Powanda to appoint Josh Berner as Road Foreman with a salary increase of \$1.00, beginning June 1, 2024.

All ayes

SUBDIVISION/PLANNING

Beverley A. Melcher Preliminary/Final Plan, LTL Review Letter-

- John Aston, Aston Surveyors/Engineers, Inc, read aloud the following waivers for the Board of Supervisors consideration:

Conformance with the Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance

1. The Applicant requested a waiver from Sections 107-12 and 107-13, to allow the plan to be reviewed and approved as a combined preliminary/final plan. The Planning Commission recommended approval of this waiver request at their 4/4/24 meeting.

A motion was made by Thomas Powanda to grant this waiver and seconded by David Moyer.

All ayes

2. The Applicant requested a waiver from Section 107-20.C(5), from the requirement to show/designate the steep slopes on the plan. The Planning Commission recommended approval of this waiver request at their 4/4/24 meeting.

A motion was made by Ronnie Long to grant this waiver and seconded by David Moyer.

All ayes

3. The Applicant requested a waiver from Section 107-20.C(5), from the requirement to show/designate the wetlands on the plan. The Planning Commission recommended approval of this waiver request at their 4/4/24 meeting.

A motion was made by David Moyer to grant this waiver and seconded by Ronnie Long.

All ayes

4. The request for Planning Waiver & Non-Building Declaration has been approved and signed by the Planning Commission and must be reviewed and approved by the Board of Supervisors per Section 107-20.F(4).

A motion was made by Ronnie Long and seconded by Thomas Powanda to approve this waiver.

All ayes

5. The Applicant requested a waiver from Section 107-20.H(1), from the requirement to prepare a natural features and conservation lands study. The Planning Commission recommended approval of this waiver request at their 4/4/24 meeting.

A motion was made by David Moyer to grant this waiver and seconded by Ronnie Long.

All ayes

6. The Applicant requested a waiver from Section 107-20.H(3), from the requirement to prepare a wetland study. The Planning Commission recommended approval of this waiver request at their 4/4/24 meeting.

A motion was made by David Moyer to grant this waiver and seconded by Ronnie Long.

All ayes

7. The Applicant requested a waiver from Sections 107-32.E(4), 107-32.E(1), from the requirement to provide street improvements. The Planning Commission recommended approval of this waiver request at their 4/4/24 meeting.

A motion was made by David Moyer to deny this waiver and seconded by Thomas Powanda.

Romnie Long- Opposed

8. The Applicant requested a waiver from Sections 107-32.A(6)(d), from the requirement to provide a turnaround at the end of Bella Vista Lane. The Planning Commission recommended approval of this waiver request at their 4/4/24 meeting.

A motion was made by Romnie Long to grant this waiver and seconded by Thomas Powanda.

All ayes

9. The Applicant requested a waiver from Sections 107-73, from the requirement to provide street trees. The Planning Commission recommended approval of this waiver request at their 4/4/24 meeting.

A motion was made by David Moyer to grant this waiver and seconded by Romnie Long.

All ayes

10. The Applicant requested a waiver from Sections 107-75, from the requirement to provide property line buffer screens. The Planning Commission recommended approval of this waiver request at their 4/4/24 meeting.

A motion was made by David Moyer to grant this waiver and seconded by Romnie Long.

All ayes

Vice Chairman David Moyer questioned if the street is up to standard; John Weber responded no, the Ordinance requires the private street be up to public street standards and would need to be upgraded.

- **Public Comment-** Beverly Melcher questioned denied waiver #7. Vice Chairman David Moyer responded that it must be in accordance with the ordinance.

Motion was made by Thomas Powanda to Preliminary/Final Plan contingent upon the denied #7 waiver request and seconded by David Moyer.

Romnie Long- Opposed

SUBDIVISION/LAND DEVELOPMENT EXTENSIONS

None

COMMUNICATIONS

- Copy of the ARB Delinquent Account Report is enclosed.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Board of Supervisors Workshop meeting scheduled for Thursday, June 13, 2024 at 7:00 p.m.

The next regular Board of Supervisors meeting will be held on June 27, 2024 at 7:00 pm.

Vice Chairman David Moyer expressed appreciation to all Township employees and commented on the upcoming Memorial Day Holiday, advising all to be safe especially around and with the use of fireworks. Also reminded all that the school year is coming to an end and to please be aware of your surroundings as there will be more children outdoors in public areas.

Chairman Thomas Powanda commented on the outstanding efforts of LTL Consultants, LTD. And our Township Solicitor, Joan London.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

None needed

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Chairman Thomas Powanda, seconded by Rommie Long, to adjourn the meeting at approximately 9:05 p.m.

All ayes

Respectfully submitted,

Maria D. Eddinger
Township Administrative Assistant

APPROVED AS PREPARED AT A MEETING HELD ON JUNE 27, 2024

Thomas Powanda, Chairman