

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

The regular monthly meeting of the Washington Township Board of Supervisors was held Monday, December 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 Bob Free, Eric Dougherty, Eric Wolfe, Nancy Welty, Danielle Volkert, Nick Miller, Vikki Barr, and Ramon Gholson.

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 11/1 – 11/30 Tax Remittance Report
2. PSATS Act 3 of 2023: Compliance date for Child-Care Home Fire Safety
3. Leffler Model Certificate P: exempt from Federal Excise Tax
4. Certificate of Liability Insurance: Tesla Energy Operations, Inc
5. Schuylkill County Assessment Bureau: certification of assessed values for 2024
6. Travelers Renewal Certificate for Holly Reinford bond
7. Bankruptcy; notice of resident
8. Comcast prices effective December 20, 2023, for Xfinity
9. Schuylkill County Tax Claim Bureau; notice of Judicial Sale (none in Washington Township)
10. Planning and Zoning: Schuylkill County Hazard Mitigation Plan; invitation to participate
11. Global Chemicals, Inc
12. CORE Emergency Responder Training Programs
13. Benesch: information for 2024 professional consulting services
14. Schuylkill County Voter Registration/Election Bureau; Supervisor/Auditor results. Certificate of Election for Eric Wolfe
15. Rosetree Consulting: Act 14 Notification Letter of intent to submit NPDES for Concentrated Animal Feeding Operation (Dale Stoltzfus)
16. Statewide Tax Recovery; partnering with Berkheimer Tax Innovations
17. IRS: 2024 deposit requirements for Form 941. Quarterly to Semi-weekly
18. Emergency Management Agency of Schuylkill: Schuylkill County Incident Management Team
19. Garcia, Garman, & Shea draft of mini audit

December 18, 2023

20. Tax Parcel 33-12-0095.000 & 33-12-0094.000 transfer of deed notification
21. 2024 AG-385 form availability notification
22. FCCB – Statement
23. Fulton Bank – Statement
24. PLGIT - Statement

**PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD:** Resident Nancy Welty questioned why the township has two different website addresses. Secretary/Treasurer Reinford explained that the old website is to automatically redirect to the new and current website; [www.washingtontownship.info](http://www.washingtontownship.info). This was done, by a previous decision, to switch web hosting companies.

Resident Welty stated she wanted to file a complaint against Ordinance 1998-2 for 101 Natures Rd: property of Supervisor Brown. Mrs. Welty provided four months of photos taken by her of Supervisor Brown's property. She directed her questions to Vice-Chairman Gainer and inquired if the Supervisors were to uphold the ordinances put forth by the township. Gainer directed Mrs. Welty to the Second-Class Township Code as it governs how a township this size is run and defines the positions and responsibilities. He further stated that there is governance that says if we have an ordinance on the books, we must enforce it. Mrs. Welty requested that the Supervisors create a motion to add an addendum or create a document that talks about new incoming and current Supervisors; and that they all be in good standing and compliance with ordinances during their tenure. Vice-Chairman Gainer asked if any board member wanted to make a motion and enforce this; Chairman Krause and Supervisor Brown stated no. Mrs. Welty stated she spoke with her local congressman and was advised the best thing to do was to run for township supervisor. She further made a point to exclude Vice-Chairman Gainer and Chairman Krause from her complaint of resistance to follow the ordinance despite all ordinance decisions being a three-member decision.

Resident Welty stated she filed a claim against Washington Township's professional liability policy for the fees she incurred by retaining an attorney but noticed that none of that information is included in any of the township agendas. Vice-Chairman Gainer stated that it is considered a legal matter dealt with through Executive Session and that Mrs. Welty had her five minutes allotted and it is time to move on to the rest of the meeting.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Upon motion of Chairman Krause, seconded by Supervisor Brown, approving the minutes for November 13, 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 November 11<sup>th</sup> – December 15, 2023, Treasurer's Report was approved with a balance in all accounts, before receipts and bills, was \$1,275,705.52. Included in this motion was the approval of payment of all bills presented. This motion unanimously carried.

**RECEIPTS:** The report of receipts (November 11<sup>th</sup> – December 15, 2023) listing \$54,963.28 in EIT receipts and \$31,707.18 in regular General Fund receipts was approved as printed upon motion of Chairman Krause, seconded by Supervisor Brown. This motion unanimously carried.

December 18, 2023

**SOLICITOR'S REPORT:** Solicitor Wiest stated nothing independent to report on.

**ROADMASTER REPORTS:** Roadmaster Brown stated his crew is doing maintenance on the vehicles and organizing the shop. Sadsbury Township accepted our offer of \$150,000 on their 2019 Freightliner M-2 and Brown and his crew will be picking it up on 12/19.

**COUNTY ZONING:** Nothing remarkable per Secretary/Treasurer Reinford.

**EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT:** EMC Nick Miller gave kudos to the road crew for an awesome job done and is happy with the relationship between the road crew and EMA. Miller stated paramedic, Ricky Ney, will be setting up training for the road crew and secretary in January for AED and CPR at the township. Miller brought up that Carl Stump is still on the county run box for box alarms and will need a letter to supersede so that he can do the boxes. Vice-Chairman Gainer asked Miller to draft a letter and send it to Chairman Krause for review, after review, Krause will have Secretary/Treasurer Reinford put it on letterhead and send it.

**OLD 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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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

December 18, 2023

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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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.

**December 8, 2023, Emergency Meeting:** Chairman Krause, Vice-Chairman Gainer, Supervisor Brown, and Secretary/Treasurer Reinford held an emergency meeting at 12:31 pm at the Township Building in which Vice-Chairman Gainer moved to approve the advertising of the 2024 proposed budget, seconded by Supervisor Brown. This motion unanimously carried. The meeting adjourned at 12:33 pm.

**NEW BUSINESS:** Chairman Krause stated no issues with the December 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.

Secretary/Treasurer Reinford inquired about moving \$75,668.05 from ARPA to the General Fund to cover the cost of Blue Mountain Bridge (\$74,905.09) and COVID pay (\$762.96). Vice-Chairman Gainer made a motion to move both amounts from ARPA funds to the General Fund to cover specifically what was stated, seconded by Chairman Krause. This motion unanimously carried.

Resident Eric Dougherty stated he removed approximately 10+ vehicles from his property and inquired with the board if he could cover the remaining vehicles. Vice-Chairman Gainer stated covering the vehicles does not constitute cleaning the property up and cannot find anything in the ordinance to justify that. Gainer recommends to the board that Light-Heigel & Associates do an inspection of the property, for which Mr. Dougherty should be present, and provide a report of findings of what is and isn't in compliance with Ordinance 1998-2. Gainer further explained that once the report is received and all parties understand the property status, that Mr. Dougherty provide Washington Township with a proposal of when everything will be cleaned up in hopes of coming to an agreement among all parties.

Previous residents Vikki Barr and Ramon Gholson stated that the property at 1140 Deturksville Rd. is being cleaned up to sell but they had been working at other properties that were costing them immediate financial obligations. They did not receive the previous attempts at contact due to information not being passed along. Vice-Chairman Gainer stated that his recommendation is

to check the progress after 30 days and keep moving towards and making significant progress. Resident Becky Hoppes stated she is fine with this rate of progress and feels they are doing a great job. Mr. Gholson added that he and Mr. Dougherty are working on helping each other clean up.

Secretary/Treasurer Reinford stated that the nursery barn at 31 Dad Burnhams Rd. is under roof and, as of this date, no NPDES has been issued. She stated she did speak with the resident and let him know he needs his NPDES to continue with his operation or else he could risk fines. The Board of Supervisors recommended that Reinford reach out to the DEP and the Conversation District as we are not in the position to enforce but just gather information (per Solicitor Wiest).

Chairman Krause brought the board into Executive Session at 7:53 pm to discuss legal matters. Chairman Krause brought the board out of Executive Session at 8:04 pm and there were no decisions made.

**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 8:05 p.m. This motion unanimously carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Holly Reinford  
Secretary/Treasurer  
Washington Township