

WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
MEETING OF:

**AUGUST MEETING CANCELED FOR THE SAFETY OF THE PUBLIC DUE TO
COVID AND ILLNESS**

The regular monthly meeting of the Washington Township Board of Supervisors was canceled for August 2023.

CORRESPONDENCE: The following miscellaneous correspondence was received and presented to the Board of Supervisors for their review; a list was also included in the public packet. Received from:

1. Keith Heinbach- Tax Collector report for July 2023
2. Keith Heinbach – Tax Collector report for August 2023
3. 811 PA One Call System; updated user guide
4. PMRS – Summary of Municipal Reserve Account January 1, 2022 – December 31, 2022
5. Letter of confirmation for material order to Quality Bridge & Fab, Inc. Dated 7/24/2023
6. North End Fire Company Monthly Report for July 2023
7. PMRS – Contact Information Verification
8. Schuylkill Planning & Zoning; Submitted [Zimmerman] Plan is Administratively Complete
9. Schuylkill Planning & Zoning; Zimmerman – Conditional Final Plan Approval
10. Schuylkill Planning & Zoning; Titus Nolt – conditions of Plan Approval Satisfied
11. Certificate of Liability Notice – Construction Masters Services, LLC
12. Certificate of Liability Notice – Palmetto Solar, LLC
13. Williamson Friedberg & Jones LLC – Copy of meeting confirmation sent to Sattizahn
14. Berkheimer – Public Official Bond
15. A&M Auto Parts – Welcome letter and questionnaire
16. Eagle Rental – Credit application
17. Schuylkill County change of assessment notice listing report
18. Vision Government Solutions – Notice of county assessment project + a stack of pamphlets
19. Packet of photos of Sattizahn’s property handed out from Attorney Sensky used in the meeting between Vice-Chairman Gainer and Solicitor Wiest with notes as to what is or isn’t on the property any longer
20. FCCB – Statement
21. Fulton Bank – Statement
22. PLGIT - Statement

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD:

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APPROVAL OF MINUTES: July 2023 minutes were emailed to Chairman Krause, Vice-Chairman Gainer, and Supervisor Brown for review and approval.

TREASURER'S REPORT AND BILLS FOR APPROVAL: The July 13 – August 31, 2023 Treasurer's Report was reviewed by Chairman Krause, Vice-Chairman Gainer, and Supervisor Brown via email. The report detailed with a balance in all accounts, before receipts and bills, was \$1,246,716.96. Included in the email was approval from the board for payment of all bills presented.

RECEIPTS: The report of receipts (July 14 – August 31, 2023) listing \$67,905.99 in EIT receipts and \$13,710.25 in regular General Fund receipts was emailed for review and approval to Chairman Krause, Vice-Chairman Gainer, and Supervisor Brown.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT:

ROADMASTER REPORTS:

COUNTY ZONING:

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT:

OLD BUSINESS: Secretary/Treasurer Reinford inquired if a specific amount of money would be donated to the fire companies and ambulance. The board discussed previous years' amounts and tasked Secretary/Treasurer Reinford to research how much was given to each. Vice-Chairman Gainer moved to donate the same amount of money in 2023 as was donated, in equal proportions, to each fire company & ambulance in 2022, seconded by Supervisor Brown.

Ordinance 1998-2 Junked Cars; Storage of Motor Vehicles came up for discussion relating to the above conversation between Attorney Sensky on behalf of resident Nancy Welty and the Board of Supervisors against property owner Kevin Sattizahn. Supervisor Brown stated that 1 out of every 3 people in the township are in violation of this ordinance and does that mean we will have to inspect every property in this condition? Speaking as a resident, he has property that is not in compliance with the ordinance and, as a resident, he will create an art piece out of his. Brown also stated that if he is appointed to inspect properties, he would require higher compensation due to the risk of coming onto someone else's personal property.

Vice-Chairman Gainer stated that there is no elected official on the township staff that, in his eyes, should be performing these inspections. He will also not vote to appoint anyone who is associated with this township in an official capacity to perform the inspection. Instead, Gainer stated, we should appoint someone such as Light-Heigel or an independent entity to the township to perform inspections.

Supervisor Brown inquired if we send an inspector to this specific property, will they then go to all the properties that are visually not in compliance with this ordinance? Chairman Krause responded that inspections would just be done on properties that have complaints on file. Solicitor Wiest was asked his input and stated he thinks Vice-Chairman Gainer is correct; we have the authority to appoint someone, but that there is great wisdom in none of the board

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members going out and instead obtaining the services of a company such as Light-Heigel. In having someone neutral go out, the property owner can be allowed to modify his practices, and his property, and obtain permits for certain activities. Wiest stated that the township can opt to repeal the ordinance in the future, but if it is on the books, the township needs to follow it or else a resident can compel the township to enact the ordinance through further action.

Vice-Chairman Gainer agreed with Chairman Krause that we don't need to enact the ordinance on everyone who may fall under this ordinance and only enact it on the properties that received a filed complaint with the township. Gainer agrees the board needs to take time and appoint a qualified individual to inspect what is on the property, in any drums on the property, and what activities are taking place. The goal is to benefit both parties to come to a resolution.

Resident Eric Wolfe asked; from a legal standpoint, what would resident Welty's recourse be if the ordinance was repealed? Solicitor Wiest responded that she, Welty, wouldn't have the ability to compel and force the township to enforce it. Vice-Chairman Gainer added that Attorney Sensky told us if repealed, it would then be taken to the county. Solicitor Wiest expanded that once at the county level, it would go to county zoning where it would be stated the individual is conducting something in violation of zoning ordinances, it would go to the PA Department of Environmental Protection where concern for alleged vermin, toxicity, or flammable substances are present. Vice-Chairman Gainer added that the DEP will then serve a warrant and take soil samples. He stated that by repealing the ordinance and going through the county and DEP, the township would not be benefiting this property owner in aiding him in the ability to solve this. Due to this, Gainer's concern is what happens to the property owner if we don't help mitigate the problem.

Vice-Chairman Gainer stated the township should bring the property owner in, show him the pictures presented by Attorney Sensky, and hear his side of the story. Doing this gives us an idea of what is going on, what is in the drums, and what activities are happening, and gives the township the ability to say and show we are pursuing this complaint. With Solicitor Wiest's help, we can ask that he bring his property up to compliance with the Ordinance.

Chairman Krause stated that if all are in agreement, we need to schedule a meeting between a board member, Solicitor Wiest, and the property owner.

Vice-Chairman Gainer volunteered as the board member and discussed with Solicitor Wiest about gathering the property owner's details, informing him of what was happening, and using this as an opportunity to sit down as a group of three with the property owner's input, the current Ordinance, and the possibility of needing a 3rd party to take a walk around the property.

Vice-Chairman Gainer and Solicitor Wiest agreed to meet on July 24, 2023, at the township building. This meeting then was rescheduled to July 31, 2023, at the township building between Vice-Chairman Gainer, Solicitor Wiest, and property owner Kevin Sattizahn.

Chairman Krause stated no issues with the July 2023 per capita exemptions. Vice-Chairman Gainer moved to accept all tax exemptions submitted by Keith Heinbach, seconded by Chairman Krause. This motion unanimously carried.

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Chairman Kause updated that he heard back from Scott with Spotts Bros right after the last meeting and they would like to set up a meeting with his contractor the last week of July or the first week of August to assess the three windows in the township building.

NEW BUSINESS:

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business to come before the Board of Supervisors of Washington Township, upon motion of Chairman Krause, seconded by Supervisor Brown the meeting adjourned at _____ p.m. This motion unanimously carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Holly Reinford
Secretary/Treasurer
Washington Township