

MEETING MINUTES - WEST BETHLEHEM TOWNSHIP SUPERVISORS MEETING

TUESDAY – OCTOBER 10-2023 @ 6PM

Attendees: Lars Lange/V Chairman – Supervisor; Dave Garland – Supervisor; Eric Betzer – Solicitor; Betsy Benning – Secretary Treasurer, RTK Officer- Absent – Tom Donahoo

Announcement: This meeting is being audio and video taped as an aide to the Secretary only and is not to be considered an official record of business.

Please be aware: Any recordings made of this meeting by other individuals, likewise, are not an official record of business.

Pledge of Allegiance: I pledge Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic, for which it stands, one Nation, Under God, indivisible with Liberty and Justice for all.

Citizens Participation:

~Nancy Midla / Read Library Letter regarding Township Building Repointing Project

~Derrick Cain – Cain Contracting /presented information on Repointing Project for Township Building

~John & Tina DeJuliis – Garrett Rd Residents/ stated their desire to have Garrett Road .6miles paved; as well as an issue with Woodland Road currently washing into their fields.

~Castile Ridge Resident-(135 Castile Ridge Rd) Veronica Hutchinson states her road condition also needs addressed.

Minutes from Previous Meeting:

1) **Motion:** to accept previous meeting minutes.

_____Tom Donahoo _____2nd_____Lars Lange_____M_____Dave Garland, **all voted yeas, Motion carried.**

Bills paid since last meeting: AED market, \$75.17 (Gen); Columbia Gas, \$16.06 (Gen); West Penn Power, \$260.31 (Gen); Marianna Volunteer Fire Company Relief Assoc, \$8345.34 (Gen-rec'd funds rec'd from PA Attorney Gen); SPWA, \$49.16 (Gen); Synchrony Bank Sams Club Mastercard, \$161.54 (Gen); SPWA, \$49.16 (Gen); Consolidated Communications, \$277.37 (Gen); Highmark Bc/Bs \$8713.40 (Gen)

New Bills to be paid: Unifirst, \$318.27 (Gen); Fleet pride, \$252.52 (Gen); Harshman CE Group, \$ 7249.38 (Gen); Stevenson Equipment, \$968.11 (Gen); KLH Engineering, \$140.00 (Gen); Fleet pride, \$525.52 (Gen); Bigs Sanitation, \$110.00 (Gen); Chemung Supply \$586.28 (Capital Improvements/Table Games); Yablonski, Costello & Leckie, \$718.50 (Gen); Dry Tavern Ace Hardware, \$54.99 (Gen); Harshman CE Group, \$522.50 (EGTS Kefover Laurel Driveway); Harshman CE Group, \$2295.09(EGTS – Heavy Haul Laurel Ridge); Harshman CE

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Cont. – bills to be paid.

Group, \$2485.09 (EGTS, Kefover-Laurel Heavy Haul); Computer Dr, \$70.00 (Gen); MWBJSA, \$49.00 (Gen);

2) **Motion** to pay the bills.

_____ Tom Donahoo _____ 2nd _____ Lars Lange _____ M _____ Dave Garland, all voted yeas, Motion carried.

Correspondence:

~ Clean and tidy our County, Inc. shared information about adopting a bench or picnic table.

~Preliminary 2024 Budget has been prepared.

~Received Township employees Health Insurance Benefit Proposal for effective dates December 1-2023 through November 30, 2024.

~Thank you note sent to Resident Mary Dobich for rug donation for the park bathrooms.

~Washington County Conversation District- Growing Greener funds will be utilized to stabilize the creek bank on Mrs. Strack's property on Barr Run Rd (**Supervisor Lars** states Mrs. Strack has a contract signed with Growing Greener-and he's unsure when the work will commence)

~Discussion with Rob Orsatti/PA DOT regarding State Rte. 2020 Slide

~US Army Corp of Engineers – discussion regarding options to remove sediment below Jefferson Ave Bridge.

~**Supervisor Lars** comments on numerous 2nd class Township's near and similar in size to West Bethlehem Township and their rates of pay. **Supervisor Lars** states he's been told all 2nd class Townships are to have similar pay structures.

Supervisor Dave comments on the Library Letter presented by Mrs. Midla – Dave states he's been all over the world handling million-dollar jobs and has *never* been told he was disappointing to anyone, and he is hurt over the depiction of the letter regarding the repointing of the Township Building. – Further **Supervisor Dave** continues to state, that once the Township Shed concerns are handled, he will be prepared to discuss the repointing of the Township Building.

Roadmasters Report:

~**Supervisor Dave** states they have been cleaning ditches and working on trucks preparing for winter.

Solicitors Report:

~ Solicitor defers to Old Business section regarding the Kennedy property (*park update).

Old Business:

~ Stop signs for Central Ave will be installed as soon as notification lights arrive (to be utilized at the Central-Broad intersection). **Supervisor Dave** states he and Tom discussed the problem with a stop sign being placed coming up the hill on Central Ave and they don't want that to happen because of winter weather approaching-it's too dangerous.

~Slate dump update- Natural Stream Foundation working with the DEP.

~Park update (DCNR grant)- Solicitor states Mrs. Kennedy's daughter has not responded to him;

*Solicitor asked that the Supervisors decide by the November Township meeting either asking the Solicitor to handle Eminent Domain proceedings or do nothing with the paper alley.

property, - (possibly moving or removing the batting cage & revamping the walking trail, so all locations are located on only Township property).

~Whitehall sale process- Deed being prepared, but the family isn't quite ready to proceed with the purchase due to 2 deaths in their family recently.

~October 21st Fall Festival – bands have been booked, estimated cost of \$500.00, bouncy house rented, estimated cost \$450.00, 7 of 8 Softball Teams confirmed, *estimated income \$400.00.

~Andrew Post (Bob Mercante's grandson) tree planting update for Walking Trail.

~Grant writer - request for Proposals and Qualifications prepared.

~Township Code Enforcement Officer – Request for Proposals and Qualifications prepared.

~Flagpole – Internet research conducted -**Supervisor Lars** states price looks right around \$1500.00 (Resident states he obtained a 25 ft flagpole for approx. \$500.00, manufactured by Freedom Flag Poles and invited Lars to come to his home and review the Flagpole.

New Business:

~ have communicated with Laurel Hill Trout Farm and they have expressed the opinion that chemical treatment for sludge removal at the pond would require 10 years of treatment to be effective, dredging and sludge removal is recommended.

- 3) **Motion:** to apply for both county and LSA grants for Field and Stream Club Rd. Bridge.
_____Tom Donahoo ____M____Lars Lange____2nd____Dave Garland, **all voted**
yeas, Motion carried.

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- 4) **Motion:** to accept price quotes for all insurances policies from Higbee Insurance, retro to 9-22-2023.

_____ Tom Donahoo ____ M ____ Lars Lange _____ 2nd _____ Dave Garland, all voted yeas, Motion carried.

- 5) **Motion:** to Close out EGTS Laurel Ridge & Kevoer Road Projects- close out and return bonds as well as return applicable amount of funds from Escrow accounts- as indicated by the Engineer's Closing Documentation.

_____ Tom Donahoo ____ M ____ Lars Lange _____ 2nd _____ Dave Garland, all voted yeas, Motion carried.

- 6) **Motion:** To establish the Trick or Treat date *yearly* in West Bethlehem Township as October 31st from 5pm-7pm.

_____ Tom Donahoo ____ M ____ Lars Lange _____ 2nd _____ Dave Garland, all voted yeas, Motion carried.

- ~~7) **Motion:** to repaint the Township Building with Cain Contracting with a smaller scale of the LSA grant amount of \$42,500.~~

~~_____ Tom Donahoo _____ Lars Lange _____ Dave Garland, all voted yeas, Motion carried. ERROR (DUPLICATION)~~

- 8) **Motion:** to accept Highmark BC/BS health insurance plan, (PPO Blue \$0-100/80 Platinum), at a monthly cost of \$9106.31 -coverage beginning December 1, 2023, and ending 11-30-2024. Township employees will continue to be responsible for 10% of the health insurance cost.

_____ Tom Donahoo ____ M ____ Lars Lange _____ 2nd _____ Dave Garland, all voted yeas, Motion carried.

- 9) **Motion:** *to deposit \$400.00 (earned from Soft Ball Tournament registration fee) into the Park Fund.

_____ Tom Donahoo ____ M ____ Lars Lange _____ 2nd _____ Dave Garland, all voted yeas, Motion carried.

- 10) **Motion:** to pay Washington Township Supervisors (Greene County) for brush hogging Dividing Ridge Road (received invoice for \$500.00)

_____ Tom Donahoo ____ M ____ Lars Lange _____ Dave Garland, all voted yeas, Motion carried. (MOTION DIED FOR LACK OF 2nd – Supervisor Dave explains Washington Twp never mentioned they were charging to complete the mowing.

- 11) **Motion:** to accept the recent Cain Contracting bid of \$79,800.00, subject to our agreed reduced scope of work as low as \$42,500, the amount of the County LSA grant.

_____ Tom Donahoo ____ M ____ Lars Lange _____ Dave Garland, all voted yeas, Motion carried. (MOTION DIED FOR LACK OF 2nd)

Meeting adjourned: 7:00 pm

Betty Denard
Secretary Treasurer