

**WILLISTOWN TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**  
**RITA REVES PARK- 1040 GARRETT MILL ROAD**  
**NEWTOWN SQUARE, PA 19073**  
**MONDAY, AUGUST 16<sup>th</sup>, 2021 AT 7:00 PM**

The Regular Meeting of the Willistown Township Board of Supervisors came to order at 7:00 pm. Supervisors William R. Shoemaker, Robert T. Lange, and George J. McHugh IV were present. Also present were Township Manager Sally Slook, Chief Robert Klinger, Lt. Jeff Heim, Finance Director Martin McKenzie, Director of Public Works William Hagan, Director of Planning and Zoning Robert Smiley, and Solicitor Bill Christman

Supervisor Shoemaker led a moment of silence for military personnel, first responders, and all front-line workers in the current pandemic.

**Announcements** – Supervisor Shoemaker announced the Board met in Executive Session prior to this meeting to discuss personnel and legal issues.

**New Business**

***Oath of Office*** - Swearing in of new police officer Joshua A. Goodwin by Supervisor Shoemaker.

***Police Report*** –Chief Klinger reported a domestic-related shooting where the victim suffered a graze wound. The shooter was subsequently shot in the foot during a struggle for the firearm. The shooter was arrested and is currently in Chester County Prison, awaiting a preliminary hearing. Also reported was a theft from a garage at the unit block of Callery Way and a jewelry theft from the 900 block of Weatherstone. The Chief and Detective Sgt. Jones represented Willistown Township at a meeting hosted by the DA's Office for school districts on diversity, race, and inclusion. Detective Sgt. Jones was also a witness at a trial for a homicide relating to the delivery of drugs. Usually, this type of allegation is hard to prove, but after a 5-day trial, the defendant was convicted, in part because of Detective Sgt. Jones detective work and testimony.

***Update by U.S. Representative Chrissy Houlahan*** - Scott Nelson, on behalf of U.S. Representative Chrissy Houlahan, introduced himself and explained that he works out of the West Chester office. Representative Houlahan has tasked her staff to visit every municipality in her district. The office can be an advocate for residents with issues with the IRS and Social Security, passports, or anything involving the federal government. This year her office has returned \$3.5 million to constituents through casework. Representative Houlahan voted on the American Rescue Plan, which resulted in billions of dollars being directed to PA for various projects, including infrastructure, VA funding, and education. If a resident is planning to visit DC and would tickets to any of the museums or a tour of Congress or the White House, go to Representative Houlahan's website and click on tours for more information on how to apply. Her office hires roughly 20 interns a year at her West Chester, Reading, and DC office for any resident who might have an interested college-age student or recent college graduate. The program is always taking applications.

***Minutes*** – Supervisor McHugh moved to approve the minutes of the meeting of July 19, 2021. Supervisor Lange seconded the motion. There were no comments from the Board or the public, and the motion carried 3-0.

**Expenditures** - Supervisor McHugh moved to approve the list of expenditures and interfund transfers dated August 13, 2021. Supervisor Lange seconded the motion. There were no comments from the Board or the public, and the motion carried 3-0.

**Escrow Release** – Supervisor McHugh moved to authorize the release of escrow funds for the development known as Troutbeck Farms. This is request #1, in the amount of \$144,722.93, with \$1,089,663.31 remaining in escrow balance. Supervisor Shoemaker seconded. There were no comments from the Board or the public, and the motion carried 2-1. Supervisor Lange has gone on record previously, stating he has opposed this development.

**Escrow Release** – Supervisor McHugh moved to authorize the release of escrow funds for the Villa Maria Student Union. This is request #1, in the amount of \$220,511.24, with \$457,613.35 remaining in escrow balance. Supervisor Lange seconded. There were no comments from the Board or the public, and the motion carried 3-0.

**Advertising of An Ordinance** – Supervisor McHugh moved to authorize Township staff and Solicitor to draft and advertise an Ordinance to amend § 133-10.1, stop intersections, to list the intersection of Forest Lane, Oak Tree Lane, and Walnut Tree Lane as a four-way stop intersection. Supervisor Lange seconded. There were no comments from the Board or the public, and the motion carried 3-0.

**Bid Award** – Supervisor McHugh moved to award the bid of the Chetwynd Road Storm Water Mitigation Project in the amount of \$59,895.00 to A J Jurich Inc. Supervisor Lange seconded. There were no comments from the Board or the public, and the motion carried 3-0.

#### **Citizens' Comments**

Stephen Burns, 834 W King Road, commented on the stormwater issues affecting his property and neighbors. Supervisor Shoemaker replied he would have someone from Public Works come out to look at the issues. Discussion ensued.

Mudite Johnson, 6 Farmhouse Lane, is a neighbor of Mr. Burns and commented on the stormwater issues affecting her property. Discussion ensued.

David Trainer, 39 Duffryn Avenue, commented that the hedges at Duffryn and King's southwest corner need to be trimmed to improve sight distance. Supervisor Shoemaker replied that it's the homeowner's responsibility to trim their trees and bushes for safe sight distances, but the Township will address it.

Frank Houser, 1 Castlebar Lane, commented he feels the Township is only enforcing ordinances in select instances. He brought up a stream and riparian buffer changes on a property on Castlebar Lane, but the Township has not addressed it. Solicitor Christman replied that the Township is aware of the riparian buffer concerns and is investigating the issues before taking action. Discussion ensued. Mr. Houser also asked about zoning permits and impervious coverage not being obtained for a property on Castlebar Lane. Solicitor Christman replied an enforcement notice went out in May regarding the property in question. The property owner has appealed the notice to the Zoning Hearing Board, and they are working with the Township to resolve the issue. Discussion ensued.

Jack McGinley, 2 Second Ave, commented on a trailer parked on Duffryn Avenue by First Avenue that's been there 6-8 months. The Chief commented that as long as the trailer is registered, the vehicle can be parked on the street. Discussion ensued.

Marie Kania, 2904 Sage Wood Drive, asked how vacancies are filled on the Board of Supervisors. Supervisor Shoemaker replied when a Board member steps down or resigns; the remaining Supervisors appoint a new Board member to fill the role till the next election. The new board member has to run for the seat at the next municipal election, and if they win, they will fill out the remaining term the previous Board member left. The Board appointed supervisor McHugh because of his experience of sitting on the Board previously. Discussion ensued. She also asked how mental health issues are handled in the Township. Chief Klinger replied the Police Department is usually the first one to respond to calls. The County has an agency the Police Officer notifies when the situation is deemed safe, and the patient is brought to a medical facility for evaluation. The County has Valley Creek Crisis Center on retainer, and they send out a counselor to work with the medical facility to figure out the next steps. All the Willistown Police officers take de-escalation training for mental health crises situations. Discussion ensued.

Les Green, 2 Castlebar Lane, commented on the lack of building and zoning permits at 6 and 8 Castlebar Lane. Discussion ensued.

Torben Jenk, 4 Hunt Club Lane, commented on the riparian buffer, building, and zoning activities at 6 and 8 Castlebar Lane, an Airbnb on Dutton Mill Road, and the rental of an accessory structure on Lloyd Avenue. Discussion ensued.

Donna Walker, 4 Hunt Club Lane, commented she is being recorded against her wishes. Supervisor Shoemaker replied it is a public meeting, and recordings are allowed.

#### **Next Meeting**

The next regular meeting of the Board of Supervisors will be on Monday, September 13, 2021, at 7:00 pm at the Township building.

#### **Adjournment**

Seeing no further business, the meeting adjourned.

Sincerely,



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Sally Slook, Township Manager