

**WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
MINUTES  
OCTOBER 24, 2024**

**CALL TO ORDER**: Chairman 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, Thomas Powanda, Ronnie Long, Solicitor, Joan London, Esquire; John Weber representing LTL Consultants, Tom Unger and Nick Volk, Systems Design Engineering, Township Manager, Susan Brown, and sixteen (16) members of the public were in attendance.

Absent: None

Chairman Moyer announced Executive Sessions were held tonight on personal matters.

**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 as well as public resident, Bill Piersol, 481 Weinstein Road, Bechtelsville, PA, 19505.

**SPECIAL REQUEST**

Roark Americana, Inc. – Mr. Andres Coello and Mr. Thomas Heeney, attorney, presented a plea to the Board of Supervisors to allow for their Mill project to continue. They are requesting the Board of Supervisors approve the updated parking area that reduces the impervious area and to consider the sealed statement from Whitestone Associates as satisfying the prerequisites from LTL Consultants letter dated 9/13/24. John Weber stated his concern that the Whitestone Associates letter did not specifically address the material to be used for the parking lot could withstand pressure from floods. Chairman Moyer recommends that John Weber get together with the Roark Americana people to discuss the material used for the parking area be able to withstand the pressures of a flood and be certified by Whitestone Associates. Board of Supervisors are supportive of Mr. Andres Coello's mill project proceeding and wants this to be addressed in a timely manner. Not motion needed.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

**Mr. Andrew Jones** – Requested a waiver from stormwater management requirements for a 60 x 28 detached garage built earlier this year. Mr. Weber stated the permit was approved based upon Mr. Jones meeting the requirement for stormwater management. A water retention pond was required by the permit. There being no motion to approve Mr. Jones' waiver request from stormwater management requirements, the request is denied.

**APPROVAL OF REGULAR MEETING MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 26, 2024**

A motion was made by Thomas Powanda, and seconded by Romnie Long approving the meeting minutes of September 26, 2024 as prepared.

**All ayes**

**TOWNSHIP REPORTS**

A motion was made by David Moyer, and seconded by 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 October 24, 2024, and to file the treasurer’s report for audit.

**All ayes**

**TAX COLLECTOR**

Tax Collectors Report for the month of September 2024 presented by Susan Brown, Township Manager for Tax Collector, Brenda Breidigan:

Real Estate Tax	\$ 5,006.77
Interim Tax	\$ 206.43
Light Tax	\$ 14.30
Hydrant tax	\$ 7.35
Per Capita Tax	\$ 642.00
Amusement Tax	<u>\$ 7,944.86</u>
 Total	 \$ 13,821.71

**FIRE CHIEF’S REPORT**

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

**ZONING/SEO REPORT**

Reports are in the binders.

**SEWER ENGINEER’S REPORT**

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

- **WWTP Sewer Facility Operations-**
  - Plant is operating very well with no exceedances – well under our permit limits.
  - Kappe Associates will troubleshoot the PLC issues in November 2024.
  - Jar testing was executed on October 21, 2024 for Polyaluminum Chloride testing. Sludge was settling better with a PH of 7.4 which is where they need to be. Waiting on report back from Process Masters.
  - Executed a new contract with Hydro Tech for our sludge removal that will start in 2025
  - Flows are very low during the last month. No exceedances in hydraulics.

- Not going to schedule the televised sewer lines on Weinsteiger Road until it starts raining again.
  - Letter was sent to Washington Pub to remind them to pump out their grease annually.
  - Talked with wastewater employee who is putting together a list of all the holding tanks in the township. System Design will send letters to remind them of the necessity to pump out their grease annually.
  - Chairman Moyer requested System Design address a cone on County Line Road that needs to be replaced.
- **Review Letters of two plans: 1606 Main Street and Reserve at Barto-**  
Letters have been sent out.
  - **Public Works Garage:**  
Punch List walk through was completed and Gorski has completed most of the items listed. Brian Mohr did a terrific job in coordinating the natural gas lines. They are in and ready to go. Electric service has been connected to the meter. LTL is scheduled to do the electric inspection then Met-Ed will energize the shop. We are at Met-Ed's mercy as to a date of energizing.

### **TOWNSHIP ENGINEER**

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

- **Camp Camino** – A preconstruction meeting was held on 10/18/24 for the onsite improvements portion of the project. They intend to get started soon.
- **Reserve at Barto** – A review letter was done on 9/18/24 but they requested not to be listed on the agenda of the 10/3/24 Planning Commission meeting.
- **1606 Main Street** – A review letter was done on 9/18/24 and plan was reviewed at the 10/3/24 Planning Commission meeting with no action taken.
- **Monument Location Updates** – open space property on Hoffmansville and Passmore Roads. John Weber of LTL Consultants showed the plot plan with the 12 monuments associated with the plan. 8 monuments of the 12 were found and painted in orange paint.

### **SOLICITOR'S REPORT**

- **Two ordinances that were advertised in the Reading Eagle on 10/16/2024.**
  - 2024-2 Chapter 76 Parks, Recreation Areas and Open Spaces  
A motion to adopt this ordinance was made by Ronnie Long and seconded by Thomas Powanda.  
**All Ayes**
  - 2024 -3, Chapter 77 Parks and Recreation Board Ordinance

A motion to adopt this ordinance was made by David Moyer and seconded by Thomas Powanda.

**All Ayes**

- **Camp Camino Pre-Plan Approval Construction Security Agreement** – Engineer has gone over. All security and escrows have been placed under this agreement. Earth moving activities on this project may be started.
- **WWTP Expansion Agreement** – Joan London advised the attorneys from Prestige that there needs to be a price adjustment in the agreement due to the delays in receiving the funding for the expansion. Mr. Jim D’Angelo was present to address these issues regarding Edison Walk. He would like to be on next months agenda to discuss his plans on the funding of the expansion. Mr. D’Angelo received his agreement with his building partner. Joan London stated the agreement will have to be amended and that she will reach out to Mr. D’Angelo’s attorney. Mr. D’Angelo stated the first payment in the agreement for \$223,000.00 will be taken care of before the next months meeting as well as a letter of credit. Mr. Thomas Unger stated that there are no more EDU’s available to purchase.

Resident, Bill Piersol, made a comment that there are a lot of residents that are in arrears with their public sewer payments in an amount of over \$200,000.00

- **Hold Harmless agreement for 354 Hill Church Road** – Property owner has planted trees in the township’s Right of Way. In order for the property owners to keep those trees, they will have to sign a hold harmless agreement with the township. A motion was made by David Moyer and seconded by Thomas Powanda to authorize Joan London to send the Hold Harmless Agreement to the property owner.  
**All Ayes**
- **Cubler Court open space sale of property** – Any sale of property that was open space in the plan dedicated to the township would have to be approved by the court. This entails a petition filed to the court and a hearing that needs to be held to see if there is any opposition and if no opposition, it would be generally be approved. Joan London was just citing the rules of this process for any future questions. This was brought up because it was mentioned at Road Inspection which is advertised and residents may attend.
- **Proposed Emergency Services Tax** – Joan London stated this would require a ballot referendum which is a petition that would have to go to the county board of elections 13 weeks prior to the election day. A motion was made from David Moyer and seconded by Thomas Powanda to get this ballot referendum in the May 2025 primary election. Thomas Powanda would like an article in the next newsletter to let the public know this will be on the next election.  
**All Ayes**

- **Solar Ordinance Validity Challenge Update** – Hearing was on 10/7/24. The challenge was denied and now just waiting on the written opinion from Zoning Hearing board. The applicant has the right to appeal to the Court of Common Pleas of Berks County.
- **Township review of ordinances and codification project** – This is ongoing.

### **RECREATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Report is enclosed.

- DCED Multimodal Transportation Grant 2024 – Estimated award date is the second quarter of 2025.
- DCNR Community Recreation and Conservation Planning Grant 2024 – Estimated award date is late October to December 2024.
- Playground Upgrade Project - Resolution 2024-28 – Statewide Local Share Assessment Grant is needed. The requested amount is \$385,297.27 with an estimated award date of 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of 2025. A motion was made by David Moyer and seconded by Rommie Long to authorize Resolution 2024-28.

**All Ayes**

- Park Field Rental Agreements for three sports clubs are in progress per Joan London.
- Gang Box to be put at Barto Park by goal posts at the football field by the Boyertown Optimist Club. The township will put an asphalt 3 X 6 pad in as well. A motion to allow the Boyertown Optimist Club to put a gang box at Barto Park was issued by Thomas Powanda and seconded by Rommie Long.

**All Ayes**

### **SUPERVISORS**

#### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

- **HOP for Camp Camino** – From the last minutes a motion was made but not seconded so it needs to be addressed in this meeting. A motion was made for the HOP for Camp Camino by David Moyer and seconded by Thomas Powanda.

**All Ayes**

- **Telephone System Upgrade** – Four different proposals were presented. Susan Brown would recommend Net-carrier. They offer the best cost savings and are recommended by our IT specialist. Motion made by David Moyer, seconded by Thomas Powanda to enter a 36-month contract with Net Carrier for a price not to exceed \$3,000.

**All ayes**

## **NEW BUSINESS**

- **Purchase and installation of an 8-10-foot Wideout Plow** – This plow would replace an existing 2005 plow which has a faulty plug. Perkiomen Performance has a quote of \$9,346.40. This was initially discussed at the budget meeting. Motion to approve the purchase of a new Wideout plow from Perkiomen Performance at \$9,346.40 was made by Thomas Powanda and seconded by Romnie Long.  
**Thomas Powanda – Aye**  
**Romnie Long – Aye**  
**David Moyer – Opposed**
- **Hiring of Public Works/Treatment Plant employee** – This position is on the 2025 budget and Susan Brown would like direction on when we can advertise for this. This will be discussed at the November 14, 2024 workshop. Thomas Unger does not think the WWTP warrants two full time workers, but it will when the plant is expanded.
- **Fire Hydrant maintenance and locators** – this was brought up by the fire department wanting to know who is responsible for maintaining and marking the fire hydrants. It was noted the township does not own the hydrants, but the water companies do. Hydrants should be serviced two times per year. Joan London looked at the townships fire ordinance and this issue is not addressed. A simple amendment will be needed to add this. A motion was made by Thomas Powanda, and seconded by Romnie Long authorizing Joan London to create an amendment to the fire ordinance and update the SALDO to address the servicing of the fire hydrants in the township.  
**All ayes**
- **Stop Sign request for intersection of Anthony’s Mill and Lenape Roads** – This issue came in as a complaint by a resident due to a near vehicle accident. John Weber and Brian Mohr stated this intersection does not warrant a multi-way stop as there are no sight distance issues.
- **Approval of the 2025 meeting dates and holiday schedule** – There was a question regarding the Planning Commission meeting on 7/3/25 and whether that should be changed due to the holiday the next day. This will be tabled until the November 14,2024 workshop meeting.
- **Route 100 Euros, LLC – clarification on removal of vehicles from Ehst Road** – Susan Brown was requested to send a letter to the business owner about removal of vehicles along Ehst Road. The business owner is requesting further clarification about the removal of the vehicles. He stated that flooding has caused several of the vehicles to receive damage and that he has to keep those vehicles in place for his flood claim. David Moyer stated the business owner has until April 1, 2025 to comply with the letter he received. John Weber stated the Land Development plan should specify the parking arrangement that he must adhere to.



**ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made by Thomas Powanda, seconded by Rommie Long, to adjourn the meeting at approximately 8:56 p.m.

**All ayes**

Respectfully submitted,

Susan J. Brown  
Manager/Secretary