

**WILLIAMS TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
WORKSHOP
March 16, 2023**

The Williams Township Board of Supervisors, 655 Cider Press Road, Easton, PA 18042 held a Public Workshop Meeting on the above date. Present were Chairperson George Washburn, Vice-Chairperson Raymond Abert, Supervisor Michael Bryant, Township Solicitor Sean Duffy, Township Manager Mikal Sabatine, Public Works Director Michael Strawn, Anthony Altmare Zoning Officer and Assistant Manager Melody Ernst.

1. Authorization to Advertise Recreation Project Bid - Mikal stated that he has prepared the bid to replace the fence at the Raubsville Park. The bid will be advertised in the Express Times on March 20th and March 24th. Ray made a motion to advertise the bid, second by Michael. There being no comments, motion carried 3-0.

2. Approval of 2023 Recreation Wages/Public Works Summer Temps - Mikal stated that last year when he recommended the rates be increased to bring them more in line, his intention was not to make a change to the wages this year. There was a discussion regarding the wages for the recreation Director and counselors, intake meeting that was held last year as well as the cellphone use by the counselors. George commented that he feels Mikal should be interviewing and then bring it to the Recreation Board with his recommendations. Ray commented that we like to hire the kids in April before they look for another job. George commented that Mikal will interview/prescreen first then give his recommendation to the Recreation Board. The Recreation Board will recommend the Director and counselors to the Board of Supervisors in April. The Township is looking to hire six recreation summer temps. George made a motion to increase the Director to \$25.00/hr., Assistant Director \$16.00/hr., returning Counselors \$14.00/hr. and new Counselors \$13.50/hr., second by Ray. There being no comments, motion carried 3-0.

It was discussed that the CBA allows for the summer temps for public works to work between April 1st and November 1st. The Board discussed raising the rates for the summer temps as well. Ray made a motion to raise the rate to \$16.00/hr. for returning temps and \$15.00/hr. for new temps, second by Michael. There being no comments, motion carried 3-0.

3. Authorization to Approve Amendment to Boss Conservation Easement - It was stated that Land Preservation, the Boss', Jonathan and Heritage Conservancy are all in favor of the changes made to the Amendment. Michael made a motion to approve the Amendment to the Conservation Easement decreasing the acreage from 16.79 acres to 16.57 acres and reducing the purchase price amount from \$125,925.00 to \$124,275.00, second by Ray. Ray asked if they do not fulfill the agreement of cleaning up the dump area is the Township guaranteed their money back. Sean stated they have to clean up the dump area and comply. There being no further comments, motion carried 3-0.

4. Authorization to Approve Acoustic Project for Board Room – Mikal stated that he was trying to address the acoustics and the modernization of the room as one project. He stated that now his recommendation would be to move forward with the acoustics of the room. It was stated that the two acoustic proposals we received were from City Entertainment and HIS. Michael made a motion to go with City Entertainment, second by Ray. There being no comments, motion carried 3-0.

5. Decision on Continued Operation of Recycling Center – The discussion took place regarding the cost of keeping the recycling center open for about 80 residents with a Township population of 6,000. It was stated that it is costing Chrin approximately \$10,000.00 for the containers at the center and \$4,000.00 for the Township to pay the public works employees. Michael stated that he sees three options for the Township. First option, keep the center open and pay Chrin whatever the cost is to rent the containers. Second option, use our roll back and take the recyclables to the recycling center. Third option, to close the center except for the brush. Mikal feels that the demand does not equal the Township population. After discussion about keeping the center open or closing it, Ray made a motion to close the recycling center as of June 1st for recycling and keep it open only for brush, second by Michael. There being no comments, motion carried 3-0.

6. Discussion of American Relief Plan Funds Allocation - Mikal is recommending that we tackle some larger projects. He stated that the money is committed to December 31, 2024. Ray commented that he visited Palmer Township and likes how they did their meeting room. There was a discussion regarding an addition to the meeting room, pavilion at the Stouts Valley Park, pave the driveway at Chrinergy Park, installing a gate at the entrance of Chrinergy Park and installing a walk up window for the Tax Office at the Community Building. It was discussed that if there is left over money after the projects that the Township would like to do, then it could be used to supplement the recreation payroll. Ray made a motion to authorize staff to contact an architect to get a cost estimate for the meeting room with a basement underneath, second by Michael. There being no comments, motion carried 3-0.

George made a motion to investigate and prioritize what is most important for the Township so that we have a focus on what we want to do, second by Ray. Ray asked about the well at the Community Building. Mike stated that it is a DEP registered public water source. There was a brief discussion as to whether it is feasible to update to DEP standards or should a new well be drilled. There being no further comments, motion carried 3-0.

7. Conditional Authorization for Field Use by Wilson Soccer – Ray made a motion to allow the soccer association to use the field when the Township Manager has been given the proper paperwork and when Mike says the fields are ready, second by Michael. There being no comments, motion carried 3-0.

Supervisors Remarks

Ray asked about holding our annual Appreciation Dinner. It was stated it will be on the agenda for April. In the meantime, Mel will call around and try to get pricing.

Mikal stated that it was the pleasure of the previous Board to use the American Rescue money to purchase the Zoning software from Dude Solutions that we are in the process of getting up and running.

Michael thanked everyone for a productive meeting.

There being no further business, the workshop meeting was adjourned at 9:43 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

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