

**WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
Regular Meeting October 11, 2023**

The Regular Meeting of the Washington Township Board of Supervisors was held on October 11, 2023, at 7:00 pm. The meeting format and agenda were posted on the Township website and the Administrative Building door.

CALL TO ORDER: Chair Smith called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. Vice Chair Tolino and Supervisor Huratiak were also in attendance. Also present: Chief Krome, Secretary/Treasurer Katie Purdue, Solicitor David Ceraul and Interim Zoning Officer Tina Serfass. Ott Consulting was not present. There were (5) people in the audience.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Recited

APPROVAL OF BILLS:

General Fund	#	19963, 19966-20012	\$298,469.65
Garbage Fund	#	1240-1240	\$ 81,110.03
Recreation Fund	#	1814-1814	\$ 46.33
Sinking Fund	#	3036-3036	\$ 27,573.41
Liquid Fuels	#	1036-1036	\$210,000.00

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

Chair Smith moved to approve the General Fund bills in the amount of \$298,469.65 Super. Huratiak seconded the motion. Vice Chair Tolino abstained.

Public Comment: None **Vote 2 – 0 – 1**

Chair Smith moved to approve the Garbage Fund bills in the amount of \$81,110.03, the Recreation Fund bills in the amount of \$46.33, the Sinking Fund bills in the amount of \$27,573.41 and the Liquid Fuels Fund bills in the amount of \$210,000.00. Vice Chair Tolino seconded the motion.

Public Comment: None **Vote 3 – 0**

TAX CHANGES: Real Estate Tax Changes, Garbage Changes

There were zero (0) interim real estate add & zero (0) garbage changes.

Chair Smith made a motion to approve the interim Real Estate and Garbage Tax Changes. Super. Huratiak seconded the motion.

Public Comment: None **Vote 3 – 0**

TREASURER’S REPORT: Katie Purdue

1) Account Balance Review

The account balances as of September 30, 2023 were reviewed.

2) 2020 Rec Loan – The loan that was interest only through September 2023, is now being billed monthly at \$5,284.05 through 2030.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Robert Smith

1) Regular Meeting of September 13, 2023.

Chair Smith moved to approve the minutes of the regular meeting held on September 13, 2023. Vice Chair Tolino seconded the motion.

Public Comment: None **Vote 3 – 0**

CORRESPONDENCE:

1) PennDOT, Notice of Estimated Allocation of Liquid Fuels for 2024 - \$217,259.85

The estimate for 2024 is slightly higher than 2023, which was \$216,489.35

- 2) **Dept. of Auditor General, 2023 Volunteer Fire Relief Association 2023 Commonwealth State Aid in the amount of \$37,293.69** – The funds will be distributed to the Washington Township Volunteer Fire Relief Association.
- 3) **Dept. of Auditor General, 2023 General Municipal Pension System State Aid \$87,418.32.** – The funds will support the MMO payments for the pension plans.
- 4) **Slate Belt Chamber Dinner** – Supervisor Huratiak was awarded the 2023 Business Person of the Year.
- 5) **Washington Township Volunteer Fire Company Donation Request** – we received a letter from the WTVFC asking the Township to increase the annual donation amount, which is currently \$22,000 a year. The Board will discuss further at the budget meetings.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

- 1) **Gorden & Peggy Shea of 1240 Lower S. Main St.** addressed the Board about 1204 Lower S. Main St. that has overgrown weeds, trees and looks condemned. The property was recently sold but the Township will keep an eye on it to see if clean up progresses.
The Sheas have also submitted complaint forms to the Township about 1120 Lower S. Main St. The new tenants have been painting and the fumes are preventing them from spending time outside or opening the windows in their house. They also have garbage left outside. The ZO has received the complaints and sent a violation letter to the owner. She will follow up with the status.
Lastly they had questions about stormwater management as it pertains to the June and July storms and the debris that has ended up on their property, specifically all of the new homes that are now on top of the mountain.
Super. Huratiak advised that the Township does have an ordinance preventing new homes and water runoff and keeping water on the property.
- 2) **Jeff Mulitsch of 1376 Ackermanville Rd.** requested that speedbumps be installed on Ackermanville Rd. Chief Krome said that they are not allowed and Super. Huratiak added that a 35 MPH road would not be ideal with speedbumps.
- 3) **Robert Wesley of Palmer Rd.** asked the Board if they read the engineers' report that he provided at the September 2023 meeting. The report addressed the property across from him that had a pipe under the driveway that was removed over a decade ago and caused water damage on his property in June and July from the storms. The Board advised that the Road Dept cleaned out the swale that is next to the driveway and have no plans to replace a pipe that was removed. The owner asked again for a further review of his engineer's report. Super. Huratiak asked for the report to be sent electronically and they would review and decide if there would be a different outcome.

RECREATION: Justin Huratiak

- 1) **Recreation Complex Signs** – The Road Dept now has all supplies necessary to install the signs. Road Foreman Hester was not in attendance, but the office will advise him that all is now available.
- 2) **Pickleball Court Repairs** – We received notification that the poles holding the nets are falling. The Road Dept did necessary repairs.

POLICE DEPARTMENT REPORT: Chief James Krome

- 1) **Incident Report**
There were 242 documented "calls for service" in Sept 2023.
- 2) **Police Vehicle Mileage**
Total mileage for the police vehicles for the month of Sept 2023 was 3519.

ZONING REPORT: Interim Zoning Officer Tina Serfass

- 1) **Activity Report** - The Sept 2023 report was presented to the Board of Supervisors.
- 2) **UCC Opt-In/Opt-Out** – See "Board of Supervisors"

ENGINEER'S REPORT:

- 1) **MS4 Stormwater Management Ordinance Update – Expiration 9/2024** – No Update
- 2) **50 Beechwood Ct.** – Ott Consulting, the property owner and Broad Excavating met at the site to do an inspection and clean out/repair the basin. Eng. Karasek provided a report to the Township

advising of what needs to be done. The owner will get an estimate from Broad Excavating to do this work.

- 3) **Rutt Rd. Grate** – At the Sept 2023 meeting the property owner, Paul Taylor, advised that he would install a new grate. Eng. Ott had also been advised by the Board to present different options to avoid future water damage. Eng. Ott was not in attendance but requested to present this to the Board at the next available meeting. Road Foreman Hester did a site visit on 10/11/23 and found that the ponds above the property have been cleaned out and the grate is in the process of being replaced. The Board decided to table any presentation from Ott Consulting and see how this new grate works.

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS: Robert Smith

- 1) **American Rescue Plan Funding, Discussion Regarding Use of Funds and Status** – nothing to report
- 2) **Township Health Insurance Renewal Data** – The Board received the renewal options prior to the meeting. They will review and advise Sec. Purdue of which plan to move forward with.
- 3) **Ordinance No. 306 – Opt. Into UCC – Repeal No. 259**

Chair Smith made a motion to Repeal Ordinance No. 259 and adopt No. 306. Super. Huratiak seconded the motion.

Public Comment: None **Vote 3 – 0**

- 4) **2024 Budget** – The Budget meetings have been advertised.
- 5) **Trunk or Treat 2023** – The Township will be hosting a trunk or treat at the Township building on Oct 31, 2023, from 5-7PM.
- 6) **Fidelity Bank Remote Deposit** – We now have the capability to run check deposits in the office, which, per our auditors ZA, is an approved way to deposit in a small office.
- 7) **Approval to Transfer \$100,000 from the General Fund, Tax Account, to the Capital Reserve Fund, Per the 2023 Budget** – Sec. Purdue made an error last month. The Board approved a \$200,000 transfer to the Capital Reserve account on the 2023 budget. Only \$100,000 was transferred last month, so another needs to be done.

Chair Smith made a motion to approve the transfer of \$100,000 from the General Fund (Tax Account) to the Capital Reserve Fund, per the 2023 budget. Vice Chair Tolino seconded the motion.

Public Comment: none **Vote 3 – 0**

- 8) **Office Document Destruction** – It is more cost effective to buy a better shredder and do all document destruction in house. Last month we purchased the shredder and Admin Vicki Mack is almost halfway through the documented boxes.
- 9) **Diesel Fuel Bids** – The diesel fuel contact will expire December 31, 2023

Chair Smith made a motion to authorize the office to obtain bids for the 2024 Diesel Fuel Contract. Super. Huratiak seconded the motion.

Public Comment: none **Vote 3 – 0**

- 10) **Revised 2024 MMO Pension Contribution for the Non-Uniform CB** – Sec Purdue reported that Tina Cosenza has decided to remain FT. The calculations were done removing her from the plan.

Chair Smith made a motion to rescind the prior motion from the September 2023 meeting for the 2024 CB Non-Uniform MMO Contribution and approve the Revised 2024 CB Non-Uniform MMO Contribution of \$6384.00. Vice Chair Tolino seconded the motion.

Public Comment: none **Vote 3 – 0**

ROADMASTER'S REPORT: Robert Smith

- 1) **Palmer Rd Water Issues** – See “Public Comment”

SOLICITOR'S REPORT: David Ceraul

- 1) **Alternate Solicitor Santee – Quarry Ridge – Municipal Line Agreement with Bangor Borough** – Atty. Santee emailed the Township to advise that he has received the agreement but there is an issue that he is working out with the other attorney.
- 2) **119 Peter Jacob Dr – D10 14 7-17 134 – Parcel Consolidation** – The Township received an email from the Northampton County Tax Assessors office requesting that the above parcel, which currently

rests in both Washington Township and Upper Mount Bethel, be moved solely to Upper Mount Bethel as the home resides in Upper Mount Bethel. The current assessment brings \$9.60 in tax revenue to the Township.

Super. Huratiak made a motion to consolidate tax parcel D10 14 7-17 to one parcel in Upper Mount Bethel.

Chair Smith seconded the motion.

Public Comment: none **Vote 3 – 0**

ADJOURNMENT:

Chair Smith made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 pm. Vice Chair Tolino seconded the motion.

Public Comment: None **Vote 3 – 0**

Respectfully submitted,

Katie Purdue – Secretary/Treasurer
Washington Township Board of Supervisors