

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

CALL TO ORDER: Chairman David Moyer 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 David Moyer, Vice Chairman Thomas Powanda, Supervisor Rommie 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 (18) 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 as well as public resident Bill Piersol.

SPECIAL REQUEST

None

PUBLIC COMMENT

Dave Isett- Inquired about activities/surveying being conducted at 1606 Main Street. John Weber addressed the inquiry stating that there is a current subdivision land development plan being reviewed by the Township.

Doug Stetler- Inquired about the RTKL (Right to Know Law), specifically how many the township receives on average and what cost the Township incurs on a yearly basis or what the current Y-T-D total spent has been. Manager Susan Brown stated that she would review this inquiry. Solicitor Joan London also stated that there are not a huge intake of requests and typically they are simple requests and relatively quick in response time resulting in minimal to zero cost to the Township.

**APPROVAL OF REGULAR MEETING MINUTES OF JULY 25, 2024 &
WORKSHOP MEETING MINUTES OF AUGUST 8, 2024**

A motion was made by Vice Chairman Thomas Powanda, and seconded by Supervisor Rommie Long to approve approving the BOS regular meeting minutes of July 25, 2024 and the Workshop meeting of August 8, 2024 as prepared.

All ayes

TOWNSHIP REPORTS

A motion was made by Chairman David Moyer, and seconded by Vice Chairman 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 August 22nd, 2024, and to file the treasurer’s report for audit.

All ayes

TAX COLLECTOR

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

Real Estate Tax	\$ 1798.12
Interim Tax	\$ 404.17
Per Capita Tax	\$ 5932.30
Amusement Tax	<u>\$ 5822.08</u>
 Total	 \$ 13,956.67

FIRE CHIEF’S REPORT

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

- **EBFD/EMS presentation real estate tax-**
 - *Scott Reitnauer, President of the EBFD and Board Member of the Bally Community Ambulance, rose to the podium to address the board, requesting consideration of an EMS/Fire Tax. Each entity is requesting a half a mil per year. This would eliminate the need for yearly memberships as the tax would provide an equivalent EMS family membership per dwelling/household. This tax would guarantee income for the EBFD & Bally Community Ambulance and insure that they remain established for many years to come, as fundraising is not a steady, reliable source of income. They are currently faced with yearly deficits as the cost of everything continues to rise and new equipment purchases were necessary. Michael Mutter the EBFD Chief, Michael Groff Chief of Operations for the Bally Community Ambulance Association, Matt Bates the President of Bally Community Ambulance Board, and Beth Bates the Treasurer of Bally Community Ambulance Board were also present in the audience for open discussion of any concerns or questions from the board and attendees.*
 - *Chairman David Moyer suggested sending a letter to PSATS and stated that the Township will consider the request of the EMS/Fire Tax.*
- **Bally location to host the Chicken BBQ this coming weekend, August 24th, 2024. Sales to begin at 2:00 pm until sold out.**

ZONING/SEO REPORT

Reports are in the binders.

SEWER ENGINEER'S REPORT

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

- **WWTP Sewer Facility Operations- *WWTP repairs are complete and is now back in two Basin operation and at full hydraulic capacity.***
- **SBR tank cleaning and rail system-MGK application for payment \$8,600-**

A motion was made by Supervisor Romnie Long, and seconded by Vice Chairman Thomas Powanda to approve application for payment to MGK Industries for the SBR tank cleaning and rail system in the amount of \$8,600.

All ayes

- **Butterfly valve and actuator replacement-Alltek Industrial Services \$4,138.00-**

A motion was made by Chairman David Moyer, and seconded by Supervisor Romnie Long to approve payment to Alltek Industrial Services in the amount of \$4,138.00.

All ayes

- **Sludge Hauling Contract- *Contract is out for bid. Bid opening will take place prior to the next meeting. Recommendation for awarding of bid will be at the September 26th, 2024 meeting.***
- **LSA grant resolution-Weinsteiger Pump Station emergency generator- *A resolution for the grant application has been prepared and was recommended that the Township sign and approve the resolution so that SDE may submit the application before the 9/30/2024 deadline.***

A motion was made by Chairman David Moyer, and seconded by Supervisor Romnie Long to sign and approve Resolution #2024-25 for the request of a local share account Category 4 Facilities Program grant in the amount of \$177,583.00 from the Commonwealth Financing Authority.

All ayes

- **BlueScope Construction request for payment:**
 - *Application No. 4* **\$87,156.00**
 - *Plumbing Application #1* **\$45,191.25**
 - *Electrical Application #1* **\$16,389.90**

A motion was made by Vice Chairman Thomas Powanda, and seconded by Supervisor Romnie Long to approve payment Application No. 4- \$87,156.00.

All ayes

A motion was made by Chairman David Moyer, and seconded by Supervisor Rommie Long to approve payment Plumbing Application #1- \$45,191.25.

All ayes

A motion was made by Chairman David Moyer, and seconded by Supervisor Rommie Long to approve payment Electrical Application #1- \$16,389.90.

All ayes

TOWNSHIP ENGINEER

A copy of the Township Engineer's report is enclosed

- **Edison Walk, update on progress with municipal improvements including pavement, curbs and stormwater- *Paving of Bishop Pine and Sugar Maple Roads has completed after approximately 2 weeks of work. The upper portion of Sugar Maple widening project will be upcoming.***
- **2024 Road project update- *This project was completed during the first two weeks of August. This project was overseen by Roadmaster Brian Mohr.***
- **Camp Camino Component 3 Planning Module- *Camp Camino Sewage Extension/Sewage Facilities Planning Module package was received. LTL & SDE reviewed and the multiple additions & changes have been made and completed. John Weber recommended that the board approve/adopt the module by resolution.***

A motion was made by Chairman David Moyer, and seconded by Vice Chairman Thomas Powanda to adopt Resolution # 2024-26 Sewage Facilities Planning Module Package for the Camp Camino Sewer Extension Project.

All ayes

- **Stormwater basin maintenance-**
 - *The property owner of 261 Weinsteiger Road has completed stormwater basin maintenance repair and clean-up work as requested prior to August 31st, 2024.*
- **Clover Hill-end of 18-month maintenance period release of \$40,695.00- *John Weber stated that inspections were made by LTL & SDE, and that all dedicated improvements are complete and in satisfactory condition. Mr. Weber recommended the release of the financial security in the amount of \$40,695.00 currently held by the Township.***

A motion was made by Vice Chairman Thomas Powanda, and seconded by Supervisor Rommie Long authorizing the release of financial security in the amount of \$40,695.00.

All ayes

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

- Reserve at Bally Springs-Fire hydrants- *will revisit next month*
- WWTP expansion agreement update-
 - *Township Solicitor Joan London requested authorization for notice to Edison View Partners and Mr. D'Angelo of increased costs since last quote of the WWTP expansion agreement that was proposed in January of 2023.*

A motion was made by Chairman David Moyer, and seconded by Vice Chairman Thomas Powanda to authorize notice to Edison View Partners and Mr. D'Angelo of increased costs of the WWTP expansion agreement since last quoted in January 2023.

All ayes

- Solar Ordinance Validity Challenge update –
 - *Zoning Hearing Scheduled for August 29, 2024 6:00 PM at the Washington Township Municipal Building.*
 - *Requested executive session to discuss possible engagement letters and the challenge itself, pending litigation once reconvened may possibly need to take action.*
- Township review of ordinances and codification project- *Ongoing*

RECREATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Report enclosed

- Grant status:
 - **Resolution - Category 4 Local Share Assessment Grant-**
 - *DCED Local Share Account Category 4 Statewide Grant 2024-*
Grant project will include video cameras at key locations in our parks, WWTP, municipal building and garage. Second grant project may include the upgrade to the Washington Township Park playground.
 - *DCED Local Share Account Category 4 Berks County Grant 2024-*
Grant project will include the upgrade of the Township-wide radio communications.
- Park Field Rental Agreements –
 - *Draft copies of the revised rental agreements were sent to Solicitor Joan London on July 31, 2024 for review.*
- Events- @ Barto Park
 - *1st Plant and Veggie Swap & Farmers Market was held August 3rd, 2024 collected \$28.00 in donations.*

- 2nd Plant and Veggie Swap & Farmers Market - to be held September 7th, 2024 9:00 AM-11:00 AM and a 3rd to be held on October 5, 2024 9:00 AM-11:00 AM.
- Trunk n' Treat - to be held on October 26th, 2024 6:00 PM- 8:00 PM. Rain Date TBD.
 - *Mark Bedle requested \$100 to purchase candy to hand out during this event.*

A motion was made by Chairman David Moyer and seconded by Vice Chairman Thomas Powanda to authorize the purchase of \$100 worth of candy for the Trunk n' Treat event scheduled for October 26, 2024.

All ayes

- Community Bonfire November 23rd, 2024 - 6:00 PM- 8:00 PM Rain Date- TBD. EMS & EBFD will be onsite with décor!
 - *Mark Bedle requested \$79 to purchase s'more items to hand out during this event.*

A motion was made by Vice Chairman Thomas Powanda and seconded by Supervisor Rommie Long to authorize the purchase of \$79 worth of s'mores items for the Bonfire event scheduled for November 23, 2024.

All ayes

• New Events-

- Craft Fair November 9th, 2024 - to be held in the Municipal Building Community Room 9:00 AM- 1:00 PM. Please visit www.washtwpberks.org for more details about this event.

A motion was made by Chairman David Moyer and seconded by Vice Chairman Thomas Powanda to approve the Craft Fair, on November 9th, 2024.

All ayes

- Washington Township Lights Up: Distribute flyer on our website and Facebook with locations of residents Christmas light displays.
- Previous Recommendations Updates-**
 - **Parks, Recreation Areas and Open Spaces Ordinance--**
 - *A revised draft of Chapter 76- Parks & Recreation Areas and Open Spaces Rules and Regulations Ordinance to be presented by Solicitor Joan London next month for request to advertise.*

A motion was made by Chairman David Moyer, and seconded by Supervisor Romnie Long to have Solicitor Joan London present the Chapter 76 Parks & Recreation Areas and Open Spaces Rules and Regulations Ordinance draft for review at next meeting September 26, 2024.

All ayes

- **Parks & Recreation Board Ordinance-**
 - *A draft of Chapter 77- Parks & Recreation Board Ordinance to be presented by Solicitor Joan London next month for request to advertise.*

A motion was made by Chairman David Moyer, and seconded by Vice Chairman Thomas Powanda to have Solicitor Joan London present the Chapter 77 Parks & Recreation Board Ordinance draft for review at next meeting September 26, 2024.

All ayes

- **New Recommendations-**
 - *Park Wetland Studies- RAC & EAC reached out to the Environmental Science Program Director of Kutztown University to discuss having the students complete these studies as a class project. The Board will allow this project contingent upon receipt of signed liability release forms per person to participate.*
- **War Memorial needed repairs-**
 - *Ongoing, Mark Bedle is still awaiting quotes for both relocation including repairs and repairs only. The quotes are needed to apply for grant money that may be available to assist in these repairs. Mark received an email from a representative of Berks County Monument Preservation Fund advising that quotes for the repairs need to first be obtained and then presented back to them.*
 - *Public comment- It was stated that the POW Flag needed attention, as it appeared to come unattached and not flying properly/respectively. Chairman David Moyer said that it would be addressed ASAP!*

SUPERVISORS UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- **Public works garage project update-**
 - *Electrical service- Update to be provide next month*
 - *Gas/propane service connection- The Board requested additional quotes for this project to include all 3 Municipal buildings.*
- **Waste Water Treatment Plant roof repair-**
 - *Vice Chairman Thomas Powanda visited the location, stated the rubber roof is in good condition and no actual leak was located. WWTP Operator, Phil Anstey will continue to monitor this situation.*

- **Fence line maintenance-Barto Park/40 Birch Mill Lane- *This was discussed at the August work shop meeting. Previous property owner had an agreement to maintain the fence line, however the agreement was not transferrable through the sale to the new property owners. Chairman David Moyer asked that the actual property line be identified in location to the fence. Will revisit at next BOS meeting with these requested details.***
- **Administration building renovations-**
 - *Manager Susan Brown is in process of scheduling meetings with contractors for quotes to present at the upcoming budget meeting.*
- **Telephone system upgrade-**
 - *Manager Susan Brown is pursuing additional quotes. Will revisit next month.*
- **Barto Road straightening project- *Roadmaster Brian Mohr had meet with a gentleman representing Met Ed, details of that meeting will be discussed at the next BOS meeting.***
- **Barto Road & Old Route 100 intersection reconfiguration-**
 - *Chairman David Moyer to meet with PennDOT to discuss the topic of eliminating the “Y” intersection at Barto Road & Old Route 100.*

NEW BUSINESS

- **Met-Ed transmission line right-of-way maintenance notice- *Regarding vegetation maintenance for the property at 1 Route 100.***
- **Bally Halloween Parade, approval of use of Township roads-**

A motion was made by Chairman David Moyer, and seconded by Vice Chairman Thomas Powanda for the approval of use of Township roads as a detour and permit signage for the 2024 Bally Halloween Parade scheduled for Monday October 21st, 2024 rain date to be Thursday October 24th, 2024 if needed.

All ayes

SUBDIVISION/PLANNING

None

SUBDIVISION/LAND DEVELOPMENT EXTENSIONS

A motion was made by Chairman David Moyer, and seconded by Supervisor Romnie Long granting the following Subdivision Extension:

Edison Walk 08/25/24 to 12/24/24

All ayes

A motion was made by Vice Chairman Thomas Powanda, and seconded by Supervisor Romnie Long granting the following Subdivision Extension:

Kate’s Place 08/30/24 to 02/26/25

All ayes

A motion was made by Chairman David Moyer, and seconded by Supervisor Romnie Long granting the following Subdivision Extension:

Camp Camino 07/30/24 to 10/28/24

All ayes

COMMUNICATIONS

Copy of the ARB Delinquent Account Report is enclosed.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The next Board of Supervisors Workshop meeting is scheduled for Thursday, September 12, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. *(if needed)*

The next Regular Board of Supervisors meeting will be held on Thursday, September 26, 2024 at 7:00 p.m.

Chairman David Moyer commented to please register to vote if you have not already, Pennsylvania’s deadline is October 21st, 2024 for the upcoming November 5th, 2024 election.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Executive session was called at 8:33 pm to discuss personnel and litigation.

The meeting reconvened at 9:05 pm.

A motion was made by Chairman David Moyer, and seconded by Vice Chairman Thomas Powanda to allow Kozloff Stoudt Attorneys and Engineering Firm LTL Consultants to attend the Zoning Board Hearing for the Solar Ordinance Validity Challenge 8/29/24.

All ayes

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Vice Chairman Thomas Powanda, and seconded by Supervisor Romnie Long, to adjourn the meeting at 9:10 p.m.

All ayes

Respectfully submitted,

Susan J. Brown
Township Manager/Secretary