

**WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
WORKSHOP MEETING MINUTES
OCTOBER 10, 2024**

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman David Moyer called the Washington Township Board of Supervisors Workshop meeting 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, David Moyer, Ronnie Long, and Township Manager/Secretary, Susan Brown. There were six (6) members of the public in attendance.

Absent: Thomas Powanda

TAPING OF THE MEETING

Township Manager/Secretary Susan Brown, along with one member of the public, Bill Piersol was taping tonight's meeting.

EBFD

- Sewer edu transfer/reduction-Chief Mutter stated EBFD is trying to work with the bus company that rents space from them to help them to lower their expenses and one way is to reduce their sewer rate. The property currently has a total of 8 edu's and the EBFD is asking if and how that number could be reduced. They would like to transfer one edu to the property they own across Route 100 and to utilize three or four for their current needs which would leave the remaining unused. The Township will look at consumption to determine how many edu's are needed and Tom Unger suggested getting Joan London involved and determine if one edu can be transferred and how the remaining would be handled. In addition, the EBFD does not pay tax however, the renter does pay tax. The question is can they do a 60/40 split with the renter paying 60% and the EBFD 40% untaxed and how do they go about addressing this. The Board also suggested this matter be addressed with Joan London.
- Proposed Emergency Services Tax-Chief Mutter stated EBFD appreciates the generous donation received from the Township and wanted to be clear that they are not asking for the donation and the tax. The proposed tax would be ½ mill for the fire department and ½ mill for EMS. The fire department is looking to have secured funds rather than donation due to the fact the banks want secured funds to extend credit. Resident Bill Piersol spoke about his opposition to the tax and stated the ambulance service can't be losing money because the cost of the service continues to increase. Mike Groff stated he will share his reports with Mr. Piersol and reported they billed \$1.3 million however they received \$559,000. The budget for last year was \$837,000 but revenue was just \$559,000. Mr. Groff stated they

receive some grant money each year, about \$15,000 however they do not receive any funding from the state. Supervisor Moyer asked of over 400 calls in Washington Township how many of them were actual residents of the township? Of the accident calls how many were residents and how many were people passing through? The number of calls for Spring Valley Village continues to increase and the problem with removing the residents from their home is the doorways and hallways are not wide enough for the litter to transport the patient out of the home. Most calls at Spring Valley Village require the assistance of the fire department. Supervisor Moyer said 1 mill between fire and EMS is \$232,000 which is \$136,000 each, .375 is \$102,000 each and .25 is \$68,200 each. Joe Kincade asked Mike Groff why the liability insurance is over 4.5% of total revenue, industry standard is it should be no more than 2% of total revenue. Mr. Kincade stated they should be shopping their liability insurance for a better rate. It was explained that emergency services liability insurance is through the roof because of lawsuits. For 2025 the donation is already in the budget for both fire and EMS. There was lengthy discussion of how the Township could make this work and ultimately it was decided to put this question on the ballot.

SUPERVISORS

- **1606 Main Street Subdivision Plan**-Tom explained they will be installing a low-pressure sewer system. They are putting in a gravity line with a low-pressure grinder pump for each set of units. Tom is asking Mr. Mingey to justify the low-pressure system. The Bally water system is weak in this area and the units will need to be sprinkler. The Supervisors agree with Mr. Unger that this system needs to be a gravity system.
- **Reserve at Barto Subdivision Plan**-Mr. Unger stated he is not sure what Aqua is doing with water for this project but again this project will need to have a sprinkler system. This sewer system will flow by gravity. Joan will want to indemnify the township on this particular plan due to the mine shafts.

Chairman Moyer announced a walkthrough of the new Public Works building was held on Tuesday, October 8th and a punch list was developed.

➤ **Public Works garage project-**

- Water softener-A motion was made by Ronnie Long, seconded by David Moyer authorizing the purchase of a water softener to include 200 lbs. of salt from Bisbort Plumbing for a cost of \$2,150.

All ayes

- Affordable Concrete-extras-Supervisor Moyer explained there is some concrete repair needed on the original Public Works building as well as the salt shed. A motion was made by David Moyer, seconded by Ronnie Long authorizing Affordable Concrete to repair the apron way on original PW building and repair of 2' x 60' section of concrete in salt shed for a cost of \$4,500.

All ayes

- A motion was made by David Moyer, seconded by Romnie Long authorizing Affordable Concrete to seal the concrete aprons for a cost of \$500.

All ayes

- **Repair/replace garage door on existing Public Works building-**A motion was made by David Moyer, seconded by Romnie Long authorizing the replacement of two bottom panels on the garage door of the original Public Works building by Shank Door for a cost of \$1,474.

All ayes

- **Consideration of base repairs at Public Works building-**Mr. Moyer stated the Township will be requesting Gorski to regrade the parking lot since it is felt the job that was previously done is not satisfactory. Material will be placed around the aprons to help reduce the likelihood of the equipment catching the edge of the concrete and breaking it up.
- **Public Works building water test failure-**Water test results show the Public Works well water is not suitable for drinking as there is coliform present. It was decided that non-potable signs would be placed at all sinks and water fountains in the Public Works building.
- **Personnel matters-employment action-**A motion was made by Romnie Long and seconded by David Moyer confirming the termination of an administrative employee retroactive to Friday, October 4, 2024.

All ayes

- **2025 Yeck Foundation Grant-**A grant application will be submitted for aluminum bleachers, eight metal park trash receptacles, three pet waste stations and 900' of fence safety topper. The total grant amount is \$20,000 and the total project cost is \$22,470.29 therefore the township would be responsible for the \$2,470.29. A motion was made by David Moyer, seconded by Romnie Long authorizing the submittal of the Yeck Foundation grant application for \$20,000.

All ayes

- **354 Hill Church/Wissinger Roads trees planted in right-of-way-**Motion made by David Moyer, seconded by Romnie Long authorizing the Solicitor to prepare a Hold Harmless Agreement between Washington Township and the owners of 354 Hill Church Road.

All ayes

- **Environmental Advisory Committee request for removal of 8-yard dumpster-**At the urging of the EAC the Township entered into an agreement with Cogle's Recycling for a third 8-yard dumpster in August however the EAC is now asking for the removal of the dumpster stating it is not needed since the township is not accepting recycling from residents outside of the township. The Township would be responsible for the prorated amount of the contract which would be for 34 months at \$42.50 per month. After brief discussion it was decided to keep the dumpster.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Executive session was held from 8:42 pm to 8:56 pm

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Rommie Long and seconded by David Moyer to adjourn the meeting at approximately 8:57 p.m.

All ayes

Respectfully submitted,

Susan J. Brown
Manager/Secretary