Regular Meeting June 12, 2019

The Regular Meeting of the Washington Township Board of Supervisors was held on June 12, 2019 at 7:00 pm in the Municipal Meeting Room.

CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Smith called the meeting to order at 7:07 pm. Vice Chairman Hess was also in attendance. Supervisor Diehl was absent. Also present: Administrative Clerk – Katie Purdue, Police Chief – Scott Miller, Solicitor – David Ceraul, Township Engineer – Jeffrey Ott and Zoning Officer (Interim) – Tina Serfass. There twenty-eight (28) people in the audience.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Recited.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Chairman Smith noted that an Executive Session was held from 6:00 – 7:00 pm this evening to discuss a legal issue. Attendees included Solicitor Ceraul, Chairman Smith, Vice Chairman Hess and Township Engineer Jeffrey Ott.

ANNOUNCEMENT: Chairman Smith acknowledged the outstanding work of the Washington Township Police Department and several supporting organizations in addressing the issue of explosions in the Township.

APPROVAL OF BILLS:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fund</th>
<th>#</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>General Fund</td>
<td># 16955 - 17024</td>
<td>$108,267.14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Garbage Fund</td>
<td># 1186</td>
<td>$34,388.07</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recreation Fund</td>
<td># 1633 – 1636 &amp; 1640</td>
<td>$527.77</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sinking Fund</td>
<td># 3015</td>
<td>$11,967.91</td>
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Chairman Smith moved to approve the General Fund bills in the amount of $108,267.14 and Vice Chairman Hess seconded the motion.
Public Comment: None
Vote 2 – 0

Chairman Smith moved to approve the Garbage Fund bills in the amount of $34,388.07, the Recreation Fund bills in the amount of $527.77 and the Sinking Fund bills in the amount of $11,967.91 and Vice Chairman Hess seconded the motion.
Public Comment: None
Vote 2 – 0

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

TAX DUPLICATE CHANGES: Interim Additions, Garbage Additions

1) There were four (4) Original and Interim 2019 real estate additions in the amount of $3,309.67 for May 2019 and zero (0) garbage additions.

Chairman Smith moved to approve four (4) original and interim real estate additions in the amount of $3,309.67 for May 2019 and zero (0) garbage additions and Vice Chairman Hess seconded the motion.
Public Comment: None
Vote 2 – 0

TREASURER’S REPORT: Katie Purdue

1) Account Balance Review
Katie Purdue reviewed the account balances as of May 31, 2019.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

1) Regular Meeting of May 8, 2019
Chairman Smith moved to approve the minutes of the regular meeting held on May 8, 2019 and Vice Chairman Hess seconded the motion. Public Comment: None Vote 2 – 0

CORRESPONDENCE:

2) Bangor Public Library, Thank You for Annual Donation Noted.
3) Slate Belt COG Minutes, May 22, 2019 Noted.
5) UGI, Notice of New Financial System Noted.
6) PSATS, Fulfilled Resolution Report and New Resolutions Adopted at 2019 Conference A copy was provided to each of the Supervisors.
7) Northampton County Conservation District (NCCD) – Valley Industrial Properties, LLC, Earth Moving Disturbances Engineer Jeff Ott noted that the document was sent to Valley Industrial Properties for their attention to the open issues.
9) PennDOT Announces Start of Project to Replace Three Bridges on PA 248 Noted.
10) PA DEP, Washington Township NPDES Permit No. PA1132247 Expires 5/31/2020 Jeff Ott stated that PA DEP sent a reminder notice that the MS4 permit is expiring on 5/31/2020 and the Township must submit the renewal by December 31, 2019.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

1) Jim Merklinger, 750 Creek Road, Upper Mt. Bethel Township - Excess/junk vehicles Mr. Merklinger raised concerns regarding the number and condition of vehicles at 910 North Main Street. The vehicles are not used and have antique plates. However, per Mr. Merklinger, the vehicles do not meet the requirements of antiques. He stated that this has been an ongoing issue for many years. It was brought to the attention of the previous Zoning Officers in addition to the current Zoning Officer and it has not been resolved. Mr. Merklinger stated his dissatisfaction with the responsiveness of the Interim Zoning Officer. Chairman Smith acknowledged awareness of the vehicles.

2) Terrance Faul, King Spry Herman Freund and Faul, LLC - BioSpectra Requesting Township Vacate and Transfer Section of Township Property King Spry represents BioSpectra. The property is owned by RX Holdings. There is 120’ of Majestic Way east of Northampton Street that BioSpectra would like the Township to vacate and transfer to BioSpectra for increased safety and security. The plan is to move the gate to the end of the property for increased monitoring of access. If supported, the paperwork and associated costs will be the responsibility of the applicant.

3) Mildred Cali, 1483 Pine Street, Pen Argyl – Water Run Off on Diamond and Pine
Scott Mulitsch, 205 Diamond Street, Pen Argyl
Annamarie Robertone, 1510 Second Street, Pen

The residents raised concerns regarding the high volume of water run-off in West Bangor. Drains were covered in the past and the water problem has increased. The water comes off the mountain and flows into Diamond Street from both sides. It is damaging properties and curbing. Last year PennDOT was on site in the winter to remove ice as a result of the drainage problem. It was noted that the Township applied for a grant a few years ago to fund a correction. However, that grant was not received. The residents asked the Board of Supervisors to plan for a correction. The Board asked Engineer Ott to do another inspection and provide an update at the next meeting.

4) T.H. Knibbs, 50 Timerlane Drive, Concern Regarding Uncut Grass and Road Paving

Interim Zoning Officer Tina Serfass sent a letter to the owner of the uncut property referenced by Mr. Knibbs. The letter stated that the grass needs to be cut within 3 days, but the owner has 30 days to appeal. Follow-up action will be done if the owner does not comply. Also, Mr. Knibbs raised concern that Timberlane Drive has not been paved in more than 16 years. The concern and request for paving was noted.

5) William Strunk/Linda Wasser, 167 Washington Blvd, - Request for Time Extension for Clean-up

Mr. Strunk stated that he and Ms. Wasser appeared in April and requested an extension for clean-up. The Board granted an extension until June 10, 2019. They have continued to have health issues and did not meet the June 10th date. An additional extension was requested. The Board of Supervisors agreed to an extension to June 30th. Joanne Carcione and Kyle Ott offered to help with the clean-up.

6) Charles and Joanne Carcione, 43 O.W. Road -Safety/Police Issues

Joanne Carcione shared that she, and her family, have been the victims of ongoing property damage and the target of explosives. Mrs. Carione stated that she believes the issue is ultimately related to Domestic Violence. She reviewed the history of their experiences. Mrs. Carcione suggested that additional research and training be pursued for the members of the Washington Township Police Department.

7) Kyle Ott, 37 O.W. Road - Safety/Police Issues

Kyle Ott recounted his experience of finding an explosive device in his driveway. Mr. Ott stated his dissatisfaction with the response and action of the Police Chief. He went on to say that the problem went on too long without sufficient attention and corrective action. Mr. Ott asked that the Police Department establish an escalation plan. Mr. Ott also asked the Board of Supervisors to pursue replacement of the Police Chief.

PUBLIC PRESENTATION: Jeffrey Ott

1) MS4

Jeffrey Ott, Ott Consulting Inc. and Township Engineer provided an MS4 presentation. There were no people in the audience who attended specifically for the MS4 presentation. In response to a question, Mr. Ott encouraged all residents to contact the Township if they see any pollutants or water issues. Another resident raised concern regarding excess water at 167 Washington Blvd.

SUBDIVISION:

1) 2530 and 2580 Delabole, Schiavone Minor Subdivision - Lot Line Adjustment

Applicant: Mark & Colleen Schiavone
Location: 2530 & 2558 Delabole
Engineer: Robert Collura Civil Engineers & Land Surveyors – R. Dentith
Approval Deadline: August 21, 2019
Neither the applicant nor their engineer was present. Engineer Ott asked that the topic be moved to the July 10, 2019 Board of Supervisors meeting.

**RECREATION: Justin Huratiak**

1) **Recreation Complex Phase 2 Plans and Status**
   Work has been continuing on the project. However, progress is slower than expected. There is concern that the deliverables in the contract will not be met in a timely fashion. At the recommendation of the Recreation Committee, the Board of Supervisors agreed to hold the payment of April invoices pending additional information and potential credits from URDC.

   **Chairman Smith moved to hold the checks to URDC for April invoices in the amount $19,015.00 pending additional discussion and Vice Chairman Hess seconded the motion.**

   **Public Comment: None**

   **Vote 2 – 0**

   URDC submitted a proposal for additional testing for infiltration for the E&S plan. This is needed to comply with the NCCD requirements. The proposal amount is $4,200.00

   **Chairman Smith moved to authorize URDC to coordinate additional infiltration testing at a cost of $4,200.00 and Vice Chairman Hess seconded the motion.**

   **Public Comment: None**

   **Vote 2 – 0**

2) **Boundary Line Stakeout**
   URDC suggested that the Township pursue a stake out of the Township property along the boundary lines where the trees will be planted. Ott Consulting Inc. provided a proposal for the work at a cost of $1,525.00 and noted this is not a certified boundary survey.

   **Chairman Smith moved to authorize Ott Consulting Inc. to stake out the boundary lines for tree planning at cost of $1,525.00 and Vice Chairman Hess seconded the motion.**

   **Public Comment: None**

   **Vote 2 – 0**

3) **BOG Turtle Assessment Update**
   The bog turtle assessment was completed with a report of “no bog turtles found”. The total cost of the project was $14,945.00. The Board of Supervisors approved $3,000.00 in January and $7,000.00 at the April 10th meeting. The additional $4,945.00 requires approval.

   **Chairman Smith moved to approve the additional $4,945.00 for the bog turtle study with Environmental Consulting, a total project cost of $14,945.00, and Vice Chairman Hess seconded the motion.**

   **Public Comment: None**

   **Vote 2 – 0**

4) **Tree Donation and Planting**
   The planting will be taking place in the near future.

5) **Plan for Maintenance for Pavilion, Picnic Tables, Benches and Bridges**
   The specification for maintenance was updated with a completion date of September 30, 2019 and sent out again for bids. Bids are due June 24th for review by the Recreation Committee on June 25, 2019.

6) **Farm Field Rental Agreement**
   The updated agreement is in progress.

7) **Community Pride Day, Students from Bangor Area Middle School**
   Lee Messinger worked with the students from Bangor Area Middle School. He stated they did an excellent job on Community Pride Day. The students put mulch around the trees, performed weeding, planted flowers and washed police cars. The Board of Supervisors expressed their appreciation for their excellent work.
POLICE CHIEF REPORT:  Chief Miller

1) Incident Report
There were 335 documented “calls for service” in May

2) Police Vehicle Mileage
Total mileage for the police vehicles for the month of May was 5,416

3) Resignation of Part-Time Police Officer
Police Chief Miller read a resignation letter from Part-time Officer Charles McMonagle.
Chairman Smith made a motion to approve the resignation of Part-time Patrol Officer Charles McMonagle, with regret, and Vice Chairman Hess seconded the motion.

Public Comment: None

Vote 2 – 0

4) Bullet Proof Vest Grant
Chief Miller submitted a grant for a bullet proof vest on May 16, 2019. A 50% reimbursement has been approved.

5) Buckle-up/Click It or Ticket Program
The Buckle-up Program was discussed during previous meetings. The enforcement program took place from May 13th through June 2. The wages for this program are paid by a grant. There were 146 traffic citations, 2 written warnings and 2 criminal arrests.

6) Speed Enforcement Line Painting
The Road Department painted the lines for speed enforcement. Chief Miller expressed his appreciation for a job well done.

7) Chief Salary
Chief Miller stated that Mr. Kyle Ott quoted a salary for the Chief of Police during his comments at the beginning of the meeting. The wage Mr. Ott stated is significantly higher than the actual salary.

ZONING REPORT:

1) Activity Report
Interim Zoning Officer Tina Serfass provided a report detailing her activities for May 2019.

ENGINEER’S REPORT:  Jeff Ott

2) Road Correction Update from 2017 Project
Solicitor Ceraul sent a letter to the bonding company on May 16, 2019 stating that the Township planned to pursue pulling of the bond. No response has been received. Engineer Jeff Ott sent a letter to Intercounty Paving, the contractor, and did not receive a response.

3) LSA Grant for Messinger Street Grate Status
The Township received the executed contract today for the LSA grant. The planning for the grate replacement can now begin.

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:  Robert Smith

1) Multi-Municipal Comprehensive Plan Project Update
Chairman Smith noted that he and Gail Putvinski are part of the steering committee for “Plan Slate Belt”. A third member for the committee is needed.

2) Adoption of Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) and Resolution 13-2019
The Township is required to have an updated Emergency Operation Plan every two years. Updates were provided by Emergency Management Coordinator George Abt. The basic content remains the same with most changes in contact information. A resolution adopting the updated plan is required.

Chairman Smith moved to adopt Resolution 13-2019, a resolution of the Board of Supervisors of Washington Township Northampton County, Pennsylvania, approving and adopting an Emergency
Operations Plan on the date hereinafter set forth. Whereas, Section 7503 of the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Services Code, 35 Pa. C.S. Section 7101 et seq. mandates that Washington Township prepare, maintain and keep current an Emergency Operations Plan for the prevention and minimization of injury and damage caused by a major emergency or disaster within Washington Township; and whereas, in response to the mandate stated above, this Township has prepared an Emergency Operations Plan to provide prompt and effective emergency response procedures to be followed in the event of a major emergency or disaster, and whereas, this Township has also prepared an Emergency Operations Plan in order to reduce the potential effects of a major emergency or disaster and to protect the health, safety and welfare of the residents of this Township and Vice Chairman Hess seconded the motion.

Public Comment: None

Vote 2 – 0

3) Award Anti-skid, Stone, Heating Fuel, Propane and Mechanical Maintenance

Stone
Two bids were received for stone, one from Hanson Aggregates PA LLC, total estimate of $59,815.00 and one from ABE Materials/Easton Division of H&K Group, total estimate of $51,310.00. The estimated quantities were determined by the road department. The bids were read at a bid opening meeting on June 11, 2019.

Chairman Smith moved, and Vice Chairman Hess seconded, to award the contract for Stone for the period of July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020 to ABE Materials, the lowest bid, at a delivered total estimated price of $51,310.00

Public Comment: None

Vote 2 – 0

Heating Fuel (Oil)
Requests for bids were sent to four vendors. The following bid quotes were received for Heating Oil.

Suburban Heating Oil - $2.00 per gallon at bid, prices will fluctuate with capped price of $2.40 per gal. Total cost with estimated 2,500 gallons at cap is $6,000.00

Eastern Propane- $2.499 per gallon fixed. Total cost with estimated 2,500 gallons is $6,247.50

Tolino’s - $2.399 per gallon at bid, prices will fluctuate with capped price of $2.799 per gal. Total cost with estimated 2,500 gallons at cap is $6,997.50

Chairman Smith moved, and Vice Chairman Hess seconded, to award the contract for Heating Oil for the period of July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020 to Suburban Propane, the lowest bid, at a delivered, capped price of $2.40 per gallon, for an estimated amount of 2,500 gallons.

Public Comment: None

Vote 2 – 0

Propane
The following bid quotes were received for Propane.

Suburban Propane LP - $1.05 per gallon fixed. The total cost with estimated 5,500 gallons is $5,775.00

Eastern Propane - $1.28 per gallon fixed. The total cost with estimated 5,500 gallons is $7,040.00.

Tolino’s - $0.99 per gallon at bid, prices will fluctuate with capped price of $1.39 per gal. Total cost with estimated 5,500 gallons at cap is $6,997.50

Chairman Smith moved, and Vice Chairman Hess seconded, to award the contract for Propane for the period of July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020 to Suburban Propane, the lowest bid, at a delivered, fixed price of $1.05 per gallon, for an estimated amount of 5,500 gallons.

Public Comment: None

Vote 2 – 0
Mechanical Maintenance
Requests for bids were sent to two vendors. One bid was received; George’s Plumbing & HVAC at a rate of $75.00 per hour, per person with parts extra.

Chairman Smith moved to award the Mechanical Maintenance contract for the period of July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2020, less HVAC at 1021 Washington Blvd., to George’s Plumbing & HVAC at a rate of $75.00 per hour, per person, plus parts and Vice Chairman Hess seconded the motion.

Public Comment: None

Vote 2 – 0

4) Northampton County Festival Update
Chairman Smith announced that Road Foreman Lee Messinger was recognized at the Northampton County Festival as an outstanding municipal employee. He was submitted for the award by the Washington Township Board of Supervisors.

5) Super Heat 2019 HVAC Maintenance Proposal
Super Heat provided a proposal for 2019 HVAC Maintenance at 1021 Washington Blvd. covering a spring and fall servicing in the amount of $1,500.00.

Chairman Smith moved to accept the 2019 HVAC proposal for the 1021 Washington Blvd. office from Super Heat Inc. at the cost of $1,500.00 and Vice Chairman Hess seconded the motion.

Public Comment: None

Vote 2 – 0

6) Resolution 14-2019 for Lease/Purchase of 2019 Ford F550 Dump Truck Through Fulton Leasing Company/Lafayette Ambassador Bank and Authorization for Township Representative to Sign for Truck
Chairman Smith moved to adopt Resolution 14-2019 authorizing the lease/purchase of the 2019 Ford F550 Dump Truck through Fulton Leasing Company/Lafayette Ambassador Bank for five annual payments at a total cost of $87,027.00 and Vice Chairman Hess seconded the motion.

Public Comment: None

Vote 2 – 0

Vice Chairman Hess moved to authorize Chairman Smith to sign for the 2019 Ford F550 Dump Truck and Chairman Smith seconded the motion.

Public Comment: None

Vote 2 – 0

7) 2018 Gaming Grant Completed, Submitted and Approved
The documentation required for the 2018 Gaming Grant was completed and approved. The funds were used to purchase several items, as addressed in previous meetings. A final state report will be required next year.

8) Decision to Offer AFLAC Via Payroll Deduction as Employee Paid Benefit
The AFLAC representative shared that a preliminary employee meeting showed interest by some employees in purchasing the benefit(s). If offered, it will be an employee paid benefit through payroll deductions. The next step is to set up an account and pursue offering to the employees. Chairman Smith raised concern of eligibility for part-time employees who do not have consistent wages. The Township can make a determination on offering eligibility based on a minimum number of hours. The Board of Supervisors agreed to move forward and identified the point of contact as Gail Putvinski.

ROADMASTER’S REPORT: Robert Smith/Lee Messinger

1) OW Road Hydrant and Paving Update
PA American Water denied the hydrants. The Township has requested approval through a waiver. An update on paving is not available. Tighe Lane raised concern regarding the lack of hydrants on OW Road and the importance.
Chairman Smith moved to authorize Solicitor Ceraul to send a letter to PA American Water requesting they move forward with a minimum of one hydrant on OW Road, with a waiver, and Vice Chairman Hess seconded the motion.

Public Comment:  

Vote 2 – 0

2) Sign Near OW Road from PennDOT, Per 2017 Request
The Township asked for support from PennDOT in 2017 for a sign. PennDOT responded with the sign that is currently in place.

3) Update Regarding 2019 Road Project
Lee Messinger stated that the contract for the 2019 Road Project was awarded last meeting to Bracalente Construction Inc. The road department is preparing the roads and the work will be scheduled in the near future.

4) Complaints/Issues
Lee Messinger noted that the Township is receiving a high volume of complaints. One ongoing complaint is a water problem on a property on Rt. 191 in Bangor Borough. Jeff Ott and Lee Messinger inspected the area and Lee believes it is not a Washington Township issue. Lee shared his findings with the Mayor of Bangor. Lee suggested that no additional action be taken on this issue by Washington Township.

5) Sale of Current Small Dump Truck
Lee Messinger suggested the Board plan for the sale of the 2002 Dump Truck. The Board of Supervisors agreed to move forward.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT: David Ceraul

1) Planning for Zoning Ordinance Revisions
Updates are pending.

2) Board Member Participation
An update regarding the quo warranto action and Supervisor Diehl is expected in the near term.

3) BioSpectra
Solicitor Ceraul asked the Board to assess the request made earlier in the meeting by Terry Faul for the vacating of a portion of Majestic Way for safety issues. Road Foreman Lee Messinger raised a concern that moving the gate near Northampton may result in traffic issues when tractor trailers are entering and exiting.

Chairman Smith moved to authorize BioSpectra to move forward with the process of requesting the Township to vacate a segment of Majestic Way and transfer it to BioSpectra and Vice Chairman Hess seconded the motion.

Public Comment:  

Vote 2 – 0

PUBLIC COMMENT:

1) Dick Lane, OW Road – Control of Public Comment
Dick Lane asked for input on how the Township can better handle public comments, especially lengthy and negative comments about hard working employees. Mrs. Keyser reminded the Board that they adopted a public comment Resolution. The Board agreed to enforce the Public Comment Resolution in the future.
ADJOURNMENT:
Chairman Smith moved, and Vice Chairman Hess seconded to adjourn the meeting at 9:07 pm.
Public Comment: None

Respectfully submitted,

Gail Putvinski – Secretary/Treasurer