

Williams Township Board of Supervisors
February 10, 2021

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. Mark led the audience in the pledge to the flag. Others present were Vice Chairperson Michael Bryant, Supervisor Raymond Abert, Township Solicitor Jonathan Reiss, Township Manager Mikal Sabatine, Township Engineer Ronald Madison, Public Works Director Michael Strawn and Assistant Township Manager Melody Ernst.

Mark stated there were Executive Sessions held Monday, January 18, 2021 and Thursday, January 28, 2021 for Legal Matters.

Mark asked Ray and Michael if they had any corrections to the Minutes of January 4, 2021. 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 February 10, 2021 and the December and January Treasurers Report to the Board. Ray made a motion to approve the Expense Report, Treasurers Reports and pay the bills, second by Michael. There being no comments, motion carried 3-0.

Mark asked Mikal is there are any comments. Mikal stated not at this time.

Manager’s Report – Mikal submitted his report of February 10, 2021 to the Board for review.

Mikal stated that on December 15, 2020 the Township received a Phonesoap UV Sanitizer from the County for all governmental organizations in Northampton.

Mikal commented that the Home Town Press has inquired as to whether we wish to do a Spring and Fall newsletter. Mikal is seeking comments from the Board as to their desire. Ray would like to know what it would cost to have the newsletter done in house. He stated that by the time the newsletter gets to the residents the news is already old news. Mark stated he is fine with in house if it can be done. The Board decided to hold off on the Spring newsletter and have Mikal and Mel see what the cost would be to do it in house.

Mikal stated that the shredding event will take place on May 15, 2021 from 9:00am to 12:00pm at the Public Works Building.

Mikal asked the Board if they would be willing to waive the late fees for sewer customers providing the post mark is before the due date and they are not a habitual abuser of the account. The consensus of the Board is to waive the late fee.

Mikal commented that the Williams Township Fire Company is seeking permission to use the old home at 195 Diehl Road for practice drills prior to the demolition. Mikal will send a letter out to the neighboring residents. The consensus of the Board is fine with the use.

Public Works – Mike Strawn read the report for January 4, 2021 to February 10, 2021.

1. Approval to Advertise 2021 Road Projects – Mike asked for permission to put the 2021 Road Project out to bid. Ray made a motion to advertise the Road Project, second by Mark. There being no comments, motion carried 3-0.

Mike stated that they did not purchase the fork lift as discussed at the January meeting. Ray complimented Mike and the men for a job well done during the last storm. Mark agreed with Ray regarding the compliment.

Zoning Office – Mark stated the Report from the Zoning Office was received for the Boards review. He further stated that there will be a virtual Zoning Hearing Board meeting on Wednesday, February 24, 2021 to hear the following:

1. Kyle and Loretta Murray – 380 Texas Road - Variance

Planning Commission Report - None

1. Planning Commission Member Appointment – Mark stated that the Township did not receive a response from Joe Schiller in a timely matter as to whether he wanted to continue to serve on the Planning Commission leaving a seat open. Michael made a motion to nominate Cynthia Hall the current alternate member as a member of the Planning Commission, second by Ray. There being no comments, motion carried 3-0. Mark asked Mikal to touch base with Joe and see if he would like to serve as an alternate member.

Land Preservation Report– Jim Williams read the report for January.

Jim stated the Land Preservation Board would like to recommend naming Heritage Conservancy as the applicant for the County grant application for the Boss property. Jim further stated that the cost of same would be approximately \$1,500.00. Jonathan explained that is fine to do. They will be the primary party on the Conservation Easement and the Township will be the Co-Grantee. Mark made a motion to have Heritage named on the grant as explained by the Land Preservation Board and Jonathan's approval, second by Michael. There being no comments, motion carried 3-0.

1. Authorization to have Chairman sign Russell Agreement of Sale – Ray made the motion to have the Chairman sign the Russell Agreement of Sale, second by Michael.

There being no comments, motion carried 3-0. Jonathan stated that the way the grant money works with the County is the Township will pay the full purchase price at closing and subsequent to the closing the Township will be reimbursed the fifty (50%) percent of the County share. Michael stated last month we agreed to pay up to \$50,000.00 but what if it is over that amount? Jonathan stated the purchase price is set forth in the Agreement of Sale and will not change. At the closing the Township will pay the full purchase price and the fifty (50%) percent grant money will come after the closing. Mike asked what happens if they provide less than fifty (50%) percent? Jonathan stated they have already approved it.

Recreation Board Report - Judy gave the report. It was stated that the fall festival is set for October 2, 2021 with a rain date of October 3, 2021 if there is a safe way for it to be held. Ray stated that March will start the baseball season and he asked if we will have to go through what we did last year with the liability signatures and waivers. Jonathan stated that the Township teams should sign the waivers. It is up to the Township whether you want the visiting teams to sign waivers. Jonathan recommended that the Organizations that asked to use the fields on a regular basis sign the waivers as well. There was a brief discussion regarding temperature checks which were preformed by the High School for their games.

Engineer Report- Ron Madison briefly reviewed his February 4, 2021 memorandum. Ray asked Ron what the status is of the Ballfield transfer and the replacement of the poles. Ron stated that Verizon indicated that they may be able to relocate the telephone lines across the street and remove the pole. If the poles need to be relocated then we would need to provide an easement outside of PennDot's easement.

Solicitor Report - None

Old Business

1. Melchor Tract Park Name Discussion - Mark stated at last month's meeting we had a suggestion of naming the park Stouts Valley Park. The name change would not take place until all grants are procured. Michael made a motion to name the park Stouts Valley Park, second by Ray. There being no comments, motion carried 3-0.

New Business

1. Murray Drive Light Tax Discussion - Jonathan stated the Township can establish a lighting district and the cost the Township incurs for the electricity for the lights in the district would then be taxed to the residents within that district on their Real Estate tax bill. Jonathan stated that in the beginning you would have engineering and Solicitor expenses and in the first year you would incur atleast what you are paying now on an annual basis for the lights. Ray asked if the Township does maintenance on the lights. Mike stated that we have in the past. Ray stated there are 4 lights and questioned how it would get split between the residents. Jonathan stated it would depend on what you determine the lighting district is. There was a brief discussion about who would be affected in the district and Mark asked for this to be tabled for

another month. Mark asked for Ron and or Jonathan to prepare a documentation on how this would affect the residents before a decision would be made.

2. Tax Collector Resolution Discussion - Mel stated that this was brought to our attention because if the Board wants to make a change in the current Resolution they would need to do so by February 15th. Mel explained that Katie did submit a document regarding the taxpayers. Mel further stated that from what she has seen it does get a bit disruptive to get your work done in the front office and explained a few things that the office has tried to curtail the disruption. Mikal agreed with Mel and suggested the use of the of the Community Building as an option. Mark made a motion that the current Resolution stay the same and it's the Administrations and Boards approval to use the Community Building for tax collecting, second by Michael. Ray commented that he does not agree with it and we are only talking about 24 hours out of the year. He also does not think the building is handicap accessible. There being no further comments, motion carried 2-1. Ray opposed. Jonathan stated that the Township is still abiding by the existing Resolution, so a new Resolution does not have to be approved.

Supervisors Remarks

Michael thanked the Public Works for a great job during the snow storm.

Mark commented that during the snow storm the public works crew worked 52 hours taking care of the roads during the snow storm. He commented he would like to propose to the Board a \$250.00 bonus extra beyond normal pay to the seven employees. Michael stated he is in total agreement. Linda thanked Mike and his crew for the removal of a tree that was down on Hexenkopf Road. Michael feels a letter of appreciation should be given as well. Ray commented that he does not think the Board is treating Mike fairly because Mike is not getting overtime pay. It was talked about that different recognition be discussed for Mike at a later date. It was the Boards consensus to provide the bonus of \$250.00.

Mark asked Mikal if there are any comments. Mikal commented none at this time.

There being no further business, meeting was adjourned at 8:06 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

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