

Williams Township Board of Supervisors
September 11, 2019

The monthly meeting of the Williams Township Board of Supervisors, 655 Cider Press Road, Easton, PA 18042 was held on the above date and called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Chairperson Mark Ernst. Mark led the audience in the pledge to the flag. Others present were Vice Chairperson Raymond Abert, Supervisor Michael Bryant, Township Solicitor Jonathan Reiss, Township Manager Mikal Sabatine, Township Engineer Ronald Madison, Public Works Director Michael Strawn and Assistant Township Manager Melody Ernst.

Mark asked for a moment of silence before starting the pledge of the flag.

Mark stated there was an Executive Session held before tonight's meeting to discuss personnel matters.

Mark asked Ray and Michael if they had any corrections to the Minutes of August 14, 2019. There being none, Michael made a motion to approve said minutes, second by Ray. There being no comments, motion carried 3-0.

Melody presented the Expense Report of September, 2019 to the Board. It was stated that the August Treasurers Report was not available. Ray made a motion to approve the Expense Report and pay the bills, second by Michael. There being no comments, motion carried 3-0.

Manager's Report – Mikal submitted his report of September 11, 2019 to the Board for review.

Mikal stated that the Miracle League has submitted all the necessary documentation required for the Township to consider a financial contribution. It was stated that in 2018 the Township contributed \$4,000.00 to the Miracle League of Northampton County. Ray made a motion for the approval of a Township contribution of \$4,000.00 to the Miracle League, second by Michael. There being no comments, motion carried 3-0.

Mikal thanked Michael Strawn and the Public Works Crew for their efforts in the construction of the water tank installation that will be used as an emergency fill station to the Fire Company.

Mikal commented that he and the staff have met with four Web Design Companies for the redevelopment of the Township website. He stated that he is currently reviewing all quotes and will be able to act upon same at next month's meeting. In the meantime, the Board has received those quotes and he has asked them to review same.

The Board asked about the price of one company and how you can eliminate some things to trim the cost back. It was also asked if the different agencies can give ideas of what can be placed on the website. Mikal commented that the Township will manage and control the website and the company that we choose would host the site.

Mikal stated that the Township will need to establish an Agricultural Security Area Advisory Committee. The committee shall advise the Board of Supervisors and work with the Planning Commission in relation to the proposed establishment, modification, review and termination of an ASA. The committee shall be comprised of three active farmers, a Township resident and one member of the Board of Supervisors. It is the Boards consensus to place the vacancies on the Township website. Mark asked if a Resolution will be needed. Jonathan stated he does not believe so, but will check. The Supervisor who is on the Committee will be the chair and terms would be staggered.

Mark asked if the Boy Scouts have received their donation for the 2019 calendar year. He commented that they put in a lot of hours at the recycling center.

Public Works - Mike Strawn read the report for August 14, 2019 to September 11, 2019.

Zoning Hearing Board - There will not be a hearing held on September 25, 2019 due to a lack of applicants.

Planning Commission Report - None

Land Preservation Report- Bob read the report for August.

Recreation Board - Judy announced the Fall Festival on September 28th and stated that they are still looking for volunteers. It was stated that the recreation board will be reviewing their budget for 2020 and looking to recommend an amount for community day and field repair where it is sinking. Judy stated they are also looking at adding more dug outs. Michael asked Jonathan if dugouts are added to one field, do they have to be placed at another field.

Landfill Committee Report - None

Engineer Report- Ron Madison briefly reviewed his September 6, 2019 memorandum.

1. 145 Valley View Road Enforcement - Ron briefly reviewed his September 5, 2019 memorandum regarding 145 Valley View Road. He stated there was a site visit with himself, Township Manager and the owners of the property to inspect the property condition and compliance with a July 24, 2019 Notice of Violation. Ron stated the property owners have been asked to have the erosion and sedimentation control in

place. The owners were given a thirty day Enforcement Notice to comply and they are still not in compliance. Ron asked the Board if they should give the owners more time to comply or turn everything over to the solicitor for further enforcements. Ray asked how long this has been going on. Ron stated that he has been trying to get the site stabilized since July 2018. It was stated that the current owner has owned the property since 2017 and the water runoff has been a problem since 2018. Mark asked if the water runoff is a safety issue. Mike Strawn stated there has been an ice issue. Mark commented in his opinion the matter needs to be addressed. Mark made a motion to have Jonathan's office file against the property owners to get things completed with the property, second by Michael. There being no comments, motion carried 3-0.

Solicitor Report - None

Old Business

1. Williams Zoning Ordinance Comprehensive Update – Jonathan stated that his office took the latest version of the comprehensive update that was being reviewed at public meetings when it was tabled. Every Zoning amendment that was adopted since Jonathan had become solicitor was looked at and the provisions were included in the Comprehensive update. Jonathan's office also updated it in relation to the update for the wireless facilities and also updated to address the transient short-term rental use. Mark commented that it is now ready to move forward to the Lehigh Valley Planning Commission and the Township Planning Commission. Jonathan stated under the Municipalities Planning Code the Planning Commissions have thirty days to conduct a review. Jonathan further stated that it is his recommendation to wait until reviews come back before you schedule a public hearing to see if there are any comments. Ray made a motion to move forward and send the Comprehensive Update to the Planning Commissions, second by Michael. Michael asked Jonathan if anyone wants to make changes they should be made before they go to Lehigh Valley Planning Commission. Jonathan stated that the Board should not advertise for a public hearing until review comments come back. There being no comments, motion carried 3-0.

2. Baseball Infield Proposal Rescinded – Mark stated a motion is needed to rescind the infield proposal. Michael made a motion to rescind the baseball/infield grass proposal, second by Ray. There being no comments, motion carried 3-0.

New Business

1. Minimum Municipal Obligation (MMO) 2020 Approval - Mikal stated he is advising the Board of the Township's responsibility for the 2020 Minimum Municipal Obligation for the Pension Plan in the amount of \$60,582.00. Michael made a motion to approve the MMO in the amount of \$60,582.00, second by Ray. Ray asked if the Township is underfunded and if so where it puts the Township. Mikal stated the underfunded

determination for this year was \$17,000.00. They include that in the sum to bring us to a basis. There being no further comments, motion carried 3-0.

Supervisors Remarks

Ray commented they are looking for volunteers for the Fall Festival.

Audience Comments

1. **Michelle Vail** - Commented that she would like to see the Township preserve land to keep it natural. Feels there are enough Fireworks stores and truck depots.
2. **Bob Schmidt** - Frys Run Water Shed Association will be holding a free event on Saturday, September 21 at the Mariton Wildlife Sanctuary regarding stormwater runoff and what homeowners can do to lesson problems with stormwater.
3. **Chris Shunk** - Asked for a status report on the Walking Trail for the Melchor Tract.

There being no further business, meeting was adjourned at 7:42 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Melody A. Ernst, Asst. Manager/Secretary
Williams Township Board of Supervisors