

WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
MEETING OF:
January 15, 2024

The regular monthly meeting of the Washington Township Board of Supervisors was held Monday, January 15, 2024.

Those in attendance were Chairman John J. Krause, Vice-Chairman Eric Wolfe, Supervisor/Roadmaster Lynn Brown, Secretary/Treasurer Holly Reinford, and Solicitor Rick Wiest. Also in attendance were Bob Free, Darwin Hoppes, Becky Hoppes, Ken Snyder, Nick Miller, Nancy Welty, & Jessica Holly.

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 12/1 – 12/31 Tax Remittance Report
2. Belmont Solar LLC Certificate of Insurance
3. MRM Trust – Loss Activity Report
4. Resident bankruptcy notice
5. Stoneybrook Home Sales of Hamburg LLC Certificate of Liability Insurance
6. A&M Auto Parts PA Tax Exemption
7. Thank you letter from Pine Grove HH&L for the donation
8. Annual Recycling Report
9. IRS notice of 2024 deposit requirements
10. Pine Grove Volunteer Firefighters Relief Association Compliance Audit
11. Garcia, Garman, and Shea, PC agreed upon procedures
12. Bureau of Occupational & Industrial Safety – five-year audit performed 1/4/2022 report
13. Washington Township GASB 68 Report from PMRS ending December 31, 2022
14. Mackin rating analysis for the bridge weight limit on Browns Rd
15. 2024 official tax levy worksheet
16. FCCB – Statement
17. Fulton Bank – Statement
18. PLGIT - Statement

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD: A resident stated he lives along 443 and Frantz Rd and the berm keeps washing out. He stated he has tried building it up, but it isn't working. Roadmaster Brown stated the state has a water drainage problem and recommends reaching out to them. Brown stated that he and his crew would check drains on the Washington Township side.

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Resident Jessica Holly inquired about the minutes on the website for October and November. Secretary/Treasurer Reinford stated she would get the minutes on there. Mrs. Holly also inquired about the amount of income in taxes and that she felt the number was too high. Secretary/Treasurer Reinford stated she could not fully answer without looking at the numbers and will provide an update for Mrs. Holly as soon as possible.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Upon motion of Chairman Krause, seconded by Vice-Chairman Wolfe, approving the minutes for December 18, 2023, regular monthly meeting without correction. This motion unanimously carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT AND BILLS FOR APPROVAL: Upon motion of Chairman Krause, seconded by Vice-Chairman Wolfe, the December 16, 2023 – January 11, 2024, Treasurer's Report was approved with a balance in all accounts, before receipts and bills, was \$1,129,615.86. Included in this motion was the approval of payment of all bills presented. This motion unanimously carried.

RECEIPTS: The report of receipts (December 16, 2023 – January 11, 2024) listing \$37,432.46 in EIT receipts and \$89,980.92 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 nothing independent to report on.

ROADMASTER REPORTS: Roadmaster Brown moved that we advertise the 1997 Ford Super Duty and the 2000 Mac for sale, seconded by Chairman Krause. This motion unanimously carried.

COUNTY ZONING: Nothing remarkable per Secretary/Treasurer Reinford.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT: EMC Nick Miller stated a hectic weekend with rainstorms and wires down. Mr. Miller inquired about being given a \$5,000 budget for training, AED, CPR, etc. as well as signs to leave on Township property for their use. Chairman Krause advised it will be on the February agenda. Miller stated North End had 82 emergency responses to Washington Township.

OLD 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 no decisions were made.

OLD/NEW BUSINESS: Old Business Follow-Up for 1144 Deturksville Rd – Junk Car Ordinance: Secretary/Treasurer Reinford stated Light-Heigel has been attempting to set up a time and date for inspection, but Mr. Dougherty is unable to accommodate a 3 pm or earlier time frame. Light-Heigel will continue trying to set up a time and date.

Old Business Follow-Up for 1140 Deturksville Rd – Junk Car Ordinance: Residents Becky Hoppes and Darwin Hoppes said the Gholsons are making progress, and it looks a lot better.

Old Business Follow-Up for 31 Dad Burnhams Rd – Nursery Barn: Chairman Krause stated we have a report of all correspondence between the Township, Light-Heigel, DEP, and the Conservation District. Conservation will be making some additional site visits and addressing with the DEP.

Old Business Follow-Up for 101 Natures Rd – Junk Car Ordinance: Chairman Krause stated there was an inspection done and a report issued that he has not had a chance to review yet. Chairman Krause stated he would like to appoint Solicitor Wiest to come up with a protocol and procedure for the Junk Car Ordinance 1998-2. Solicitor Wiest stated he can put together a protocol or series of steps from beginning to end and the Township can enforce it as liberally as they choose. Chairman Krause motioned to appoint Solicitor Wiest to take care of preparing protocol steps, seconded by Vice-Chairman Wolfe. This motion unanimously carried.

Resident Nancy Welty questioned why, when she brought up 101 Natures Rd last month, did we not elect to do anything about it. She stated she left confused and with a misunderstanding of

what was taking place, that by the time she left, she felt her voice wasn't heard. Solicitor Wiest and Chairman Krause stated she provided photos of the vehicles in question and then did not leave the photos behind, so the property was inspected on what they recalled seeing in pictures, which was four vehicles.

Old Business Follow-Up for Insurance Claim by Resident Nancy Welty: Solicitor Wiest stated the claims came to him as well, that the Board had an executive session last meeting and the Board had already spoken with the insurance carrier about this and that the executive session is attorney-client privilege. Wiest stated we took no action with the insurance claim and arguably, that is action, and the insurance company would have written Mrs. Welty a letter informing her. Wiest stated from his point of view, there is nothing before the Board to consider and no further need to address the issue.

Resident Nancy Welty presented Supervisor/Roadmaster Lynn Brown and Secretary/Treasurer Holly Reinford each with a letter of intent to sue in court and stated she has the right to do so as a licensed insurance agent of 20+ years. Welty stated that when presented with an insurance claim, you can either A. turn to the insurance company or B. choose to not do that and pay out of pocket. She stated with the Township taking no action, she has the right to sue. Solicitor Wiest stated if she chooses to move forward and file a suit that will be a different matter and does not rise to the level of a lawsuit. He stated the letters of intent to sue will be passed to the insurance company and will be characterized as nothing until there is a lawsuit.

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

Chairman Krause moved to add Vice-Chairman Eric Wolfe to all bank accounts; PLGIT, FCCB, & Fulton, seconded by Supervisor Brown. This motion unanimously carried.

Chairman Krause moved to add Secretary/Treasurer Holly Reinford to the Fulton bank account, seconded by Supervisor Brown. This motion unanimously carried.

Secretary/Treasurer Reinford presented Resolution 2024-4; decline of DCNR grant. She stated before her position a grant was applied to for the park and though the grant was awarded, the scope of the project would be beyond the original monies received and obligated. Reinford spoke with the DCNR, and we can respectfully decline, without consequence, with this resolution. Chairman Krause moved to accept Resolution 2024-4, seconded by Supervisor Brown. This motion unanimously carried.

Secretary/Treasurer Reinford provided an overview of form MS-965, which showed what we did with our Liquid Fuels money in 2023. This report includes the amount of interest gained in the PLGIT account, the amount paid to Asphalt Maintenance Solutions for two of our roads, and the amount of Liquid Fuels money awarded in March 2023.

Secretary/Treasurer Reinford provided an overview of a quote for Fire Protection Services provided by Cintas which includes fire extinguishers and emergency exits. The upfront cost to bring the Township up to date would be \$1,500 and afterward, the costs would be broken down into annual cost, 5-year cost, and 6-year cost. Chairman Krause inquired with EMC Nick Miller

on his opinion & Mr. Miller stated there is a local company, Hanes, that does this as well. Chairman Krause would prefer to get several quotes/hear from Hanes and instructed Supervisor Brown to contact them.

Solicitor Wiest directed Supervisor Brown and Secretary/Treasurer Reinford to pass him the letters of intent to sue, and he will pass this on to the insurance carriers and they will file it how they want to handle it. Chairman Krause moved that the information be directed to Solicitor Wiest to deal with, seconded by Vice-Chairman Wolfe.

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 7:33 p.m. This motion unanimously carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Holly Reinford
Secretary/Treasurer
Washington Township