

WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
MEETING OF:
September 18, 2023

The regular monthly meeting of the Washington Township Board of Supervisors was held Monday, September 18, 2023

Those in attendance were Chairman John J. Krause, Vice-Chairman, Wendell S. Gainer, Jr., Supervisor/Roadmaster Lynn Brown, Secretary/Treasurer Holly Reinford, and Solicitor Rick Wiest. Also in attendance were Keith Englehart, Vince Meyers, Bob Free, Becky Hoppes, Darwin Hoppes, Eric Wolfe, Nick Miller, Nancy Welty, and Kacy Manges.

Chairman Krause opened the meeting with the pledge of allegiance. Chairman Krause reminded the residents of the notices, regarding meeting conduct and public comment procedures.

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. January 2020 – December 2022 compliance audit report of North End Volunteer Fireman's Relief Association
2. State aid allocation funding for VFRA
3. Act 205 Plan Declaration due October 15th for Municipal Pension Reporting Program
4. DEP approval letter – exception for Zimmerman Irrevocable Land Trust Subdivision
5. Bridge Investment Program – transforming bridge infrastructure grant
6. Office building window communication between contractors and Chairman Krause via email
7. LTAP training in Mahanoy City – 11/2/2023 8am – 12pm
8. 2024 Minimum Municipal Obligation Worksheet due October 4th
9. PA Dept of Revenue overpayment statement
10. MRM Trust contact information sheet
11. COSTARS Road Salt Contract & Purchasing Information
12. Garcia, Garman & Shea, PC – audit pricing (discussing later in agenda)
13. Williamson Friedberg & Jones 2024 retainer fees
14. Certificate of Liability Insurance – Dave Miller & Sons, Inc
15. E.M. Kutz – Forms for pre-ordering cutting edges & tire chains
16. 102nd Annual Schuylkill County Township Officials Convention – October 18, 2023
17. Statewide Recovery close and return report
18. 2024 Estimated Liquid Fuels allocation
19. Eagle Rental approval as an account customer
20. Miller Buildings, Inc drawings for Fisher Welding
21. Supplier rates for PPL

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- 22. FCCB – Statement
- 23. Fulton Bank – Statement
- 24. PLGIT - Statement

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD: Chairman Krause made a public apology to anyone who showed up to the August meeting and found that it was canceled.

Resident Nancy Welty expressed concern that the agenda was not posted online and is concerned about the functionality of the website and the ability to find information. Secretary/Treasurer Reinford stated she apologizes for the agenda being messed up, but the website is on her radar to fix broken links and catch up on the missing minutes. Resident Welty asked that the board prove that we are here for the best interest of the residents. Vice-Chairman Gainer explained what the board does for the township and that Washington Township provides more transparency than some townships do regarding budget performance. The Board agreed that at some point, when able, the minutes will be updated online. Solicitor Wiest stated minutes are not approved until the next meeting and then can be posted on the website or anyone can come into the office and ask for them. Vice-Chairman Gainer explained that Welty can fill out a Right to Know Request or stop in and ask Secretary/Treasurer Reinford for them.

Resident Becky Hoppes asked about the upset sale properties; and which ones sold. Solicitor Wiest explained the tax claim bureau would be able to answer her questions based on parcel number.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Upon motion of Chairman Krause, seconded by Supervisor Brown, approving the minutes for August 2023, regular monthly meeting without correction. This motion unanimously carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT AND BILLS FOR APPROVAL: Upon motion of Chairman Krause, seconded by Supervisor Brown, the September 1-15, 2023, Treasurer's Report was approved with a balance in all accounts, before receipts and bills, was \$1,232,331.84. Included in this motion was the approval of payment of all bills presented. This motion unanimously carried.

RECEIPTS: The report of receipts (September 1st – 15th) listing \$0.00 in EIT receipts and \$8,901.63 in regular General Fund receipts was approved as printed upon motion of Chairman Krause, seconded by Supervisor Brown. This motion unanimously carried.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT:

ROADMASTER REPORTS: Roadmaster Brown stated Blue Mountain Rd bridge has been removed, the deck is being galvanized, and we will be receiving the beams this week. End walls were put in on Turkey Farm Rd. Chairman Krause questioned if the bridge project was on schedule or ahead of schedule. Roadmaster Brown let us know that it is ahead of schedule and \$50 to \$70,000 under budget. Resident Welty inquired as to what decisions were made that provided these savings. Roadmaster Brown stated reusing the decking and getting it galvanized since structurally they were in good shape.

COUNTY ZONING: Secretary/Treasurer Reinford said we had two driveway permits come in, a few building permits, and some SEO information.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT: EMS Nick Miller said he had nothing new this month but wanted to give praise for being able to work so well hand in hand with Washington Township.

OLD BUSINESS: The August meeting was canceled; no old business to report.

NEW BUSINESS: Chairman Krause briefly explained the office building window leaks and stated the projected start date, weather permitting, will be October 16, 2023, with the original contractor; Spotts Brothers.

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

Secretary/Treasurer Reinford stated Garcia, Garman, & Shea will not exceed \$1,600 in charge to audit January 2023 – May 20, 2023. Vice-Chairman Gainer moved to proceed with agreement between Washington Township and Garcia, Garman, & Shea to audit, seconded by Chairman Krause. This motion unanimously carried.

Vice-Chairman Gainer stated that after resident Welty raised the issue with the neighboring property, but did not speak with the neighbor personally, the best path forward was to bring resident Sattizahn in and express the complaint or concern that Welty had. Vice-Chairman Gainer and Solicitor Wiest brought Sattizahn in and reviewed the ordinance with him. Sattizahn felt it was mostly in compliance already but asked for time to bring it fully into compliance. Chairman Krause stated we received updated photos of the property as well. Vice-Chairman Gainer moved to engage Light & Heigel Associates as a third-party, non-biased, engineering firm to perform an ordinance review that concludes if the property is or isn't in compliance for these specific reasons listed. Seconded by Chairman Krause. This motion unanimously carried.

Residents Becky and Darwin Hoppes asked how many junk cars are legally allowed on a property and if there is an ordinance. They explained that the Gholson property has sat with vehicles on it, and they have been fighting for years to get it cleaned up. Hoppes explained that Mr. Gholson passed away several months ago and since both properties border theirs, they were hoping Gholson's would be cleaned up. They also explained a man moved in next door and expanded junk cars onto his property as well and they are here today to inquire what can be done. Solicitor Wiest asked if they spoke with the neighbor. The Hoppes have spoken with their neighbor and let him know they weren't happy; they want to do this civilly as the man seems nice and wondered if the township could send a letter with the ordinance to him and the Gholson property. Vice-Chairman Gainer stated that since both parties are being civil and seem to have communication, he would recommend that those parties be sent a copy of the ordinance with a letter asking that it be read, understood, and if they have any questions to give us a call. Gainer further explained the next few steps in the process would be to allow them time to bring their property into compliance with the ordinance as they read it. If they don't, we would ask that they sit down with one of us and Solicitor Wiest and find out where they are coming from. Based on that outcome, provide them clarity and reasonable time to clean up. After such time, a third-party

evaluation would take place, and based on what the third-party evaluation states, discuss with Solicitor Wiest our next steps.

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 7:42 p.m. This motion unanimously carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Holly Reinford
Secretary/Treasurer
Washington Township