

WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
MEETING OF:  
February 19, 2024

The regular monthly meeting of the Washington Township Board of Supervisors was held Monday, February 19, 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, Nick Miller, Eric Dougherty, & Jessica Holley.

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. 1099-NEC acceptance
2. Schuylkill Tax Collection Committee Information Sheet
3. PSATS CDL 2024 Annual Program Arrangements + Certificate of Membership 2024
4. SealMaster Credit Account Information
5. Annual Recycling Report from Waste Management
6. North End Fire Company January 2024 Report
7. Schuylkill Conservation District Erosion & Sediment Control Pan Review: Mark Krause
8. COSTARS August 2024-July 2025 registration for Salt Contract Participation
9. 2024 Tax Files – Real Estate & Per Capita
10. MRM Trust 2024 Member Contact Info Sheet
11. PSATS Trustees Election of Participation
12. Receipt of 2023 W2/W3 filing to Social Security Administration (accepted)
13. Pine Grove Hose, Hook & Ladder year-end report
14. On-lot Sewage Disposal Program and Sewage Management Program Annual Report
15. Acceptance of MS-965
16. Acceptance of withdrawn DCNR Grant confirmation
17. Wilson Consulting Group, P.C. certificate of liability insurance
18. Turbify cancellation (old website host)
19. Right to Know Request: Jessica Holley; copy of insurance claim against Washington Township
20. Schuylkill Planning and Zoning: Submitted Plan is Administratively Complete: Kurtz Solar Project

21. Schuylkill Planning and Zoning: Zoning Permit Application Denial: Darrel Haldeman, welding shop
22. NCS, INC: notice to submit NPDES for Jarius Musser Poultry Farm
23. FCCB Account agreement; re-signed with Eric Wolfe and removing Wendell Gainer
24. Schuylkill County Voter Registration/Election Bureau: availability of space use
25. Personalized Stamped Envelopes Order Form – USPS
26. Thank You letter from PSATS Trustees Insurance for participation
27. Belmont Solar LLC certificate of insurance
28. Berkheimer Tax Innovations audit confirmation notice
29. PA One Call 2024 approved rate structure
30. Warranty status for 2019 Freightliner
31. FCCB – Statement
32. Fulton Bank – Statement
33. PLGIT - Statement

**PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD:** No public comment

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Upon motion of Chairman Krause, seconded by Vice-Chairman Wolfe, approving the minutes for January 15, 2024, 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 January 12, 2024 – February 12, 2024, Treasurer’s Report was approved with a balance in all accounts, before receipts and bills, was \$1,116,118.80. Included in this motion was the approval of payment of all bills presented. This motion unanimously carried.

**RECEIPTS:** The report of receipts (January 12, 2024 – February 12, 2024) listing \$23,761.53 in EIT receipts and \$9,568.07 in regular General Fund receipts was approved as printed upon motion of Chairman Krause, seconded by Vice-Chairman Wolfe. This motion unanimously carried.

**SOLICITOR’S REPORT:** Solicitor Wiest stated the board tasked him with several items dealing with ordinance enforcement and permitting under the ordinance. Wiest provided copies of proposed permitting and ordinance enforcement that will be discussed in the executive session below. He does have to report that based upon what has happened with Mrs. Welty’s filing of a lawsuit, not against the Township, but against Supervisor Brown and Secretary/Treasurer Reinford that the Magistrate documents should be reported to Washington Township’s insurance carrier and suggested the board should ratify that action. Chairman Krause moved to send all legal documents to the Township’s insurance carrier, seconded by Vice-Chairman Wolfe. This motion unanimously carried.

**ROADMASTER REPORTS:** Roadmaster Brown stated the truck bed for the 08 Chevy is completed, a flatbed was bought at auction, for the 2019 Freightliner, and the road crew refurbished and repainted it. They did a lot of snowplow maintenance as well as taking the dumpster and fabricating a new leaf box for the 2019 Freightliner, which is nearly complete.

February 19, 2024

Brown stated he is getting together with paving companies this week to put together the projects for Gristmill Rd and Moyers Station Rd and emptying the shop to wash everything down. Originally the 2000 Mack was going to be auctioned at PA Auction Center in February but due to the snowstorms, it did not take place and he would like to re-advertise for the March auction. The 1997 Ford is listed for sealed bids to be opened at next month's meeting. Roadmaster Brown closed his commentary by thanking the various Fire Companies for the work they did and the work they helped Washington Township out with during the latest snowstorm as well as Vice-Chairman Wolfe helping to plow with his equipment. Supervisor Brown moved to re-advertise to sell the 2000 Mack in the March auction at PA Auction Centers instead of February, seconded by Vice-Chairman Wolfe. This motion unanimously carried.

**COUNTY ZONING:** Nothing remarkable per Secretary/Treasurer Reinford; got two occupancy permits back. One from 2021, and one from 2023 for home additions. Chairman Krause motioned to accept driveway & zoning permits, seconded by Supervisor Brown. This motion unanimously carried.

**EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT:** EMC Nick Miller stated we had a very active township with over 25 calls in the four quarters of the Township in a 12-hour period during the last snowstorm. He stated a wire burned the road on Lake Front, but Roadmaster Brown said they have plans to patch there anyway. Fiddler Rd is still kind of a one-way due to phone lines being down, Roadmaster Brown said we have road closed signs up. Miller let us know that the CPR class will be on March 7, 2024, at North End.

**OLD BUSINESS 02/19/2024:** 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 Gholson's 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.

**OLD/NEW BUSINESS 03/18/2024:** Old Business Follow-Up for 1144 Deturksville Rd – Junk Car Ordinance: Resident Eric Dougherty said he has been in contact with Marty from Light-Heigel & Associates to come out and inspect and they haven't been able to get together but should be getting on the same page here soon. Chairman Krause inquired with Dougherty if his property was compliant or not and if the vehicles could be moved under their own power. Mr. Dougherty stated he feels he is compliant. Chairman Krause also let Dougherty know that he needs to get this inspection done well before the March meeting so the Board can review the inspection report.

Resident Jessica Holley asked if she could ask a question/comment regarding the ordinance. Chairman Krause gave her the go-ahead to speak. Holley stated the ordinance seems to be vague regarding the time frame and who does the inspections. She also inquired on how much this ordinance is costing the people of Washington Township. Chairman Krause spoke on the fact that the ordinance is difficult to enforce as we are a Township without a police force or a zoning officer and must rely on a third party to inspect. He stated he cannot tell Holley what it is costing per hour but can tell her what Washington Township has invested in the Welty vs 1998-2 Junk Car Ordinance to date, which is \$4,254.88. Resident Holley questioned where we are getting the money to pay these fees from. Chairman Krause stated that it is going to come to a point where the Township will have to raise taxes and millage to cover these costs, but we are trying to not have to do that as we have a working Supervisor who is very creative and handy and has been saving the Township money in other areas.

Old Business Follow-Up for 1140 Deturksville Rd – Junk Car Ordinance: Chairman Krause asked if anyone had any updates. Residents Darwin and Becky Hoppes said not much has been cleaned up with the snowstorms, but it seems the property is still making progress.

Old Business Follow-Up for 31 Dad Burnhams Rd – Nursery Barn: Secretary/Treasurer Reinford stated she spoke with the contact at the Conservation District, and she was told that the original inspector handling this was no longer there and that the Conservation District would need to finish handling and forward to the DEP. Chairman Krause stated we still do not have a driveway permit and Supervisor Brown expanded on why that is needed due to liability reasons. Secretary/Treasurer Reinford stated she would mail a certified letter with a driveway permit application out to the owner.

Old Business Follow-Up for 101 Natures Rd – Junk Car Ordinance: Chairman Krause stated the inspection report did come back and the board did not have time to review it in advance of the previous meeting but did review it now. The recollection was that Mrs. Welty provided photos of four (4) vehicles but did not leave the photos behind with the board to reference for inspection. The property was inspected for those four vehicles, but the property owner opened his entire property up for inspection. Chairman Krause explained that there were two (2) violations noted

but neither of them was for vehicles Mrs. Welty provided photos of. The two violations found were for one (1) '49 pickup, with antique plates, on blocks waiting for brakes, and for one (1) truck cab on the property out of street sight.

Old Business Follow-Up Tax Revenue – Chairman Krause stated that Resident Holley and Secretary/Treasurer Reinford spoke with one another regarding Holley's question about tax revenue. Holley stated she and Secretary/Treasurer Reinford spoke and it is resolved.

Chairman Krause called for an executive session at 7:30 pm and the board returned from executive session at 7:42 pm. Krause stated that the Township will be reporting the claim to the Township insurance carrier, and we are going to defend at a cost of \$2,500. There was no action taken on the topic of ordinance enforcement and permitting. The commentary was directed at Resident Dougherty that he must follow the policy of having his property inspected with no exceptions and that if he is not available to be there, he must leave the keys to the vehicles so Light-Heigel can start and move them. Both Chairman Krause and Solicitor Wiest explained that the Township can put a lean against his property but that nobody wants to do that so please get the inspection done. Resident Dougherty stated he understood.

Secretary/Treasurer Reinford let EMC Nick Miller know that there is money within the budget, delegated under public safety, for EMA/EOC's \$5,000 request for safety training and signs.

Resolution 2024-two: Chairman Krause moved to hire Garcia, Garman, and Shea, PC for auditing purposes this year, seconded by Supervisor Brown. This motion unanimously carried.

Chairman Krause stated Secretary/Treasurer Reinford requested to him, through what the residents commented, that we move the office hours to extend later into the evening with one half day as to not pay overtime. This was discussed with Reinford and agreed upon. Chairman Krause moved to have the office hours changed to Monday – Thursday 8 am to 5 pm and Friday 8 am – 12 pm, seconded by Supervisor Brown. This motion unanimously carried.

**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 7:47 p.m. This motion unanimously carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Holly Reinford  
Secretary/Treasurer  
Washington Township