

Regular Meeting April 13, 2022

The Regular Meeting of the Washington Township Board of Supervisors was held on April 13, 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 7:03 pm. Supervisor Huratiak was in attendance. Vice Chairman Tolino was absent. 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 zero (0) people in the audience.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Recited

APPROVAL OF BILLS:

General Fund	#	18952 - 19005	\$ 59,429.88
Garbage Fund	#	1221	\$ 44,886.94
Recreation Fund	#	1744 - 1745	\$ 22.99

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 \$59,429.88, and Supervisor Huratiak seconded the motion.

Public Comment: None **Vote 2 – 0**

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 \$22.99 and Supervisor Huratiak seconded the motion.

Public Comment: None **Vote 2 – 0**

TAX DUPLICATE CHANGES: Interim Additions, Garbage Additions

There were zero (0) 2022 interim real estate additions and one (1) garbage addition in the month of March 2022.

Chairman Smith made a motion to approve zero (0) real estate additions and one (1) garbage addition at 771 Emerald Valley Lane in the month of March 2022 and Supervisor Huratiak seconded the motion.

Public Comment: None **Vote 2 – 0**

TREASURER’S REPORT: Gail Putvinski

1) Account Balance Review

The account balances as of March 31, 2022, were reviewed.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Robert Smith

1) Regular Meeting of March 9, 2022

Chairman Smith moved to approve the minutes of the regular meeting held on March 9, 2022, and Supervisor Huratiak seconded the motion.

Public Comment: None **Vote 2 – 0**

2) Special Meeting of March 23, 2022

Supervisor Huratiak was absent from the meeting on March 23, 2022. Chairman Smith asked that this be moved to the next meeting.

CORRESPONDENCE:

- 1) **Slate Belt Chamber of Commerce Newsletter, April 2022**
Noted
- 2) **PSATS NewsBulletin, March 2022**
Noted
- 3) **PSATS – 2022 Proposed Bylaws Changes, Nominations Report, and Resolutions**
The document was distributed to each Supervisor for their review and input. Comments should be provided to Chairman Smith who will be attending the PSATS conference.
- 4) **TruGreen Commercial, Notification of Available Services**
Noted
- 5) **John Martocci, Request for Reimbursement for Broken Mailbox from Snow Removal on January 18, 2022**
The Board of Supervisors reviewed the request from John Martocci for reimbursement of \$60.73 for replacement of his mailbox that was damaged during snow plowing.

Chairman Smith moved to approve the reimbursement of \$60.73 to John Martocci for his mailbox that was damaged during snow plowing and Supervisor Huratiak seconded the motion.

Public Comment: None

Vote 2 – 0

- 6) **Northampton County Conservation District, Robert K Ace Jr. Construction and Shawn and Stacy Rice – 205 Green Meadow Lane,**
 - **April 7, 2022 – E&S Plan Review Application Withdrawn**
Domenick DiPaolo shared that the first letter addressed the withdrawal of the E&S application and the second was an earth disturbance complaint.
 - **April 7, 2022 – Complaint regarding earth disturbance activities**
Zoning Officers Serfass notified the new builder that there is to be no work until the earth disturbance issues are addressed.
- 7) **Newman Williams, P.C., Robert K Ace Jr. Construction, LLC – Notice that Robert K Ace Jr. Construction is not the builder for 205 Green Meadow**
Zoning Officer Serfass stated that Robert K Ace Jr. was the first builder for the home at 205 Green Meadow. Permits were issued for the home. However, Ms. Serfass clarified that permits are not issued to the builder, they are issued to the owner. The owners later hired a second builder. The attorney for Robert K Ace sent notice that they were not responsible for any complaints.
- 8) **ET&T, Notification of Services for Voice and Data Network Services**
Available services were noted.
- 9) **US Department of Commerce, US Census Bureau, Data Request**
Noted.
- 10) **Fulton Bank, Notification of Services**
Noted.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

- 1) **Mark Mastrogiovanni, 473 Benns Hill Road – Ongoing water runoff issues**
Mr. Mastrogiovanni did not attend the meeting.

SUBDIVISION:

- 1) **BBA/Bruen/Sandt – Lower S Main St. – Lot Line Adjustment**
Applicant: Marsha Bruen c/o Nicholas Sabatine III
Location: Lower South Main Street
Engineer: Boucher & James, Inc.

Jon Tresslar

Approval Deadline: June 13, 2022

No one was present to represent the subdivision. No action was taken.

RECREATION: Justin Huratiak

1) Recreation Complex Sign Purchase

The sign is in progress. The permit will be submitted.

2) Property Buffer Update

Locations need to be marked and a plan needs to be established for watering prior to the actual planting.

3) Northampton County Livable Landscape Grant Application Authorization and Adoption of Resolution 14-2022

The Recreation Committee recommended applying for a grant to pave the parking lots and driveways. Originally the plan was to include additional funding for the paving of the trails in this application. That was under the assumption that the 2020 estimate used for the LSA grant would now be low. Ott Consulting Inc. was asked to review the measurements prepared by Road Foreman Craig Hester and prepare the cost estimate for the paving of the trails and the access areas. Ott Consulting determined that the portion of the LSA grant for the paving of the trails was sufficient. The Livable Landscape grant was prepared for the paving of the access areas only, estimated at \$185,117. The Livable Landscape grant request amount is \$86,538 and the Township must do a 50% match. The CDBG grant of \$40,000 and the BlueTriton donation of \$5,000 will be used toward the project costs. The Township will be responsible for \$53,579. This is a highly competitive grant. The Township may not receive funding. A copy of the grant application was reviewed which includes a commitment letter from the Township for the matching funds.

Supervisor Huratiak moved to apply for the grant and adopt Resolution 14-2022 requesting a Livable Landscape grant in the amount of \$86,538.00 and Chairman Smith seconded the motion.

Public Comment: None

Vote 2 – 0

Supervisor Huratiak moved to approve the requested services of Ott Consulting Inc. for preparing the cost estimate and map for the Livable Landscape grant and Chairman Smith seconded the motion.

Public Comment: None

Vote 2 – 0

POLICE DEPARTMENT REPORT: Chief James Krome

1) Incident Report

There were 286 documented “calls for service” in March 2022

2) Police Vehicle Mileage

Total mileage for the police vehicles for the month of March 2022 was 4,903.

3) Status of Transition to FirstNet

Work is in progress to transition from the current cell phone carrier to FirstNet for the Police Department and the Road Department

4) Sergeant Training Process

Chief Krome stated that he has three officers performing the role of Sergeant, each doing two one-month periods, as part of the process for selecting a full-time Sergeant.

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 five permits and addressing three complaints.

A complaint was reported at 15 Creek by several residents. There is a high volume of trash. Letters have been sent to the owner who agreed to do the clean-up by the 15th. Gail reported that the owner called on Tuesday to ask about options including a dumpster and using a large stand-alone container. The owner was told that a stand-alone container could not be used because it needs to be lifted by the trash collectors. She can arrange for a dumpster at her cost. Supervisor Huratiak asked for an update on options. Ms. Serfass stated that she can issue a citation. Supervisor Huratiak stated that this is a health and safety issue and suggested the Township consider coordinating a bulk clean-up through our solid waste vendor with the fees to be forwarded to the owner. A request will be sent to J.P. Mascaro asking for the process and cost of a bulk collection.

2) Adopt Resolution 13-2022, Agricultural Security Area Kyle Kerr, Parcel F9-21-3B-0134 Lower South Main Street

Zoning Officer Serfass read resolution 13-2022 regarding an Ag Security parcel for Kyle Kerr.

Chairman Smith made a motion to adopt Resolution 13-2022 amending the Agriculture Security Area of Washington Township with an application for 11.34 acres at tax parcel F9-21-3B-0134, received by the Township on October 8, 2021 from owner Kyle Kerr, where the Township took no action and application is approved by virtue of expiration of the one hundred eighty day period and Supervisor Huratiak seconded the motion.

Public Comment: None

Vote 2 – 0

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

The grant was submitted in the amount of \$927,878.00. The resolution was approved at the last meeting pending final costs by Ott Consulting Inc. who was asked to research some additional work.

Chairman Smith made a motion to ratify Resolution 12-2022 with a grant amount of \$927,878.00 and Supervisor Huratiak seconded the motion.

Public Comment: None

Vote 2 – 0

3) MS4 Stormwater Management Ordinance Update

A meeting has been set by DEP for the first week in May.

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS: Robert Smith

1) American Rescue Plan, Discussion Regarding Use of Funds for Fire Department PPE and Annual Report Requirement

The Washington Township Volunteer Fire Department submitted an estimate for PPE, as requested by the Board. The total is \$94,010.00. Chairman Smith stated he was not able to take action since he is a member of the Fire Department. The Board agreed to hold the April 27th meeting to address this request.

The Township is required to file an annual report of usage. The first report is due the end of April. Currently the only approved expense is the Police Body Camera’s. It will be shown on the report as an obligation since there has been no expense. The Township must determine if this will be paid out upon purchase or over five years. Chief Krome asked about the plan for fund usage and gave an example of PPE items. Supervisor Huratiak stated that the goal is to use the funds for large items instead of numerous small items.

2) Update Regarding Telephone Service for Administration Office and Police Department Complete

The new phone system with Service Electric has been installed in the Administration Office and the Police Department.

3) Workers Compensation and Commercial Property Insurance Policies Renewal May 1, 2022

Information regarding renewal of the Commercial Property Insurance and the Workers Compensation Insurance policies was provided by John Lafferty of Thomas Insurance. Cost information was also provided if the Township decided to move to a higher deductible plan for the vehicles. It was also noted that the current Worker's Compensation plan through AmTrust is the only one that also covers the members of the Volunteer Fire Department. Lastly, it was also noted that the Township is now responsible for coverage of both active Fire Department members and social members. The Board discussed the savings if the Township moved to a higher deductible plan. The Board decided to renew with the current deductible schedule at this time and consider a change later.

Chairman Smith made a motion to renew the Commercial Policy with Selective Insurance at a maximum rate of \$28,538 and Supervisor Huratiak seconded the motion.

Public Comment: None

Vote 2 – 0

Chairman Smith made a motion to renew the Worker's Compensation Policy with AmTrust at a premium of \$46,309.00 and Supervisor Huratiak seconded the motion.

Public Comment: None

Vote 2 – 0

4) Award Crack Seal

The Township received one bid from Asphalt Maintenance Solutions in the amount \$23.35 per gallon.

Chairman Smith made a motion to award the Crack Seal bid to Asphalt Maintenance Solutions for an estimated 1,000 gallons at the cost of \$23.35 per gallon and Supervisor Huratiak seconded the motion.

Public Comment: None

Vote 2 – 0

5) NTCC, Contract Extended with Keystone Collections Service

The TCC agreed to extend the Keystone Collections contract for EIT.

6) Potential Support of Proposed Resolution to PSATS by Plainfield Township to Give Municipalities Legal Authority for Regulations Regarding Application of Biosolids

Plainfield Township initiated a resolution for PSAT support to provide municipalities with control of regulations for biosolids.

Chairman Smith made a motion to support the proposed resolution allowing municipalities to enact ordinances for the application of biosolids and Supervisor Huratiak seconded the motion.

Public Comment: None

Vote 2 – 0

7) Bangor Area High School Intern Opportunities

The school is reinstating the intern program. The Township had a successful experience in 2016. The Supervisors suggested participating again. The next step is to identify possible work activities. The Board agreed to a paid intern over the summer.

8) Audit Status, 2021 DCED Report Filed and Summary Advertised in Express Times and Website

Noted

9) Potential Renewal of Electric Supplier Contract

Washington Township has an electrical supplier contract with Constellation Energy that expires in October 2022. The rate has been below the Met-Ed price to compare.

Constellation provided the Township with current rate information. The Township can consider locking in a rate now or waiting until October. The rate of the current contract is .0519. Prices have increased significantly. The new rate for 48 months, if locked in now, \$.0819. Supervisor Huratiak shared that he anticipated rates to continue to increase and recommended a 48-month contract.

Chairman Smith made a motion to contract for 48-months with Constellation Energy for an electric supplier rate of \$0.0819 and Supervisor Huratiak seconded the motion.

Public Comment: None

Vote 2 – 0

10) Information Regarding CDBG Grant to Support Lead Testing and Upgrades to East Bangor Municipal Water Lines in Locke Heights Area

East Bangor provides water and sewer to several residents. An estimated 93 homes are in Washington Township. East Bangor is pursuing grants to upgrade their water lines with a goal of reducing lead. In addition, Frank Brooks, Northampton County, obtained grant funds to assist in removing lead from homes. The funds will be used to do testing and replace problem elements such as faucets.

ROADMASTER’S REPORT: Robert Smith

1) Street Sweeping Underway

Street sweeping is underway. There was an accident with a sweeper that may cause a delay in completion by the end of the week.

2) Potholes at Intersection of Stiles Road and Rt. 191

The Board of Supervisors stated that PennDOT has scheduled Rt. 191 to be paved this year and that should address the potholes at the intersection of Stiles and Rt. 191. It was noted that the complaint references potholes on Stiles in addition to the intersection. Chairman Smith said the Rt. 191 paving would address the issue.

SOLICITOR’S REPORT: David Ceraul

1) Municipal Boundary Agreement between Bangor and Washington Township

Currently on hold.

ADJOURNMENT:

Chairman Smith made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:34 pm and Supervisor Huratiak seconded the motion.

Public Comment: None

Vote 2 – 0

Respectfully submitted,

Gail Putvinski – Secretary/Treasurer
Washington Township Board of Supervisor