

WEST HANOVER TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

7171 Allentown Blvd
Harrisburg, PA 17112

MEETING MINUTES THURSDAY, MARCH 16, 2023

1. Call to Order, Pledge of Allegiance & Invocation

2. Approval of Meeting Minutes from February 16

Motion: Supervisor Megonnell moved, seconded by Vice Chair Miller. Chair Connors abstained; she was not present at the meeting.

3. PA State Police In-Person Report – Cpl. Aaron Hunt

Cpl. Hunt reported that since the beginning of 2023 there have been 282 incidents in West Hanover Township. Included in that number are thefts, domestic calls and drug overdoses. There were 53 crashes, 4 DUI related. The majority were non-injury. Supervisor Zimmerman thanked Cpl. Hunt for his service. Supervisor Megonnell asked if the state police could have someone attend the Public Safety Advisory Board meetings on the second Monday of the month at 6:30 p.m. at Fire Station #1 on Jonestown Road.

4. WHT Fire Company In-Person Report

Assistant Chief Matt Senft reported there have been 37 calls so far in February and 68 calls since January 1, 2023. Recently there was an accident near Fire Station #2 on Hershey Road that damaged the warning sign. The estimated cost to repair the sign is \$23,000. A tax credit of \$250 is available for all first responders. Engine 36-2 had engine failure in February and has been repaired and is back in service. Secretary/Treasurer Steinmeier asked if we need assistance on our calls and Assistant Chief Senft replied, that yes, they do for many of them. Every department in Dauphin County is having a hard time getting volunteers and relies on mutual aid. Chief Smedley's brother Christopher passed away and they will be sending some apparatus to the services. Supervisor Zimmerman asked where the newest truck is located and Assistant Chief Senft replied that it runs out of Station #3 on Piketown Road. It is a tanker truck and holds 1,800 gallons of water.

5. Bowman Insurance Group In-Person Report

Township Manager Gossert said that he and Finance Director Houck regularly check to see what the market bears and they reached out to Bowman Insurance Group. Jeff Edwards, President and Tyler Wright, Vice President were here to talk about their company and offer a proposal. They found some coverage issues with our current policy and can also offer cost savings.

6. Correspondence

Received a letter from the Dauphin County Commissioners that they approved the 2022/2023 Gaming Grant award to West Hanover Township in the amount of \$300,000.

7. First Public Comment

Sarah Turner, North Star Drive – Saw the draft out regarding the chicken ordinance and would like to really thank everyone involved. Had one comment regarding the coop and pen sizing, feels it is too large.

Linda Turns, Rabbit Lane – Asked if all the Fire Company equipment is up to date. Also asked if there were plans in the future for paid firemen. Asked if there was still discussion of purchasing a ladder truck.

8. Presentations, Staff & Board Reports

- A. February Zoning Report
- B. February Engineer's Report
- C. February WHT Fire Chief's Report
- D. February Parks & Recreation Meeting Minutes
- E. February Environmental Advisory Committee's (EAC) Meeting Minutes
- F. January South Central Emergency Medical Services Chief's Report
- G. Property Maintenance Log for February 9 through March 8
- H. Public Works Daily Report for February 16 through March 15

9. Treasurer's Report

- A. Monthly Deposits for February were \$325,084.95
- B. **Expenditures**
 - (1) Payroll for February 24, Net: \$34,956.20 - Gross \$46,637.50
Motion: Supervisor Zimmerman moved, seconded by Supervisor Megonnell to accept the payroll. The motion was unanimous.
 - (2) Payroll for March 10, Net \$37,164.03 - Gross \$48,027.62
Motion: Supervisor Megonnell moved, seconded by Vice Chair Miller to accept the payroll. The motion was unanimous.
 - (3) Vouchers pre-paid via paper check, ACH transfer & Vendor Sites for February were in the amount of \$189,729.83
Motion: Supervisor Zimmerman moved, seconded by Vice Chair Miller. The motion was unanimous.

10. Old Business

- A. Fire Company Radios
Township Manager Gossert said that the cost of the replacement radios for the Fire Company came in about \$150,000 less than what was expected. Radios for the Public Works Department will be purchased at the same time but are not included in the quote, as well as a radio for the Emergency Management Coordinator. They are

considerably cheaper than the radios the Fire Company requires. Having said that, the purchase price for all the needed radios will be just under \$500,000.

Motion: Supervisor Megonnell moved, seconded by Secretary/Treasurer Steinmeier to place the radio order. The motion was unanimous.

11. Zoning & Planning

- A. Consideration to approve Financial Security adjustment #1 for 7174 Sterling Road in the amount \$21,067, bringing the remaining balance to \$4,142, as reviewed by HRG

Motion: Supervisor Megonnell moved, seconded by Vice Chair Miller to approve the adjustment. The motion was unanimous.

12. New Business

- A. Consideration to approve Ordinance 2023-01, establishing the number of members of the Planning Commission
Township Solicitor Lee Stinnett reported that the purpose of this Ordinance is to clarify the number of members of the Planning Commission. Depending where you looked, there was conflicting information on how many members should be on the Commission and this Ordinance seeks to clarify that number. Supervisor Zimmerman asked if there are 5 members can we also add 2 alternates? A committee was formed of Supervisor Zimmerman representing the Board of Supervisors, the Planning Commission Chairman and the Planning Vice Chairman to complete the interview process.

Motion: Secretary/Treasurer Steinmeier moved, seconded by Supervisor Megonnell to approve the Ordinance. The motion was unanimous.

- B. Consideration to approve Resolution 2023-30, Master Trail Plan submission of an application to the Community Conservation Partnerships Program for a grant from the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources
This will be to look at Township right away to develop a plan to connect neighborhoods to parks or walking paths. Edward Black from H. Edward Black and Associates, Ltd., spoke about his company's experience performing this task, citing examples and what they will be doing. Public input will be critical to the plan and his company will report everything to the Board of Supervisors.

Motion: Supervisor Megonnell moved, seconded by Secretary/Treasurer Steinmeier to approve the Resolution. The motion was unanimous.

Edward Black also gave an update on the proposed new Administrative & Public Works Buildings. He reported that the site

concept is set, the stormwater plan is at 35% completion and the building design is at 50% completion. They are working closely with Kimmel-Bogrette adjusting building locations for grading. They put a lot of work into grading, trying to use the natural contours as much as possible. He anticipates having the project ready for bidding before late 2023.

- C. Consideration to approve Resolution 2023-31, Master Trail Plan for preparation and submission of a Greenways, Trails and Recreation Program grant application

Motion: Supervisor Megonnell moved, seconded by Secretary/Treasurer Steinmeier to approve the Resolution. The motion was unanimous.

- D. Consideration to approve the proposed general liability and worker's compensation insurance as presented by Bowman Insurance Group

Motion: Supervisor Zimmerman moved, seconded by Supervisor Miller to approve the proposal. The motion was unanimous.

- E. Consideration to approve funds from the Fire Tax Capital Reserve to pay the \$21,298.58 invoice to repair the engine on Engine 36-2, as requested by Fire Company President, Michael Keller

Motion: Supervisor Zimmerman moved, seconded by Supervisor Megonnell to approve the funds. The motion was unanimous.

- F. Consideration to approve Merlin Communications audit of past telecommunication bills

Township Manager Gossert reported that a lot of times phone bills do not always keep up and the Township could be billed for services we are no longer using. This Company takes your phone, internet and cell bills and goes back 10 years, and will have the companies reimburse us for those services that we did not use. Township Manager Gossert has seen some significant savings with other Townships. Merlin does not get paid unless something is found. They then would receive 50% of the finding and 50% of the savings for the next year.

Motion: Secretary/Treasurer Steinmeier moved, seconded by Supervisor Megonnell to approve the audit. The motion was unanimous.

- G. Fox Mill Road resurfacing discussion

Township Manager Gossert was contacted by the East Hanover Township Manager recently to inform us that they will be paving the road in the future and about 100 feet of the road is in West Hanover Township. They would like us to pay for our portion. They

will take care of it and we would reimburse them.

Motion: Supervisor Megonnell moved, seconded by Supervisor Zimmerman to approve the reimbursement. The motion was unanimous.

- H. Consideration to accept Tom Stewart's resignation as the Township Tax Collector as of May 31

Motion: Supervisor Zimmerman moved, seconded by Secretary/Treasurer Steinmeier to accept the resignation. The motion was unanimous.

- I. Consideration to accept Tom Stewart's resignation as a member of the West Hanover Township Authority (Stormwater) as of May 31

Motion: Supervisor Zimmerman moved, seconded by Vice Chair Miller to accept the resignation. The motion was unanimous.

- J. Consideration to approve a 2-year extension for septic pumping at 7345 Fishing Creek Valley Road, Lois Lauver. Lot size is 1.40 acres, and she lives alone. Pumping would not need to be completed until August 10, 2025.

Motion: Supervisor Zimmerman moved, seconded by Supervisor Megonnell to approve the extension. The motion was unanimous.

- K. Consideration to approve a 2-year extension for septic pumping at 7237 Sleepy Hollow Road, Dorothy & George Kirk. Lot size is 1.33 acres. Pumping would not need to be completed until March 17, 2025.

Motion: Supervisor Megonnell moved, seconded by Supervisor Zimmerman to approve the extension. The motion was unanimous.

- L. Consideration to purchase trash receptacles to replace the current receptacles for the park system. To purchase the 20 needed receptacles, the cost will be \$10,800.00 from the lowest bidder.

Motion: Supervisor Zimmerman moved, seconded by Secretary/Treasurer Steinmeier to approve the purchase. The motion was unanimous.

- M. Consideration to purchase a 2023 Bintelli Electric Shuttle in the amount of \$11,475 from the lowest bidder.

Motion: Supervisor Zimmerman moved, seconded by Secretary/Treasurer Steinmeier to approve the purchase. The motion was unanimous.

At this time Parks & Recreation Director Don Holmes said that he gets a lot of positive feedback, and he attributes it to the staff and volunteers. He appreciates the community support, the Fire Company support and the support of the

Environmental Advisory Committee. He thanked the Board of Supervisors for their continued support and wanted to thank Township Manager for his support and leadership. Also wanted to thank the Supervisors for their support of the Master Trail Plan. Supervisor Megonnell mentioned that a longtime volunteer, Jean Sites recently passed away. He would like to see flowers on behalf of the Township go to her services.

13. Second Public Comment

Jessica Berman, Piketown Road – Sad day when the Supervisors vote to reduce the number of residents that can get involved, regarding the Planning Commission.

Richard Enck, Hillside Road – Has complained to Tara Rex about the billing of the Public Works cable. At the January meeting it was asked about getting street maps for the public to view.

14. Parks & Recreation Upcoming Events

3/17 – Blood Drive 12 – 4:30 pm

3/23 – Senior Entertainment – BINGO!!

3/29 – Chicken Pot Pie Drive Thru 12 – 5 pm

4/01 – Easter Egg Hunt 11 am – 1 pm Skyline Commons

4/06 – Senior Technology Corner 12 -3 pm

4/13 – DC Lunch Cruise Bus Trip\Senior Game Day

4/15 – WHBSA Opening Day 10 am Houck Manor

2/01 – 4/12/2023 AARP Tax Preparation Monday and Wednesdays 9 am 3 pm – Call 717-219-3934 to schedule appointment. – ALL APPOINTMENTS ARE NOW FULL

15. Supervisor Comments

Supervisor Zimmerman – Thanked the Boy Scouts that are present for leading the Pledge of Allegiance this evening. Don't ever give it up. Go the whole way to Eagle and fly. Wishing everyone the luck of the Irish.

Supervisor Megonnell – Attended a local government forum with Gloria, Don and Mike and it was very good. Received insight on different grants that are available. Senior Lunch was a success. Come to the March 22 Zoning Ordinance Re-Write Committee meeting at 4:30 p.m. The Environmental Advisory Committee has submitted a letter to the Zoning Ordinance Re-Write Committee with a couple of concerns they have as far as wetlands infringement. Happy St. Patrick's Day.

Secretary/Treasurer Steinmeier – Along with what Supervisor Megonnell said about the forum, the county is lending money out, millions of dollars, at 1¾% interest. The money is being targeted for roads, stormwater, sewer and any other worthwhile projects. You must go through an application process. It can be a 10-year, 15-year or even 20-year loan. Also, speeding through developments is still happening. There are drivers that haven't learned and are

still speeding, especially in the mornings and after school hours. Finally, Jean Sites volunteered in West Hanover for over 32 years. He will always remember that she made the best potato salad in the world. Chief Smedley's brother passed away recently. Christopher Smedley was only 50 years old. We will miss Jean and Chris.

Vice Chair Miller – Jean Sites and Christopher Smedley were very important people in the Township. He did not know Chris personally, but Christopher was on our Fire Company as a junior. Be cautious of the very windy days. There have been several vegetation fires. Everyone drink some green beer tomorrow.

Chair Connors – Said that Township Solicitor Stinnett pointed out before the meeting started this evening that the Bishop of the Diocese of Harrisburg said its ok to eat meat tomorrow. Wants to thank everyone for coming out. Two residents joined us via Zoom. Heard a rumor that her new job would not allow her to continue to serve on the Board and she wants to dispel that rumor. She has a new job, and it was determined that there was no conflict with her being on the Board. If anything would be a conflict in the future, she will simply abstain.

At this time Parks & Recreation Director Holmes said he failed to mention we are working with Mt. Laurel Park and have received paperwork from them that is currently being reviewed by our Solicitor and will go before the board before long to add the park to the Township.

16. Adjournment at 8:06 p.m.

Motion: Supervisor Megonnell moved, seconded by Supervisor Zimmerman to adjourn the meeting. The motion was unanimous.