

**WILLISTOWN TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**  
**688 SUGARTOWN ROAD, MALVERN, PA**  
**MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 13<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, Nick Cirilli, PE, President of Yerkes Associates, Inc, 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 legal issues. On behalf of the Board, Supervisor Shoemaker thanked the Public Works department for all their hard work cleaning up the storm damage from Hurricane Ida.

**New Business**

**Minutes** – Supervisor McHugh moved to approve the minutes of the meeting of August 16, 2021. Supervisor Lange seconded the motion. Torben Jenk, 4 Hunt Club, asked if the draft minutes are available to review. Supervisor Shoemaker stated the Board has to follow two juxtaposing laws which say the minutes can't be published before they are approved, and the Board has to ask for public comment before every action item. Mr. Jenk asked if he could comment on the minutes after they are approved and published. Supervisor Shoemaker replied he could. There were no further 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 September 10, 2021. Supervisor Lange seconded the motion. There were no comments from the Board or the public, and the motion carried 3-0.

**Ordinance #3 of 2021** – Supervisor McHugh moved to adopt Ordinance #3 of 2021: Amending Chapter 133 of the Code of Willistown Township establishing a multi-way stop intersection at Forest Lane, Oak Tree Lane, and Walnut Tree Lane. Supervisor Lange seconded. David Trainer, 39 Duffryn Ave, asked if lights were placed on the new signs to get drivers' attention. Bill Hagan replied lights could be put on the new signs for up to 90 days, and due to the amount of traffic on the road, he feels 90 days is a reasonable time frame. There were further comments from the Board or the public, and the motion carried 3-0

**Resolution #10 of 2021** – Supervisor McHugh moved to approve Resolution #10 of 2021: a declaration of local state of disaster emergency. Supervisor Shoemaker explained this would allow the Township to apply for aid and help residents with their FEMA and PEMA applications. It also follows with the Governor's state of emergency declaration. Supervisor Lange seconded the motion. There were no comments from the Board or the public, and the motion carried 3-0.

**2022 Minimum Municipal Obligations** - Supervisor McHugh moved to approve the certification of the 2022 minimum municipal obligations to the Willistown Township Police Pension Plan in the amount of \$358,425 and for

the Willistown Township Non-Uniform Pension Plan in the amount of \$97,200. Supervisor Lange seconded. There were no comments from the Board or the public, and the motion carried 3-0

**Police Report** –Chief Klinger reported a 36-year-old male was arrested for a DUI on the 200 block of Lancaster Ave, and several packages were stolen from the Rustmont Development. The Chief would like to remind residents that the school year has started and pay attention to children at bus stops and bus signals. As well as watch their speed when driving through school zones. The Department also made a handout with tips on avoiding scams and a nightly “9 pm routine” to secure your home and vehicles. Copies of the handout will be available for pick up in the Township building and Police Department lobbies. The Chief also thanked the local fire companies who assisted with water rescues during Hurricane Ida. Mike Kerr, 33 Stonehenge Lane, asked about Police staffing and the DROP Program. Chief Klinger replied the Department is hiring an additional officer for the traffic unit, and there are 3 Officers in the DROP Program. Wayne Lilly, 46 Jacqueline Drive, commented the school buses on Jacqueline Drive are driving too fast during drop-off time and asked if an officer could come out. The Chief said he would assign an officer to patrol during that time.

### **Citizens' Comments**

Torben Jenk, 4 Hunt Club Lane, asked for an update on 8 Castlebar Lane. Solicitor Christman replied there is a Zoning Hearing Board meeting scheduled for October 13 to consolidate the three appeals of the Zoning Officer decisions.

Susan Rosso, 1 Roselawn Lane, commented on the plunge pool failure during Hurricane Ida affecting the homes on Jacqueline drive. Supervisor Shoemaker replied it was an engineered project, and the Township engineers are aware of the issues, and it will be addressed. The Township will take full responsibility for what is the Township responsibility and will be holding the consulting engineering firm accountable. The Township did receive an unprecedented amount of rain, 10 inches of rain in 6 hours, but the engineering consultants will need to explain why there was a drastic failure on a six-figure project. For residents whose insurance carriers have rejected their claims, they will need to file applications with PEMA and FEMA. Discussion ensued.

John Paul, 15 Jacqueline Drive, stated stormwater issues in the Ronnie Park area and Cedar Hollow has been happening for years. Supervisor Shoemaker noted that by today’s standards, the houses in the Ronnie Park area would not be built due to prohibitive steep slopes. But the homes are there, and the Township is looking into having the Army Corp of Engineers come out and make recommendations for the entire area. The Township has been band-aiding problems that pop up over the last few decades, but the whole area needs substantial flood control work. Discussion ensued.

Jeanne Finklestein, 22 Jaqueline Drive, asked what the timeline is for addressing the issues. Supervisor Shoemaker replied he can’t give a firm date, but the Township is trying to contact the Army Corp of Engineers. The Township anticipates this will not happen immediately as areas up and down the East Coast were affected by the storm. Part of the Board is meeting tomorrow with the Township engineering consultants. Ms. Slook commented there is also money set aside in the draft 2022 Township Budget for a comprehensive stormwater analysis. Discussion ensued.

Mike Kerr, 33 Stonehenge Lane, asked where is the failed plunge pool. A resident replied it is at the bottom of Sunset Drive, above Jaqueline Drive.

Wayne Lilly, 46 Jacqueline Drive, commented on the extreme amount of water that affected his property due to the Township built plunge pool. Supervisor Shoemaker said the area would have to be rebuilt and reengineered so it doesn't happen again. Discussion ensued.

Sally-Ann Fritzon, 2 Sunset Drive, asked if the Township engineer could address the plunge pool failure. Nick Cirilli held up a diagram showing the series of inlets at the intersection of Rollingview and Sunset Drive. He explained there is a 21-inch pipe that extends down 1600 linear feet along a steep slope before depositing water by the railroad tracks. The pipe is undersized for the area by a factor of 2. The Township ran a camera down the pipe in the last year and discovered open joints. Yerkes designed two inlets to help water flow better at a sharp turn and created a plunge pool. The project finished at the end of June and was capable of handling 3-inch rainfall. Because the project ended in summer, they could not seed the steep slope with grass until September or October. Another challenge parallel to the 21-inch pipe is the sewer line, limiting what can be done in the area. Unfortunately, the rain events in August were 5 and 6 inches of rain on August 19 and 10 inches of rain during Hurricane Ida. Discussion ensued. Ms. Fritzon also asked why the Township allowed further development in the area over the years. Supervisor Shoemaker replied the Township legally couldn't stop development. A developer has to do proper stormwater management. A condition of development is always the stormwater management plan in place must be maintained by the business owner, homeowner, or HOA. Another challenge is older developments were stormwater compliant to 1960s and 1970s standards. Discussion ensued.

Harriet Lilly, 46 Jacqueline Drive, commented the timeline to fix the stormwater issues sounds long. Supervisor Shoemaker replied the Township would ensure this project moves along as quickly as the Township can and will not let this issue sit. Discussion ensued.

Ann Satterthwaite, 701 Weatherstone Drive, commented she would like the Aqua money to be set aside for open space, thus limiting further development and causing more stormwater issues. Discussion ensued.

Rob Rosend, 61 Boxwood Court, asked how the Boards and Commissions, and consultants can work together to ensure projects aren't dragged out in the planning phase. Supervisor Shoemaker replied once the legal issues and residents along the route agree to a project, it's a question of engineering and cost. Discussion ensued.

A resident asked how much the Township has set aside in various funds. Ms. Slook replied there is approximately \$4 million in the Open Space Fund. There is \$10 million in the General Fund, but it is budgeted for expenditures. Discussion ensued.

Jacqueline Rosso, 42 Jacqueline Drive, asked how residents can find more information on applying for help. Ms. Slook and Supervisor Shoemaker stated that the Township website and social media (Facebook and Instagram) are where the Township publishes all information. The Chester County website is also a good resource.

Julie Fissora, 34 Chetwynd Road, said she opposes the sewer system sale proceeds being put towards open space or stormwater management.

Mary Arranz, 16 Chetwynd Road, commented on the swale that was built at Cedar Hollow and Wistar Road, causing water to flood her basement on Chetwynd. Discussion ensued.

Jacqueline Rosso, 42 Jacqueline Drive, asked when the issues would be addressed. Supervisor Shoemaker replied that Township could not give a hard date because the problems need to be examined, engineered, bid, and paid. Discussion ensued.

Mr. Lilly, 46 Jacqueline Drive, commented on how well Supervisor Shoemaker handled the meeting and allowed residents the time to speak. Discussion ensued.

Jessie Velez, 6 Rollingview Drive, asked if the Township is working with other Townships on a regional solution and how they can prevent something like this from ever happening again. Discussion ensued.

### **Next Meeting**

The next regular meeting of the Board of Supervisors will be on Monday, September 27, 2021, at 7:00 pm at the Township building.

### **Adjournment**

Seeing no further business, the meeting adjourned.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Sally Slook', is written over a horizontal line.

Sally Slook, Township Manager