

WILLIAMS TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
October 11, 2023

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 George Washburn. Others present were Vice Chairperson Raymond Abert, Supervisor Michael Bryant, Township Solicitor Jonathan Reiss, Township Manager Melody Ernst, Township Engineer Ronald Madison, Zoning Officer Anthony Altimare, Public Works Director Michael Strawn, and Administrative Assistant Hannah Warner.

George stated that an Executive Session was held on October 4, 2023, for Personnel Matters.

George asked if there were any corrections to the Minutes of September 13, 2023. 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 October 11, 2023, to the Board. Ray made a motion to approve the Expense Report, Treasurers Report, and to pay the bills, second by Michael. There being no comments, motion carried 3-0.

Manager's Report – Melody stated that our annual shredding event will be held on April 6, 2024, from 9-11am at the Public Works Facility. It was stated that the event will be placed on the Township calendar and in the upcoming email blast. Melody stated Halloween is scheduled for October 31, 2023, from 6-8pm and has been placed on the Township calendar. On October 4, 2023, the Board received an email with a proposed Resolution attached supporting America 250 PA Celebration. To date, 60 of 67 counties, including Northampton County and 4 other Townships in Northampton County have submitted similar resolutions to begin their planning of the celebration of the 250th Anniversary of America's Declaration of Independence. Jim Martin, President of the Historical Society spoke about the celebration which tentatively would be July 4, 2026. Jonathan said it is fine to adopt the resolution and Mel will just put the number on it. Michael made the motion to adopt the resolution, second by Ray. There being no comments, motion carried 3-0.

Public Works – Mike submitted his report dated September 13, 2023, to October 11, 2023, to the Board for review. Mike also stated that the drawings for the new addition and electrical plan should be here within the next couple of weeks to be approved at the next meeting. Michael asked if a gate could be installed at Chinergy field. It was consensus of the Board to install a gate at the entrance.

Zoning Office Report – The report from Anthony Altimare, Zoning Officer was received for the Boards Review. There will not be a Zoning Hearing Board meeting on Wednesday, October 25, 2023.

Planning Commission – None

Land Preservation Board – The report was given by Melody since Bob was not in attendance.

1. Recommendation of Approval to Obtain Appraisal on Project 2022-2. Michael made a motion to obtain an appraisal in the amount of \$2,600.00 from Indian Valley for this project, second by Ray. There being no comments, motion carried 3-0.
2. Recommendation of Approval to Obtain Appraisal on Project 2023-3. Michael made a motion to obtain an appraisal in the amount of \$2,600.00 from Indian Valley for this project, second by Ray. There being no comments, motion carried 3-0.

Recreation Board – Judy reported that Fest O Fall was a great success. Judy asked for permission from the Board of Supervisors to purchase 10 more tables. Board consensus is to order the tables.

Engineers Report – Ron submitted his memorandum dated October 9, 2023, to the Board for their review.

Solicitor Report – None

Old Business

1. **Authorization to Send Revised Solar Energy ZO Amendment to the Township PC and LVPC** – Michael does not agree with having it be approved to be in the Agricultural or low-density District. Ray made a motion to send Solar Energy ZO Amendment back to the Township Planning Commission and the LVPC for review and comment, second by George. There being no comments, motion carried 2-1. Michael opposed.
2. **Authorization to Send Revised In-Law Suite Ordinance Amendment to LVPC** – Michael made the motion to send the revised In-Law Suite Ordinance Amendment to LVPC for review and comment, second by Ray. There being no comments, motion carried 3-0.
3. **Re-confirm Township Manager Appointment Resolution as Written on 09/13/23-** Jonathan stated last month the Resolution was approved with retro pay. He further stated that if you want to address additional pay, he suggests it be addressed via a bonus as opposed to retroactive pay. Ray made a motion to re-confirm the original Resolution as written and voted upon on September 13, 2023, seconded by Michael. There being no comments, motion carried 3-0.
Michael made a motion to amend the agenda to discuss a bonus for the Township Manager, seconded by Ray. There being no comments, motion carried 3-0.
There was a brief discussion and the Board decided to table this until November.

New Business

1. **Oleska Agreement to Allow for Cutting of Trees and Cultivation of Mushrooms in the Highest Protection Area** – Jonathan stated that the owner's daughter would like to continue to cultivate mushrooms and cut down some trees for firewood. The Agreement before the Board tonight would not be part of the Conservation Agreement. If this property were sold in the future, the new homeowners would not be allowed to do this. Michael made a motion to allow cultivation of mushrooms and tree cutting for firewood purposes in the highest

protection are for personal use and the that the agreement would not run with the property, seconded by Ray. There being no comments motion carried 3-0.

2. Authorization to waive the RE Taxes for the Month of December 2022 Parcel M9-22-10A-1-0836 – Michael made a motion to waive RE tax for the above parcel in the amount of \$6.30, second by Ray. There being no comments, motion carried 3-0.

Supervisors' Comments

Ray thanked everyone who volunteered for Fest O Fall and the public works employees for setting up and breaking down. George also mentioned Fest O Fall and what a great day it was.

Audience Comments

1. **Jim Martin** – stated that America 250 would be great for the Township, and we should get started on planning this day.

2. **Linda Heindel** – stated that America 250 would be a great contribution to the Township and volunteers are needed to start organizing this event.

3. **Jennifer White** – 10 Kate Court – stated the residents feel that they are being treated unfairly by the Township. She also spoke briefly about the temporary CO's and how they obtain a final CO.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Hannah Warner, Administrative Assistant/Secretary
Williams Township Board of Supervisors