

WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
MEETING OF:
March 18, 2024

The regular monthly meeting of the Washington Township Board of Supervisors was held Monday, March 18, 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 Nick Miller, Bob Free, Becky Hoppes, Darwin Hoppes, Robert Brown, Justin Daubert, and Sal Varcelli.

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 corrected acceptance
2. Berkheimer audit confirmation notice
3. Storks Plows tax exemption certificate
4. DOT drug test for road crew member
5. Schuylkill Planning and Zoning: Submitted plan is Administratively Complete for David G. Zimmerman subdivision
6. Certificate of Liability Insurance for Co Advantage Solar
7. Pipeline Safety Bulletin 2024
8. Pine Grove HH&L annual fund drive donation request
9. MRM Trust Bylaws
10. Certificate of Insurance for Welbilt Homes
11. Municipal Statistics E-filer authorization
12. Right to Know Request: Nancy Welty for a copy, including photos, of the inspection report for 101 Natures Rd
13. Donation request from Friedensburg Fire Company
14. Material quote for Pottsville Asphalt; 9.5mm, 19mm, 25mm
15. Worker Beware posters from PPL
16. North End and HH&L 2023 call reports
17. Annual Recycling Report for Potts & Monger Recycling
18. Chainsaw Safety Class; 6/20 Brodsheadsville, PA
19. AG-385 acceptance
20. PMRS Municipal Survey
21. North End Fire Company February 2024 report
22. MRM Trust notes

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23. PA DEP Incompleteness Review Letter for Loop Road Bridge
24. PA DOT Traffic Counting on Municipally Owned Roads notification
25. 2022 PMRS system and organization controls audit
26. 902 Recycling Grant is now open
27. FCCB – Statement
28. Fulton Bank – Statement
29. PLGIT - Statement

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD: Resident Sal Varcelli spoke passionately commending Roadmaster Brown and his crew on the fantastic job they have done with the roads, trees, bridges, and in-house work.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Upon motion of Chairman Krause, seconded by Vice-Chairman Wolfe, approving the minutes for February 19, 2024, regular monthly meeting with correction. This motion unanimously carried.

TREASURER’S REPORT AND BILLS FOR APPROVAL: Upon motion of Chairman Krause, seconded by Supervisor Brown, the February 13, 2024 – March 14, 2024, Treasurer’s Report was approved with a balance in all accounts, before receipts and bills, was \$1,128,743.66. Included in this motion was the approval of payment of all bills presented. This motion unanimously carried.

RECEIPTS: The report of receipts (February 13, 2024 – March 14, 2024) listing \$59,924.53 in EIT receipts and \$9,925.76 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 spoke on the current litigation matter stating it has been deferred to the Township’s insurance and they will defend at a cost of \$2,500. He also spoke on the verbiage of the 1998-2 Junk ordinance and that not only is the language itself very difficult but so is the language surrounding permitting and the question is what or where does the Board want to go with it as we are currently in the middle of an enforcement procedure and litigation over the ordinance.

ROADMASTER REPORTS: Roadmaster Brown stated the permit application had been submitted to the DEP but an additional sketch is required to proceed. The beams bought for Loop Rd bridge will be picked up from getting galvanized on 3/19 and aiming to start in August after trout season. At that time, he and his crew can remove the deck and get it galvanized. Chairman Krause inquired if the project is on budget. Roadmaster Brown stated the budget is \$25,000, his first quote for already galvanized beams was \$22,500 but he was able to source beams for \$3,000 and get them galvanized for \$2,700. He stated we are currently under budget, and we’ll do it for under \$24,000.

Roadmaster Brown stated bids for Gristmill Rd and Moyers Station Rd will be advertised by Wayne Township. We are going in on a bid with Wayne Township and West Brunswick Township to get the best price. Chairman Krause questioned any drainage or shoulder work. Roadmaster Brown stated his crew will be starting on that within the next week or two. He stated stone will also be hauled to Sawmill Rd to regrade it.

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COUNTY ZONING: Nothing remarkable per Secretary/Treasurer Reinford; there have been a lot of solar permits.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT: EMC Nick Miller stated last month was a crazy month due to the weather. Roadmaster Brown stated there is now a shed on the property that is outfitted with signage, cones, and emergency items that all four fire companies can access and use, Miller stated he sent a message to everyone to let them know. EMC Miller stated he is receiving the Floodplain emails now and will be attending the next meeting that way Washington Township is on their radar for the next enrollment window. EMC Miller spoke on the revenue concerns with the Fire Companies and asked that the Board consider adopting an ordinance that will allow a 3rd party to bill resident insurance directly. This would cover the cost of things like materials used and apparatus costs. Miller will be sending Secretary/Treasurer Reinford information regarding this ordinance that other Townships have, and Reinford will forward it to Solicitor Wiest. Solicitor Wiest stated he would then take it up with the Board's direction.

OLD BUSINESS 2/19/2024: 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.

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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.

FOLLOW-UP 03/18/2024: Follow-up 1144 Deturksville Rd: Chairman Krause stated Light-Heigel & Associates conducted an inspection of the property on a snowy day and we received the inspection report on 3/14/2024. In reviewing the report there were some violations with notes regarding dead batteries and New Jersey tags. Resident Becky Hoppes questioned if the entire property was inspected and if fines were going to be issued. Chairman Krause stated Hoppes can request the report via Right to Know and that no, fines will not be imposed at this time as the owner will have time to correct the violations noted.

Follow-up 1140 Deturksville Rd: Secretary/Treasurer Reinford stated she has not heard or seen of any more work being done on the property. Resident Becky Hoppes stated there are vehicles, a boat, and a camper still residing on the property, and they haven't seen anyone in weeks.

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Chairman Krause directed Secretary/Treasurer Reinford to send a letter inquiring about a time frame for cleanup.

Follow-up 31 Dad Burnhams Rd: Secretary/Treasurer Reinford said Garman received the certified letter with a driveway permit and stopped into the Township with the completed permit. The permit was forwarded to Light-Heigel & Associates.

NEW BUSINESS 3/18/2024: Secretary/Treasurer Reinford let the board know that the Teener League had emailed requesting the use of the ballpark whenever it is not rented out. Resident Justin Daubert was in attendance on behalf of the Teener League and Todd Lenge with a check for use of the field. Chairman Krause told Daubert to keep the check and put it back into their fund to help support the kids. The Board spoke about the requirements to use and keep using the ball field; cleanup/keep it tidy, contact Washington Township if there are any problems, and if there is any type of cleanup happening out there, please contact parents and kids to help. Daubert was also requested to provide a schedule of practices and games to Secretary/Treasurer Reinford.

Roadmaster Brown had already touched on Sawmill Rd in his Roadmaster report, but Sawmill Rd is open on the Pine Grove side and Washington Township side.

Secretary/Treasurer Reinford stated she had two residents ask where our ordinances are located online and posed the question to the Board on whether we want them uploaded onto our current website. Chairman Krause said he understands other Townships have them on their websites. Chairman Krause moved to put the ordinances onto the website, seconded by Supervisor Brown. This motion unanimously carried.

There were two sealed bids received for the advertised sale of the 1997 Ford Super Duty. Vice-Chairman Wolfe opened the bids, and the Board reviewed them; one was from Dave Cook out of Port Carbon for \$6,551 and the other was from Gerald G Martin and Sons Excavating for \$12,200. Chairman Krause moved to award the bid to Gerald G Martin and Sons Excavating in the amount of \$12,200 for the sale of the 1997 Ford Super Duty, 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 7:35 p.m. This motion unanimously carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Holly Reinford
Secretary/Treasurer
Washington Township

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