

**WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
MEETING OF:
October 16, 2023**

The regular monthly meeting of the Washington Township Board of Supervisors was held Monday, October 16, 2023.

Those in attendance were Chairman John J. Krause, Vice-Chairman, Wendell S. Gainer, Jr., Supervisor/Roadmaster Lynn Brown, Secretary/Treasurer Holly Reinford, and Solicitor Rick Wiest. Also in attendance were Ray Seiger, Bob Free, Keith Englehart, Vince Meyers, Becky Hoppes, Darwin Hoppes, Gregory Morgan, Bill George, Kevin Sattizahn, Danielle Schuller, Nancy Welty, and Eric Wolfe.

Chairman Krause opened the meeting with the pledge of allegiance. Chairman Krause reminded the residents of the notices, regarding meeting conduct and public comment procedures.

CORRESPONDENCE: The following miscellaneous correspondence was received and presented to the Board of Supervisors for their review; a list was also included in the public packet. Received from:

1. Keith Heinbach 9/1 – 9/30 Tax Remittance Report
2. County of Schuylkill Tax Assessment Bureau; Exoneration: Parcel 33-11-0076
3. County of Schuylkill Tax Assessment Bureau; Exoneration for school tax year 2023: Parcel 33-15-0055.018
4. Right to Know Request from Pine Grove Township for wage rate information
5. Right to Know Request from Nancy Welty for all of the 2023 meeting minutes
6. Contract Addendum for Brown's Maintenance LLC extended to September 29, 2023
7. MRM certificate of participation
8. PA Emergency Management Agency appointing Nick Miller as the EMC for Washington Township
9. Certificate of Liability Insurance for Dave Miller & Sons, Inc
10. Quest Diagnostics & DOT to update Designated Employee Representative information
11. DCNR Grant Award
12. Marty Sowers email of inspection to 136 Grist Mill Rd
13. VMC: supportive services for veteran family's flier
14. SLFRF & ARPA 2023 interim final rule
15. Commonwealth of PA: General Municipal Pension System State Aid funds notice
16. FCCB – Statement
17. Fulton Bank – Statement
18. PLGIT - Statement

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD:

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Upon motion of Chairman Krause, seconded by Supervisor Brown, approving the minutes for September 18, 2023, regular monthly meeting without correction. This motion unanimously carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT AND BILLS FOR APPROVAL: Upon motion of Chairman Krause, seconded by Supervisor Brown, the September 16 – October 11, 2023, Treasurer's Report was approved with a balance in all accounts, before receipts and bills, was \$1,294,212.01. Included in this motion was the approval of payment of all bills presented. This motion unanimously carried.

RECEIPTS: The report of receipts (September 16th – October 11th) listing \$37,208.15 in EIT receipts and \$42,307.00 in regular General Fund receipts was approved as printed upon motion of Chairman Krause, seconded by Supervisor Brown. This motion unanimously carried.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT: Nothing to remark on per Solicitor Wiest

ROADMASTER REPORTS: Roadmaster Brown stated Blue Mountain Road bridge is open, as of today. There's still some cosmetic work, but nothing to shut down the road. Notified EMC, Nick Miller, to let everyone know it is open. The new hire, Colton Wyllie, has so far proved to be an asset with his ace paving skills. From there on out we will move on to a little wall project on Moyer Station Rd and one on Wild Cherry Rd; weather permitting. All materials are stone and blocks that we already have.

COUNTY ZONING: Nothing remarkable per Secretary/Treasurer Reinford.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT: EMS Nick Miller was not in attendance.

OLD BUSINESS: Chairman Krause briefly explained the office building window leaks and stated the projected start date, weather permitting, will be October 16, 2023, with the original contractor; Spotts Brothers.

Chairman Krause stated no issues with the August 2023 per capita exemptions. Vice-Chairman Gainer moved to accept all tax exemptions submitted by Keith Heinbach, seconded by Supervisor Brown. This motion unanimously carried.

Secretary/Treasurer Reinford stated Garcia, Garman, & Shea will not exceed \$1,600 in charge to audit January 2023 – May 20, 2023. Vice-Chairman Gainer moved to proceed with agreement between Washington Township and Garcia, Garman, & Shea to audit, seconded by Chairman Krause. This motion unanimously carried.

Vice-Chairman Gainer stated that after resident Welty raised the issue with the neighboring property, but did not speak with the neighbor personally, the best path forward was to bring resident Sattizahn in and express the complaint or concern that Welty had. Vice-Chairman Gainer and Solicitor Wiest brought Sattizahn in and reviewed the ordinance with him. Sattizahn felt it was mostly in compliance already but asked for time to bring it fully into compliance. Chairman Krause stated we received updated photos of the property as well. Vice-Chairman

Gainer moved to engage Light & Heigel Associates as a third-party, non-biased, engineering firm to perform an ordinance review that concludes if the property is or isn't in compliance for these specific reasons listed. Seconded by Chairman Krause. This motion unanimously carried.

Residents Becky and Darwin Hoppes asked how many junk cards are legally allowed on a property and if there is an ordinance. They explained that the Gholson property has sat with vehicles on it, and they have been fighting for years to get it cleaned up. Hoppes explained that Mr. Gholson passed away several months ago and since both properties border theirs, they were hoping Gholson's would be cleaned up. They also explained a man moved in next door and expanded junk cars onto his property as well and they are here today to inquire what can be done. Solicitor Wiest asked if they spoke with the neighbor. The Hoppes have spoken with their neighbor and let him know they weren't happy; they want to do this civilly as the man seems nice and wondered if the township could send a letter with the ordinance to him and the Gholson property. Vice-Chairman Gainer stated that since both parties are being civil and seem to have communication, he would recommend that those parties be sent a copy of the ordinance with a letter asking that it be read, understood, and if they have any questions to give us a call. Gainer further explained the next few steps in the process would be to allow them time to bring their property into compliance with the ordinance as they read it. If they don't, we would ask that they sit down with one of us and Solicitor Wiest and find out where they are coming from. Based on that outcome, provide them clarity and reasonable time to clean up. After such time, a third-party evaluation would take place, and based on what the third-party evaluation states, discuss with Solicitor Wiest our next steps.

NEW BUSINESS: Chairman Krause stated the update to the office building windows is that Spotts Brothers is supposed to have an exact start date and that he, Krause, will be sending an email on the morning of 10/19/2023 to get an exact date. Krause would also like Dawn Van Fossen to be present during the work.

Secretary/Treasurer Reinford stated the audit for January – May 20, 2023, will be this coming Monday, October 23, 2023, here at the municipal building.

Chairman Krause stated no issues with the September 2023 per capita exemptions. Vice-Chairman Gainer moved to accept all tax exemptions submitted by Keith Heinbach, seconded by Supervisor Brown. This motion unanimously carried.

Secretary/Treasurer Reinford stated that she and Vice-Chairman Gainer received a report from Marty Sowers with Light-Heigel & Associates; Gainer will be sharing the findings. Vice-Chairman Gainer stated that an independent engineering firm conducted an inspection of the Sattizahn property per the 1998-2 ordinance. Mr. Sowers noted numerous observations and was accompanied by the property owner, Kevin Sattizahn. All vehicles were either started and moved or properly licensed and inspected. The only question was about the truck frame still located on the property. Vice-Chairman Gainer stated that in his personal opinion, it is not an abandoned vehicle. Based on Mr. Sowers's inspection report, we find this property in compliance. Chairman Krause concurred. Resident Welty asked about the green Subaru without a license plate. Vice-Chairman Gainer stated the report found that the green Subaru wagon adjacent to the detached garage with an expired sticker was demonstrated to run and drive under its own power which makes it compliant with the ordinance. Vice-Chairman Gainer found that the property complies

with ordinance 1998-2 at this point and the Township finds this matter closed as Township Business. Supervisor Brown seconded this statement.

Chairman Krause inquired if Becky and Darwin Hoppes have been in contact with the owner of 1144 Deturksville Rd. Mrs. Hoppes stated yes, that they had talked and after last month's meeting she forwarded contact information to Secretary/Treasurer Reinford. Secretary/Treasurer Reinford stated she sent out two letters giving 30 days to bring their properties into compliance with ordinance 1998-2. 1144 Deturksville was received by the owner coming into the Township building to talk about it; he was asked to read the ordinance and bring the property into compliance. 1140 Deturksville was not able to be verified if they received the letter or not but it was sent to the contact and address given by Mrs. Hoppes. Mrs. Hoppes asked when the 30 days expire. Secretary/Treasurer Reinford stated a few days after this meeting.

Resident Gregory Morgan brought up a concern about a property owner on Eagle Springs Lane; his concern is that per our Township ordinance (2009-1) the property is allowed two driveways. Per rumors, the property owner is looking to gain access via a fourth driveway onto Lighthouse Lane. The property owner has access to Eagle Springs Lane, Roedersville Game driveway, and a driveway they got a permit for in 2019. Mr. Morgan did state that Eagle Springs Lane is currently tied up in a legal matter and gated on two ends. Resident Bill George is concerned that Lighthouse Lane is a private lane, and a neighbor is allowing access through their property onto Lighthouse Lane for the property on Eagle Springs. Mr. Morgan also stated that the Eagle Springs property still has cabins that are being rented out without proper septic. Supervisor Brown stated that the right of way information and access from the property in question onto Lighthouse Lane is a neighbor matter and not a Township matter as Lighthouse Lane is not a Township road. Secretary/Treasurer Reinford stated that Light-Heigel & Associates issued a driveway permit in 2019 to the property owner to come out onto Mountain Road. Vice-Chairman Gainer did let Mr. Morgan know that if we find the 2019 driveway permit was not done correctly, we will make sure it is corrected.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business to come before the Board of Supervisors of Washington Township, upon motion of Chairman Krause, seconded by Supervisor Brown the meeting adjourned at 7:44 p.m. This motion unanimously carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Holly Reinford
Secretary/Treasurer
Washington Township