

Regular Meeting May 11, 2022

The Regular Meeting of the Washington Township Board of Supervisors was held on May 11, 2022, at 7:00 pm. The meeting was in-person. The meeting format and agenda were posted on the Township website and the Administrative Building door.

CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Smith called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm. Vice Chairman Tolino was in attendance in-person and Supervisor Huratiak was in attendance by phone. Also present: Police Chief James Krome, Secretary/Treasurer Gail Putvinski, Solicitor David Ceraul, Township Engineer Domenick DiPaolo, and Zoning Officer (Interim) Tina Serfass. There were five (5) people in the audience.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Recited

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Chairman Smith announced that the Board of Supervisors and Solicitor Ceraul held an executive session today from 6:30 pm to 7:03 pm for a personnel issue. Police Chief Krome attended a portion of the session.

APPROVAL OF BILLS:

General Fund	#	19006 - 19057	\$ 160,290.31
Garbage Fund	#	1222	\$ 44,886.94
Recreation Fund	#	1746 - 1749	\$ 3,280.26

All bills are on file in the Administration Building and can be viewed during regular business hours.

Chairman Smith moved to approve the General Fund bills in the amount of \$160,290.31 and Supervisor Huratiak seconded the motion.

Public Comment: None

Vote 2 – 0 – 1 Abstain

Vice Chairman Tolino abstained due to the fact that the general fund bills include payment to his company.

Chairman Smith made a motion to approve the Garbage Fund bills in the amount of \$44,886.94 and the Recreation Fund bills in the amount of \$3,280.26 and Vice Chairman Tolino seconded the motion.

Public Comment: None

Vote 3 – 0

TAX DUPLICATE CHANGES: Interim Additions, Garbage Additions

There were zero (0) 2022 interim real estate additions and zero (0) garbage additions in the month of April 2022.

Chairman Smith made a motion to approve zero (0) real estate additions and zero (0) garbage additions and Supervisor Huratiak seconded the motion.

Public Comment: None

Vote 3 – 0

TREASURER’S REPORT: Gail Putvinski

1) Account Balance Review

The account balances as of April 30, 2022, were reviewed.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Robert Smith

1) Regular Meeting of April 13, 2022

Chairman Smith moved to approve the minutes of the regular meeting held on April 13, 2022, and Supervisor Huratiak seconded the motion.

Public Comment: None

Vote 3 – 0

2) Special Meeting of April 27, 2022

Chairman Smith moved to approve the minutes of the special meeting held on April 27, 2022, and Vice Chairman Tolino seconded the motion.

Public Comment: None

Vote 3 – 0

CORRESPONDENCE:

1) Vito Trigiani, PA American Water, Rate Adjustment Request Filed with PA Public Utility Commission and Revision to Low-income Discount Program

Noted.

2) Miers Insurance, Services Available

Noted.

3) Romtec, Product Catalog

Noted.

4) PA One Call, Pipeline Safety Bulletin 2022

The document was provided to Craig Hester, Road Foreman

5) LVPC, Transportation Improvement Program

The Board of Supervisors have the Transportation Improvement Program information and can provide input.

6) Linda & Fred Pukey, Thank You to Road Department

Noted.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

1) Louis Csezmadia, 652 S. First Street, Water Run-off From Development

Mr. Csezmadia addressed the Board of Supervisors and presented a set of photographs regarding water run-off. Mr. Csezmadia has raised this concern with the Board of Supervisors in the past. Review of the development and the swale were performed by the Township previously. Engineer DiPaolo reviewed the photographs, and the measures Mr. Csezmadia has taken to divert the water. He noted that water runoff cannot be controlled for every storm but offered to perform an inspection if approved by the Board of Supervisors. The Board authorized the inspection.

2) Jeff Mulitsch, 1376 Ackermanville Road, Complaint Regarding 1382 Ackermanville Road

Mr. Mulitsch stated that he attended a Board of Supervisors in August 2021 and provided photographs regarding high volume of garbage and poor conditions at 1382 Ackermanville Road. The problem has not been corrected. Zoning Officer Tina Serfass stated that she sent a notice to the owner, however, a follow-up inspection was not performed. Ms. Serfass will send a new notice and follow-up with a citation at the Magistrate, if needed. Mr. Mulitsch requested a copy of the notice. Supervisor Huratiak shared that the Township now has more tools, including the citation capability referenced by ZO Serfass, and is taking a more aggressive role with complaints like this one.

RECREATION: Justin Huratiak

1) Recreation Complex Sign Purchase

Supervisor Huratiak shared that the sign has been ordered.

2) Property Buffer Update

Supervisor Huratiak, Al Miller and Gwen Miller met with the contractor. The planting will be done shortly. Two water buffalos were put in the area to support the watering of the trees.

Chairman Smith agreed to ask the Fire Department if they would be able to fill the water buffalos at their next meeting on May 16th. Al Miller called and said he was willing to set up the hoses after the trees are planted. He requested approximately 500' of hose. Solicitor Ceraul shared that he was contacted by the attorney for the property owners requesting a status. He replied that it is being worked.

Chairman Smith made a motion to approve the purchase of approximately 500' of hose for the watering of the trees that will be planted in the buffer and Vice Chairman Tolino seconded the motion.

Public Comment: None

Vote 3 – 0

3) Fertilizer/Pesticide First Application Completed 5/3/22

The first application was completed by R&R and the first payment of \$3,000 was made from the Recreation fund. Historically supplies were purchased by Recreation and the work was performed by a licensed employee.

4) Resources for Lawn Mowing

The Board discussed resources for mowing. George Abt was appointed as a part-time road department member in January and has performed mowing due to limited resources. The Board agreed that the job description for the part-time road department members should be modified to include park maintenance.

Supervisor Huratiak made a motion to approve mowing as a role for George Abt and to modify the part-time Road Department job description to include park maintenance and Vice Chairman Tolino seconded the motion.

Public Comment: None

Vote 3 – 0

5) Approval to Submit for Northampton County CDBG

The draft CDBG application was prepared requesting \$10,000. This grant supports ADA planning and links to the Livable Landscape grant. A discussion was held with the Grant Coordinator for input to the application. A draft copy was provided to the Board. The application is due May 26, 2022.

Supervisor Huratiak made a motion to authorize the submission of the CDBG application after review and comments by the Board of Supervisors and Vice Chairman Tolino seconded the motion.

Public Comment: None

Vote 3 – 0

6) Planning for Implementation of Phase III

The CDBG application has specific requirements regarding payment of professional services. Clarification will be obtained.

7) Scoreboard and Garden Area

George Abt and Craig Hester made repairs to the scoreboard, and it is working again.

Gwen Miller is using bricks from the former sign area to create a garden. Gwen requested additional topsoil.

Chairman Smith made a motion to approve the purchase of 2 yards of topsoil at a cost of \$42 per yard and Supervisor Huratiak seconded the motion.

Public Comment: None

Vote 3 – 0

POLICE DEPARTMENT REPORT: Chief James Krome

1) Incident Report

There were 260 documented "calls for service" in April 2022

2) Police Vehicle Mileage

Total mileage for the police vehicles for the month of April 2022 was 4,439.

3) Body Cameras

Chief Krome stated the body cameras have been received. The cost is the same if paid up front at \$78,029.00 or paid over five years. The Board recommended paying over five years once it is confirmed that the ARP funds do not have to be spent until 12/31/2026.

ZONING REPORT: Tina Serfass

1) Activity Report

Interim Zoning Officer Tina Serfass reviewed the content of the activity report for the last month. Activities included issuing eight permits and addressing complaints. A non-traffic citation was filed for 15 Creek Road.

ENGINEER'S REPORT: Domenick DiPaolo

1) Deer Trac Development, Close-out Status

Domenick DiPaolo shared that the pending calculations have been received and are under review.

2) Elm Ave. Water Issue, LSA Grant Submitted with Final Amount of \$927,878.00

Grant awards are estimated to be made on May 24, 2022.

3) MS4 Stormwater Management Ordinance Update

A zoom meeting was held with DEP. The goal is to try and combine Act 167 and MS4.

4) Partial Waiver of Act 167 Stormwater Management Ordinance Requested by 200 Cedar Road

Ryan Dentith, Stateline Engineering Co. LLC., presented a request for a partial waiver of Act 167 Stormwater Management Ordinance for 200 Cedar Road. A significant discussion took place regarding the request and the specific conditions of the property. The property owner, Bill Ackerman, was also present. Jeff Ott and Domenick DiPaolo of Ott Consulting Inc. recommended the Board adhere to the Act 167 Ordinance and not grant a waiver. Supervisor Huratiak and Vice Chairman Tolino stated that the Act 167 Ordinance is not logical in this specific situation. It was agreed to move the request to the next BOS meeting. Stateline Engineering Co. LLC, with approval from the property owner, will provide a document detailing the key points to support the waiver request in advance of the next meeting.

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS: Robert Smith

1) American Rescue Plan, Discussion Regarding Use of Funds

The second American Rescue Plan payment is expected in June.

2) Bangor Area High School Intern Opportunities

The school can provide an intern for hours during the summer. The Board agreed to have the coordinator provide possible candidates.

3) Approval to Obtain Quotes for Anti-skid, Stone, Heating Fuel, and Propane

Costs for fuel are extremely high. As expected, the Township has spent more to date than at this point last year. Draft bid requests for stone and fuel were presented to the Board and Solicitor Ceraul.

Chairman Smith made a motion to authorize the Administrative Office to obtain bids for Anti-skid, Stone, Heating Fuel and Propane and Vice Chairman Tolino seconded the motion.

Public Comment: None

Vote 3 – 0

4) Nitrate/Nitrite Results for Washington Township

Several years ago the Township had an issue with higher than acceptable nitrate levels. Steps were taken, including the cleaning of the well, to address the problem. The most recent result is 7.5, which is higher than it has been in the last few years. Action will be needed if the level goes above 10.

5) PSATS Encouraging Township to Approve America250PA Resolution

PSATS is asking Townships to adopt a resolution for America250PA to celebrate the 250th birthday of the United States in 2026. The Board of Supervisors asked that a draft resolution be prepared for the next meeting.

ROADMASTER’S REPORT: Robert Smith

1) Street Sweeping Completed

Chairman Smith shared that the sweeping is complete.

2) OW Road

Chairman Smith stated that the installation of pipes on OW Road has been completed by the Road Department. Chairman Smith also stated that there is some sinking where the new water line was installed. PA American Water was contacted regarding this issue.

3) Request for a No Jake Brake Sign

A request was received asking for a “No Jake Brake” sign for trucks being detoured off/on Rt. 611 and Richmond Road as a result of bridge work. Solicitor Ceraul stated the sign is not enforceable.

SOLICITOR’S REPORT: David Ceraul

1) Municipal Boundary Agreement between Bangor and Washington Township

Solicitor Ceraul shared that the Developer is expected to submit a plan to Bangor Borough in the near future.

ADJOURNMENT:

Chairman Smith made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:40 pm and Vice Chairman Tolino seconded the motion.

Public Comment: None

Vote 3 – 0

Respectfully submitted,

Gail Putvinski – Secretary/Treasurer
Washington Township Board of Supervisor