

Williams Township Board of Supervisors
March 13, 2019

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 Mark Ernst. Mark led the audience in the pledge to the flag. 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 Township Secretary Melody Ernst.

Mark stated there was an Executive Session held on March 13, 2019 to discuss legal matters.

Mark asked Ray and Michael if they had any corrections to the Minutes of February 13, 2019. There being none, Ray made a motion to approve said minutes, second by Michael. There being no comments, motion carried 3-0.

Melody presented the Expense Report of March 13, 2019 and the February Treasurers Report to the Board. Ray made a motion to approve the Expense Report, Treasurers Report and pay the bills, second by Michael. There being no comments, motion carried 3-0.

Manager's Report

Mikal submitted his Managers Report to the Board and briefly reviewed his report.

Mikal stated that Bob Helm stopped into the Municipal Office to file an official complaint about the littering of the Main Street Market Place advertisement. It was suggested that residents call the phone number that is on the publication and ask that it not be delivered. Michael asked if that could be placed on the Township website. Jonathan suggested including it in a newsletter.

Mikal stated it was brought to his attention that there had been a discretionary spending authority that permitted approval for the Land Preservation Board use of funds without direct approval from the Board of Supervisors. After a brief discussion, Mark made a motion to use discretionary spending up to \$500.00 for the Land Preservation Board, second by Ray. There being no comments, motion carried 3-0.

Mikal stated that the sewer delinquencies have been discussed but never came to a final decision to pursue the means of our water shut off agreement. It was stated at the current time the Township's total uncollected amount for sewer bills is \$19,562.89.

Mikal stated the uncollected amounts date back to 2013 to current. Jonathan stated that he feels the quickest way to collect would be through the Agreement that is with the Water Authority. There is a procedure that the Township would need to follow. The Board is in agreeance to move forward with the shut off Agreement.

Mikal commented he has distributed to the Board the donation contribution form that he has put together and asked if the Board would like him to send it to the former recipients of donations. Mark stated his opinion is the form is needed per the auditors and if someone asks the Township for a donation they should be given the form. Michael agrees with Mark. Ray feels the form is to demanding. Mark stated that you have two board members in favor and one that is not.

Ray commented that the acoustic concern was not brought up. Mikal stated that the initial cost for sound reducing tiles has doubled based on true dimensions at a cost of approximately \$5,000.00. If the Board wishes to move forward then the next step would be to give the company the formal engineer plans with the complete physical dimension of the room. Mark commented that he is not ready to spend \$5,000.00 at this time. He commented that he feels if curtains were installed it would buffer some of the noise. Ray agreed with Mark to install some curtains in the room.

Ron Hineline commented that the Memorial Day Ceremony is scheduled for Sunday, May 26, 2019 at 6 p.m. He stated their main speaker will be David P. Cooley, an Army Veteran, and writer who lives in Easton. There will also be a Memorial Tribute to Glen Zimpfer. It was stated that the Zimpfer family would like to have a tree planted by the memorial. There was also a suggestion of a stone or a plaque.

Public Works – Mike Strawn read the report for February 13, 2019 to March 13, 2019. Mike stated did a speed study on Steely Hill Road and determined that 85% of travelers were doing 44 mph. He stated that the road is not currently posted. It was discussed that if the Board would like it to be posted it would have to go through a study which would cost approximately \$3,000.00 to \$5,000.00. Both Mark and Ray felt it not necessary at this time.

Zoning Hearing Board - The report from March was received from Tina and accepted by the Board. It was stated there will not be a Zoning Hearing Board meeting on March 27, 2019.

Planning Commission Report – None

Land Preservation Report – Bob Schmidt gave the report for March. Bob asked the Board if they would be willing to pay for the Frys Run insurance as they did last year. Mark made a motion to approve the payment of \$384.36, second by Michael. There being no comments, motion carried 3-0.

Bob also stated that the Land Preservation Board is recommending that the Township to roll over the three CD's that are coming due this month at their current term and also asked if \$200,000.00 can be taken from the Open Space Savings Account be placed into six month CD's. This will be discussed further under new business.

Recreation Board - Judy submitted the March report to the Board for review. She stated that the Fall Festival is scheduled for September 18, 2018 with a rain rate of September 29, 2019. Judy also stated that a resident with property below the tennis court would be interested in selling and the Recreation Board would be interested in purchasing. It was stated that the resident should contact Ron so that Ron can determine if the property is viable.

Landfill Advisory Committee Report - None

Engineer Report- Ron briefly reviewed his March 11, 2019 memorandum.

Ron stated that DEP has issued a final Environmental Assessment Review. The Township has 60 days to respond with any additional comments. Ron further stated that the prior EA Review comments from Maser Consulting were implemented in the DEP decision.

Solicitor Report

Jonathan stated that he has received the Stipulation on the G & J Properties which spells out what they would be required to submit to the Township in order to obtain a grading permit and would be subject to the review by the township engineer in relation to the townships grading ordinance. This Stipulation would settle the zoning hearing board hearing that was originally on November 28, 2018 and was continued in order to try and resolve which this appeal settlement does. Ray made a motion to approve the Stipulation and to authorize the chairman to sign same, second by Michael. There being no comments, motion carried 3-0.

Jonathan stated 95 Gaffney Hill Road was cited under the Zoning Ordinance with a zoning enforcement notice. No appeal to the zoning hearing board was taken nor did the property come to compliance. Grim, Biehn & Thatcher pursued a Magisterial Justice action by direction from the Board seeking fines against the property owners. A default Judgment was obtained for \$12,000.00 plus court costs and now the property owner has appealed the default Judgement to the Northampton County Court of Common Pleas. A motion was made by Michael to authorize Jonathan's office to prepare a Complaint seeking fines and injunction and pursuing a claim under the Township Nuisance Ordinance as well as file a petition for preliminary injunction against the property owner, second by Ray. There being no comments, motion carried 3-0.

Old Business

1. Authorize Payment to Semmel Excavating Coffeetown Road Emergency Project -

Ron stated that Maser Consulting is satisfied with the work that has been completed by Semmel Excavating and recommends payment of \$18,864.52. Michael made a motion to approve payment to Semmel Excavating in the amount of \$18,864.52, second by Ray. Ray commented that Semmel did a good job. There being no further comments, motion carried 3-0.

New Business

1. Investment Policy - Resolution 2019-12 – Mark stated that he is not in favor of the Resolution because he feels all investments and reinvestments should be at the direction of the Board of Supervisors with advice from financial consultants. Mark stated that at a financial seminar for Municipals that he attended there was discussion regarding a company sponsored by the State of Pennsylvania where they will look at sources of income, tax base, assets for free and provide the Township with an amortization. Ray stated he was always in favor of meeting with financial advisors to see what the best investments are. He would also like to see some of the money from the Landfill Settlement account invested as well. Michael stated that he agrees with Mark and feels the Resolution should be tabled. Mark recommended that we give the Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer until September to meet with three investment firms and have them put together a profile investing \$500,000.00 and what fees if any would be included in investing with that company. He feels we should also utilize the State opportunity to analyze our operation. Mark also thought it to be a good idea to have a special meeting wherein the investment firm could come in and explain what they feel would be the best investments for the Township. Michael stated that he feels it would help the Township if we could formulate a three to five year plan for the Township. Mark tabled the Resolution.

Michael made a motion to authorize the Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer to reinvest CD's as they come due until further notice from the Board. Ray stated that he would like to invest \$400,000.00 from the Landfill Settlement Account. Michael withdrew his motion. Mark made a motion to allow the Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer to reinvest CD's as they come due at the same term and best rate possible until the Board gets the report back from the State and Investment and to also invest \$400,000.00 from the Landfill Settlement Account in either a six month or one year term at the Treasurer and Assistant Treasurers discretion for the best possible rate, second by Michael. There being no comments, motion carried 3-0.

Supervisors Remarks - None

Audience Comments

1. **Becky Wamsley (identified self as non-township resident)** - read a prepared statement about Bean Construction along South Delaware Drive.

There being no further business, meeting was adjourned at 8:18 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

MELODY A. ERNST, SECRETARY
Williams Township Board of Supervisors