

Williams Township Board of Supervisors
August 12, 2020

The monthly meeting of the Williams Township Board of Supervisors, 655 Cider Press Road, Easton, PA 18042 was held on the above date virtually on “gotomeeting.com” and called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Chairperson Mark Ernst. 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 Mikal if there are any public comments on agenda items. Mikal stated no.

Mark stated an Executive Session was held on Wednesday, July 15, 2020 For Legal Matters, Tuesday, July 21, 2020, For Personnel Issues, Thursday, July 23, 2020 For Personnel Issues and Tuesday, August 4, 2020 for Personnel Issues and Wednesday, August 12, 2020 for Informational, Personnel and Legal Matters.

Mark asked Ray and Michael if they had any corrections to the Minutes of July 8, 2020 and July 28, 2020. There being none, Ray made a motion to approve the July 8, 2020 Minutes, second by Michael. There being no comments, motion carried 3-0. Michael made a motion to approve the joint Board of Supervisors meeting with the Land Preservation Board of July 28, 2020, second by Ray. There being no comments, motion carried 3-0.

Melody presented the Expense Report of August 12, 2020. Ray made a motion to approve the Expense Report, approve the Treasurers Reports for July and pay the bills, second by Michael. There being no comments, motion carried 3-0.

Managers’ Report – Mikal read the report for August 12, 2020

Mikal stated he has prepared correspondence to Northampton County stating that Williams Township will not be moving forward with the conservation easement for the Nehoda property. He asked for the Board’s approval and signature and same will be forwarded to Sherry Acevedo so the funds can be reallocated. Michael made a motion to send the letter to Northampton County, second by Ray. There being no comments, motion carried 3-0.

Mikal stated that he has received confirmation from the PA Department of Community & Economic Development that the Keystone Community Grant has been approved for a “Scope of Work” change. This will allow the Township to utilize the grant funds for engineering and material costs for the Melchor project.

Mikal acknowledged the Public Works Department for their efforts to maintain safety and order during the most recent storm event.

Mikal stated as a follow up regarding the Coffeetown Road project, the Township has been reimbursed \$152,790.84 out of the requested \$157,556.24. The remaining balance are due from PEMA and expected to arrive within the next year.

Mikal presented to the Board for their approval and adoption the proposed COVID-19 Cononavirus Policy. Ray made a motion to approve the Policy, second by Michael. There being no comments, motion carried 3-0.

Mark asked Mikal if there were any public comments, to which Mikal stated no.

Ray asked if the Board was going to start holding regular meetings in house. There was a brief discussion regarding the limited amount of people and possibly splitting the meetings with live and virtual. Mark commented that he is fine with virtual, just that it is problematic when the internet and/or computers not working.

Mikal stated he is seeking authorization from the Board with regard to the cleanup presented contingent upon a court order being issued for 95 Gaffney Hill Road. Once the court order has been received it will authorize Mikal to contact the necessary participants to move forward and initiate the cleanup process as described in the meeting. Michael made a motion contingent upon the court order, second by Ray. There being no comments, motion carried 3-0.

Public Works – Mike Strawn gave the report for July 8, 2020 to August 12, 2020.

There was a brief discussion regarding the repair of the roadside cutter and the demolition of the house on Diehl Road. Mark asked if the tree at the corner of Coffeetown Road and Durham Road could be trimmed along with the roadside weeds for sight distance stating it is hard to see what or who is coming down the hill on Durham Road.

Zoning Office – None

Planning Commission Report – Alan gave the report for July 15, 2020.

Land Preservation Board Report – Bob gave the report for July. Mark thanked the Land Preservation Board with working with the Board of Supervisors on the July 28th meeting. Mikal asked Bob to take consideration that he believes the Township is not late to have Heritage Conservancy hold the easement if we so wish for Russell because it is still being currently reviewed by the County. Jonathan commented that he doesn't think the County would have any objection with Heritage Conservancy being the holder and the Township being the co-holder.

Recreation Board Report – Ray commented that it is the Recreation Board's recommendation to cancel the Fall Festival. The Fireworks company will carry the deposit until 2021. The Amusement Ride company will do the same.

Ray commented that Jack Keiter would like permission to use the lights at the field for soccer practice in October. Ray commented that Williams Township kids would be involved in soccer. Mark commented as long as they follow the state rules and they complete the proper paperwork, he does not have an issue with it. Ray agreed with Mark. There was a brief discussion as to whether Mikal would handle the paperwork as he has done for COVID with baseball.

Landfill Committee Report – None

Engineer Report – Ron Madison briefly reviewed his August 7, 2020 memorandum.

Solicitor Report – None

Old Business

- 1. Authorization to Advertise for a Public Hearing – ZO Amendment, Section 27-904A. Ordinance** – Jonathan stated this was sent to the Williams Township Planning Commission and the Lehigh Valley Planning Commission and both came back recommending approval of the amendment. Mike made a motion to authorize the advertisement for a public hearing, second by Ray. There being no comments, motion carried 3-0.
- 2. Appointment of Accounting Firm for Years 2020, 2021 and 2022 – Resolution 2020-21** – Mark stated the Resolution is to appoint Riley & Company with fees being \$9,000.00, \$9,300.00 and \$9,600.00 for the years mentioned. Ray made a motion to approve Resolution 2020-21, second by Michael. There being no comments, motion carried 3-0.

New Business

- 1. Accept Completion of the 18 Month Maintenance Period and Return of Financial Security – Easton Area Metal Recycling** – Maser Consulting recommended that the Developers Agreement Maintenance Period Security be released in the amount of \$53,038.66 after payment of all final Township bills. Ray made a motion to release the funds in the amount of \$53,038.66 subject to the Township receiving all outstanding payments, second by Michael. There being no comments, motion carried 3-0.
- 2. 1450 S. Delaware Drive Well Waiver Approval – Resolution 2020-22** – Ray made a motion to accept Resolution 2020-22, second by Michael. There being no comments, motion carried 3-0.
- 3. 1430 S. Delaware Drive Well Waiver Approval – Resolution 2020-23** – Ray made a motion to accept Resolution 2020-23, second by Michael. There being no comments, motion carried 3-0.
- 4. Tax Assessment Appeal – 60 Highfield Drive** – Jonathan stated the information that was received regarding the appeal gives the Township the option of attending the hearing. Ray made a motion to not oppose the appeal, second by Mark. Michael stated he did not see how much money was involved. Jonathan stated that when you go to

the Board of Assessment you do not have to put the amount in the appeal. There being no further comments, motion carried 3-0.

Supervisors Remarks

Ray commented that an email was received from Susan Reed regarding the parking on Turnberry Drive and leaving garbage and he is not sure what the Township can do. Ray further commented that he went up there at 6:00 a.m. and did not see any garbage laying around. Mark commented that the Township could place more signage but signage is only for those who obey the law. Mikal commented that he has been in touch with the State Police and they stated they are doing all they can under the State law. It was further stated that Ms. Reed is asking that the Zoning Officer seek enforcement for parking. Ray asked if there have been any other complaints. Mikal stated that Susan Reed told him there is an organization that is being formed and would be coming before the board. Michael asked what the responsibility is of the Homeowners Association? According to Mikal he believes this has been brought to the Homeowners Association and they don't seem to want to entertain her concerns.

Michael thanked Mikal for his assistance to get the PEMA funds with the Coffeetown Road project. Mikal noted that Mike Strawn and Mel also had a part in it which made it a team effort. Michael also thanked Bob and the Board for working on the Agreement of Sale for Land Preservation.

Mark commented because there seems to be confusion with regard to the Recreation Board, WTAA and Mikal's responsibility, perhaps it is time to look into what each Boards responsibility is and whether the By-Laws are correct or should be adjusted. Michael asked if that recommendation is for all Boards or just Recreation Board. Mark feels the WTAA and Recreation and what Mikal's position will be moving forward so that there is no confusion.

Audience Comments – None

There being no further business, meeting was adjourned at 7:56 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

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