

WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
MEETING OF:
November 13, 2023

The regular monthly meeting of the Washington Township Board of Supervisors was held Monday, November 13, 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 Bob Free, Eric Dougherty, Eric Wolfe, and Nancy Welty.

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. Keith Heinbach 10/1 – 10/31 Tax Remittance Report
2. Marty Sowers formal inspection report
3. Light-Heigel 2024 rates
4. Optimus Risk Services audit for annual Workers Compensation Premium on behalf of MRM Trust
5. JB Environmental 2024 rates
6. Notice of resident Chapter 13 Bankruptcy Case
7. Schuylkill County Change of Assessment Notice Listing Report
8. Notice of Withdrawn Plan Confirmation: Zimmerman Irrevocable Grantor Trust Final Plan
9. Winter Maintenance Services Agreement – signed
10. Garcia, Garman, & Shea, PC – signed copy
11. ACT 14 Notification Letter; NPDES permit for Collette Pullet
12. Washington Township Municipal Building Existing Window Removal/Reinstallation Inspection Report
13. PPL change of rates; 11.386
14. PAMA board approved 2024 budget; dues will remain the same \$150.00
15. Garcia, Garman, & Shea, PC – Internal Control Memo to be updated before 12/31/2023
16. SLRF – information on reporting for April 2024 with new SLRF (ARPA) guidelines
17. Municipal Land Use letter
18. Right To Know Nancy Welty – requesting the Township certificate of liability insurance
19. Right To Know Nancy Welty – request of formal report for Grist Mill property for Junk Car Ordinance

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- 20. FCCB – Statement
- 21. Fulton Bank – Statement
- 22. PLGIT - Statement

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD:

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Upon motion of Chairman Krause, seconded by Supervisor Brown, approving the minutes for October 16, 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 October 12 – November 10, 2023, Treasurer’s Report was approved with a balance in all accounts, before receipts and bills, was \$1,225,880.60. Included in this motion was the approval of payment of all bills presented. This motion unanimously carried.

RECEIPTS: The report of receipts (October 12th – November 10th) listing \$16,684.32 in EIT receipts and \$4,017.39 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: Solicitor Wiest stated Washington Township, Wiest and Vice-Chairman Gainer specifically, offered a meeting to resident Eric Dougherty on November 8, 2023, at 6:00 PM which Mr. Dougherty did not attend. Wiest sent a follow-up letter on November 9th and inquired if Mr. Dougherty received the letter. Mr. Dougherty was in attendance and stated he had not received it yet.

ROADMASTER REPORTS: Roadmaster Brown stated he and Secretary/Treasurer Reinford sent a GP-11 application to the DEP for the Loop Rd bridge. Reinford had called the DEP and inquired if an engineer was needed; no engineer is needed as the bridge will be the same specs as before. Roadmaster Brown stated it may take up to 6 months to receive the permit back, which is okay because the project will not be until next year. Project costs are estimated at \$25,000 and as soon as we receive the approved permit he can order material. Chairman Krause questioned the lead time for materials. Roadmaster Brown figures 4 to 5 weeks based on the Blue Mountain Rd bridge, but the beams can sit at the Township until needed. The decking will be re-used and re-galvanized.

Roadmaster Brown will be meeting with the local surrounding Townships on 11/15/2023 to discuss what road projects they want to do (tar and chip, nova chip, etc). They will be bidding on these projects together in order to save money.

Roadmaster Brown stated he and his crew will be getting the trucks and salt ready for snow. They will be undercoating the trucks and have a few winter fixer uppers as well.

COUNTY ZONING: Nothing remarkable per Secretary/Treasurer Reinford.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT: EMS Nick Miller was not in attendance but did let Chairman Krause know he has nothing to report on and will have run cards caught up for the December 18, 2023 meeting.

OLD BUSINESS: Chairman Krause stated the update to the office building windows is that Spotts Brothers is supposed to have an exact state date and that he, Krause, will be sending an email on the morning of 10/19/2023 to get an exact date. Krause would also like Dawn Van Fossen to be present during the work.

Secretary/Treasurer Reinford stated the audit for January – May 20, 2023, will be this coming Monday, October 23, 2023, here at the municipal building.

Chairman Krause stated no issues with the September 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 that she and Vice-Chairman Gainer received a report from Marty Sowers with Light-Heigel & Associates; Gainer will be sharing the findings. Vice-Chairman Gainer stated that an independent engineering firm conducted an inspection of the Sattizahn property per the 1998-2 ordinance. Mr. Sowers noted numerous observations and was accompanied by the property owner, Kevin Sattizahn. All vehicles were either started and moved or properly licensed and inspected. The only question was about the truck frame still located on the property. Vice-Chairman Gainer stated that in his personal opinion, it is not an abandoned vehicle. Based on Mr. Sowers's inspection report, we find this property in compliance. Chairman Krause concurred. Resident Welty asked about the green Subaru without a license plate. Vice-Chairman Gainer stated the report found that the green Subaru wagon adjacent to the detached garage with an expired sticker was demonstrated to run and drive under its own power which makes it compliant with the ordinance. Vice-Chairman Gainer found that the property complies with ordinance 1998-2 at this point and the Township finds this matter closed as Township Business. Supervisor Brown seconded this statement.

Chairman Krause inquired if Becky and Darwin Hoppes have been in contact with the owner of 1144 Deturksville Rd. Mrs. Hoppes stated yes, that they had talked and after last month's meeting she forwarded contact information to Secretary/Treasurer Reinford. Secretary/Treasurer Reinford stated she sent out two letters giving 30 days to bring their properties into compliance with ordinance 1998-2. 1144 Deturksville was received by the owner coming into the Township building to talk about it; he was asked to read the ordinance and bring the property into compliance. 1140 Deturksville was not able to be verified if they received the letter or not but it was sent to the contact and address given by Mrs. Hoppes. Mrs. Hoppes asked when the 30 days expire. Secretary/Treasurer Reinford stated a few days after this meeting.

Resident Gregory Morgan brought up a concern about a property owner on Eagle Springs Lane; his concern is that per our Township ordinance (2009-1) the property is allowed two driveways. Per rumors, the property owner is looking to gain access via a fourth driveway onto Lighthouse Lane. The property owner has access to Eagle Springs Lane, Roedersville Game driveway, and a driveway they got a permit for in 2019. Mr. Morgan did state that Eagle Springs Lane is currently tied up in a legal matter and gated on two ends. Resident Bill George is concerned that Lighthouse Lane is a private lane, and a neighbor is allowing access through their property onto

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Lighthouse Lane for the property on Eagle Springs. Mr. Morgan also stated that the Eagle Springs property still has cabins that are being rented out without proper septic. Supervisor Brown stated that the right of way information and access from the property in question onto Lighthouse Lane is a neighbor matter and not a Township matter as Lighthouse Lane is not a Township Road. Secretary/Treasurer Reinford stated that Light-Heigel & Associates issued a driveway permit in 2019 to the property owner to come out onto Mountain Road. Vice-Chairman Gainer did let Mr. Morgan know that if we find the 2019 driveway permit was not done correctly, we will make sure it is corrected.

NEW BUSINESS: Chairman Krause stated no issues with the October 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.

Chairman Krause gave an office window update; the Township received a full report back from the design professional. Out of the multiple times they were out here, some things were changed throughout construction. Krause inquired with Roadmaster Brown and Secretary/Treasurer Reinford if the windows were still leaking. Brown and Reinford agreed not at this time, but that we haven't had enough rain yet. Chairman Krause stated there was a little bit of overage in cost due to the changes that were made but the taxpayers didn't incur any costs for the windows, materials, or from the contractor. Vice-Chairman Gainer moved to approve the overage of \$1,1374.00 and pay the bill per the suggested invoice, seconded by Chairman Krause. This motion unanimously carried.

Resident Eric Dougherty was in attendance to elaborate on the condition of 1144 Deturksville Rd. Mr. Dougherty stated he is still working on getting the property within compliance. Chairman Krause reminded Mr. Dougherty that there is a time limit on this. Mr. Dougherty stated he got a full-time job and is trying to get it done. Vice-Chairman Gainer asked if there were more cars on the property. Mr. Dougherty stated there are fewer. Vice-Chairman Gainer let Mr. Dougherty know that daily fines can be set at \$50 per day. Solicitor Wiest gave a copy of the letter sent on November 9, 2023, to Mr. Dougherty. Chairman Krause granted a 30-day extension to Mr. Dougherty to have his property cleaned up and within compliance with the ordinance by the December 18, 2023, meeting. After such time, a 3rd party inspector will be sent out. Vice-Chairman Gainer asked if he has any questions on the ordinance that aren't clear to please contact us so we can assist in any way to clarify.

Chairman Krause inquired about the status of compliance with the Junk Car Ordinance and 1140 Deturksville Rd. Secretary/Treasurer Reinford stated she sent a letter via regular post to the property without response, she then sent a certified letter to be delivered on 11/4/2023, both letters were sent to the address on the CAM card from the parcel locator. Upon checking the signature status, the letter was not signed at this time. Reinford has not heard from anyone about the property but had driven past last week and noticed someone was there burning items. Vice-Chairman Gainer called for a short executive session to discuss legal matters regarding the property. The Board went into an executive session at 7:26 PM and Chairman Krause called the regular meeting back to order at 7:42 PM with no decisions made. Vice-Chairman Gainer moved to post the Gholson property as out of compliance with the ordinance and to be inspected by a 3rd party engineering firm 30 days from the date of posting to determine the specific conditions, seconded by Supervisor Brown. This motion unanimously carried.

Supervisor/Roadmaster Brown stated resident Greg Morgon expressed concern to him as to why Washington Township still has a “road closed ¼ mile ahead” sign up on Sawmill Rd. Brown stated that Pine Grove Township owns the gate that is up but even though it is unlocked it is a free-swinging gate that we cannot guarantee will be open if someone drives on Sawmill Rd from the Washington Township side. Brown expressed concern that if we removed the sign and someone were to drive down the road and run into the gate, they could potentially come after us. At this time Supervisor/Roadmaster Brown and Chairman Krause agreed that Washington Township will keep the sign up as a warning that the road has a gate with an unknown opened or closed status at any given time.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business to come before the Board of Supervisors of Washington Township, upon motion of Supervisor Brown, seconded by Chairman Krause the meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m. This motion unanimously carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Holly Reinford
Secretary/Treasurer
Washington Township