

**WILLISTOWN TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
688 SUGARTOWN ROAD, MALVERN, PA
JULY 18, 2022, AT 7:00 PM**

The Regular Meeting of the Willistown Township Board of Supervisors came to order at 7:00 PM. Supervisors Robert T. Lange, Molly H.B. Perrin, and William R. Shoemaker were present. Also present were Township Manager Sally Slook, Director of Public Works George Martynick, Police Chief Robert Klinger, Lt. Jeff Heim, and Solicitor Bill Christman.

Supervisor Perrin led the Pledge of Allegiance and led a moment of silence for military personnel, first responders, and the people of Ukraine.

Announcements - The Board of Supervisors met in Executive Session prior to the meeting to discuss real estate matters. They also met in Executive Session on June 29, July 6, and July 12 to discuss personnel matters. Supervisor Shoemaker also announced the PUC has issued a final order approving the sale of the Willistown Township sewer system to Aqua. The BOS determined they will not go to closing at this time. They will address everything at a later date.

New Business

Minutes – Supervisor Perrin moved to approve the meeting minutes of June 13, 2022. Supervisor Lange seconded the motion. There were no comments from the Board or the public, and the motion carried 3-0.

Amended Minutes of May 23, 2022 - Supervisor Perrin moved to approve the amended meeting minutes of May 23, 2022. Supervisor Lange seconded the motion. Ms. Slook explained the Bid Award for the Fairview Road Sewer Reconstruction was left off. There were no further comments from the Board or the public, and the motion carried 3-0.

Expenditures - Supervisor Perrin moved to approve the list of expenditures and interfund transfers dated July 15, 2022. Supervisor Lange seconded the motion. There were no comments from the Board or the public, and the motion carried 3-0.

Appointment to the Environmental Sustainability Commission – Supervisor Perrin moved to appoint Keith Parsons to an unexpired vacancy on the Environmental Sustainability Commission. Supervisor Lange seconded the motion. There were no comments from the Board or the public, and the motion carried 3-0.

Motion to Advertise– Supervisor Perrin moved to authorize the advertisement of the Willistown Township Road Resurfacing Program for 2022. Supervisor Lange seconded the motion. There were no comments from the Board or the public, and the motion carried 3-0.

Escrow Release- Supervisor Perrin moved to authorize the release of escrow funds for the development known as Willistown Point. This is request #11 in the amount of \$84,497.82, with \$434,994.12 remaining in the escrow balance. Supervisor Shoemaker seconded. There were no comments from the Board or the public, and the motion carried by a vote of 2-1. Supervisor Lange has gone on record before saying he opposes this development.

Bid Award – Supervisor Shoemaker announced the bid award for the Fairview Road Sanitary Sewer Repairs will be tabled.

Public Hearing - Supervisor Shoemaker introduced a public hearing for the Comcast Cable Franchise Renewal Hearing. This is an opportunity for citizens to review the past performance and future cable-related community needs of Willistown Township. Mr. Bill Christman, Esq., Township Solicitor, conducted the public hearing. A court reporter was present, and the transcript is on file in the Township offices.

Public Hearing - Supervisor Shoemaker introduced a public hearing for the application of Brian Conicella to modify the Township's Agricultural Security Area to include additional properties pursuant to the Agricultural Area Security Law, 3 P.S. §901 et seq. (the "Act"). The Applicant's property is located at 623 South Warren Avenue, consisting of a total of 2.1 acres and identified as Tax Parcel No. 54-33-221. Mr. Bill Christman, Esq., Township Solicitor, conducted the public hearing. Supervisor Perrin moved to approve adding 623 South Warren Avenue to the Willistown Agricultural Security Area. Supervisor Lange seconded. There were no comments from the Board or the public, and the motion carried 3-0. A court reporter was present, and the transcript is on file in the Township offices.

Public Hearing – Supervisor Shoemaker introduced a hearing for application No. C-2-22 by Management Assistance Group, on behalf of property owner Blair & Son, Inc., for conditional use approval pursuant to § 139-111.C of the Willistown Township Zoning Ordinance in order to construct an electronic sign on property located at 16 Industrial Blvd, Willistown Township, Chester County (UPI #54-1-2.1). Mr. Bill Christman, Esq., Township Solicitor, conducted the public hearing. A court reporter was present, and the transcript is on file in the Township offices. The hearing will be continued at the September 12, 2022 Board of Supervisors meeting.

Police Report – Chief Klinger reported the theft of a catalytic converter from the 6000 block of West Chester Pike, and multiple thefts from unlocked vehicles in the Queens/Lloyd Avenue area. The Chief reminded residents to always lock their vehicles to prevent crimes of opportunity. An 18-year-old male was cited for underage drinking on Line Road and 4 DUI arrests were made, two of which were the result of crashes and one was from a complaint of an erratic driver. Mike Kerr, 33 Stonehenge Lane, asked about the catalytic converter thefts. Chief Klinger explained this was from an F-250 and the materials used to make catalytic converters are worth over \$1000.

Citizens Comments

Tom Renkey, 45 Tulip Drive, commented on pipeline easements near Applebrook Meadows. Discussion ensued. He also suggested the Township require contractor registrations for contractors spraying chemicals for landscaping and pests. Solicitor Christman replied that contractor registrations are used for contractors doing home improvements. There are state statutes that regulate contractors and he can look into whether that is required for landscapers and pest control. Discussion ensued.

Bob Swift, 13 Devon Road, read the following statement into the record: On July 8, the PUC Commissioners reversed the PUC Administrative Law Judge Watson's recommended decision and approved the \$17.5M sale of the sewer system to Aqua. From the outset, the sale was a money grab by the Supervisors. The 2,283 sewer users, 50% of the Twp residents, paid the entire cost of the sewer system since its inception. A sale to Aqua will cause the sewer users to repay the \$17.5M to Aqua in the form of higher sewer charges. The ALJ found that Aqua's monthly charges will be at least 86% higher than current charges. The PUC did not dispute this. The Supervisors need to explain two matters to Township residents. First, why did the Supervisors sell the sewer system for \$3M less than average appraisals of the sewer system, when the Supervisors have touted their superior negotiating skills? Second, the Supervisors stated they were waiting until PUC approval before deciding how much of the \$17.5M would be returned to sewer users to offset Aqua's higher sewer charges. How much do the Supervisors intend to return to sewer users?

Lois Lebresco, 4 Duffryn Avenue, commented the Township paved Duffryn Ave about 5 years ago and there is an area of pavement about an inch or so higher than the road surface which is a tripping hazard. Mrs. Lebresco recently fell after tripping over the area and was injured. Supervisor Shoemaker replied someone from Public Works would come out tomorrow and remedy the situation.

Michelle Cruise, 2403 Buttonwood Road, commented the contractor repairing Whitehorse Bridge has put soil in the riparian buffer and she is concerned about silt washing into the creek. Mr. Martynick replied the berm was placed there during construction and will be removed. Mrs. Cruise also asked when will Rock Hill Farm appear before the Planning Commission. Supervisor Shoemaker said the next meeting is on August 10. Solicitor Christman commented the Township has received a preliminary plan and by law has 90 days to make a decision on the plan. The plan needs to be reviewed by the consultants and the Planning Commission before going before the Board of Supervisors and the 90 days will go quickly. Discussion ensued.

Kevin Rice, 6 Colonial Way, asked when the Board will decide how much of the sewer sale proceeds will be given to the sewer users. Supervisor Shoemaker commented the Board does not have a unanimous view and has not made a final decision. Discussion ensued.

Lois Lebresco, 4 Duffryn Avenue, said she has lived in the Township for almost 60 years and they only paid for the hookup to the sewer system, not the sewers. Discussion ensued.

Julie Frissora, 34 Chetwynd Road, commented the ratepayers paid for the sewer infrastructure to be placed into the street along with connecting to it. Discussion ensued.

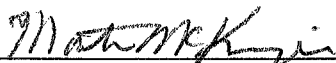
Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Board of Supervisors is scheduled for Monday, August 15, 2022, at 7:00 PM at the Township Building and via Zoom.

Adjournment

Seeing no further business, the meeting adjourned.

Sincerely,



Martin McKenzie, Assistant Secretary