

**WILLISTOWN TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
688 SUGARTOWN ROAD, MALVERN, PA
MONDAY, MAY 22, 2023, AT 7:00 PM**

MINUTES

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Supervisors came to order at 7:00 PM. Supervisors Robert T. Lange, and William R. Shoemaker were present. Also present were Township Manager Shanna Lodge, Chief of Police Robert Klinger, Director of Public Works William Hagan, Director of Planning and Zoning Robert Smiley and Solicitor Max O'Keefe.

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM. Supervisor Shoemaker led the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence for military personnel and first responders.

Announcements

Supervisor Shoemaker noted that Supervisor Perrin is feeling under the weather.

Supervisor Shoemaker announced that the Township will hold a public hearing to consider the adoption of the update to the Comprehensive Plan on June 19, 2023. He further announced that an executive session was held on May 22 regarding legal, personnel, and real estate matters.

Minutes

Consideration of the minutes of May 8 was tabled due to a lack of quorum of those present at that meeting.

Expenditures

Supervisor Lange moved to approve the list of Expenditures dated May 19, 2023. Supervisor Shoemaker seconded the motion. There were no comments from the Board or the public, and the motion carried.

Police Report

Chief Klinger reported on recent department activity, including a DUI arrest, a citation for criminal misconduct, and an arrest for simple assault. He further reported that the Radnor Hunt Races event went smoothly and thanked the officers for their work at the event.

Ordinances

Supervisor Shoemaker introduced Ordinance 3 of 2023, an Ordinance Amending Chapter 72, Article II of The Code of The Township of Willistown Pertaining to Property Maintenance, by Adopting as the Property Maintenance Code *The International Property Maintenance Code of 2021*. Supervisor Lange moved to adopt the Ordinance. Supervisor Shoemaker seconded the motion. Joe Heenan of 713 Monument Road inquired regarding the changes in the update, which are primarily textual in nature. There were no further comments from the Board or the public, and the Ordinance was adopted.

Supervisor Shoemaker introduced Ordinance 4 of 2023, an Ordinance Repealing Ordinance No. 5 of 2020 Authorizing the Sale of the Township Sewer System to Aqua Pennsylvania Wastewater, Inc. Supervisor Lange moved to adopt the Ordinance. Supervisor Shoemaker seconded the motion. There were no comments from the Board or the public, and the Ordinance was adopted.

Resolution

Supervisor Shoemaker introduced Resolution 12 of 2023, a Resolution Awarding the 2023 Resurfacing Contract to Glasgow, Inc. Supervisor Lange moved to approve the Resolution. Supervisor Shoemaker seconded the motion. There were no comments from the Board or the public, and the motion carried.

Land Development

Supervisor Lange moved to approve the application of Mary and Robert Ruggerio seeking approval of a reverse subdivision of 5 Sugarbrook Road and 112 Jaffrey Road to consolidate two parcels into one 4-acre parcel. Supervisor Shoemaker seconded the motion. Manager Lodge noted that the applicants were present. There were no comments, and the motion carried.

Administration

Supervisor Lange moved to approve the Sewage Conveyance Agreement between Easttown Township, Easttown Municipal Authority, and Willistown Township, setting forth the terms and conditions upon which Willistown shall have the continued right to discharge sanitary sewage from via Willistown Conveyance System into the Easttown Conveyance System for conveyance to the Darby Road Pump Station. Supervisor Shoemaker seconded the motion. There were no comments from the Board or the public, and the motion carried.

Citizens' Comments

Supervisor Lange read a letter from Mary Hundt extending a heartfelt thanks for his support throughout her life and during her time serving Willistown Township.

Supervisor Lange noted that his exit during the previous meeting's comment period was due to the need to work on his farm. He expressed frustration that his departure was misrepresented in an email sent to residents. He further noted that he would be leaving this meeting for the same reason.

Julie Frissora of 34 Chetwynd Road suggested the formation of an ad-hoc group to focus on sewer issues in the Township. Supervisor Shoemaker noted that there are several possible paths, including the establishment of a sewer advisory group, leasing the system to a 3rd party operator, or creating a Municipal Authority. Manager Lodge noted that the Township is moving forward with sewer studies to gather information before the Board makes a decision.

Henry Yordan of 152 Grubb Road expressed concern about the results of third-party studies and suggested that his group of interested residents may disagree with the results. He further noted that stormwater infiltration should be considered. Supervisor Shoemaker noted that the studies will be conducted by the Township sewer engineer and touched on some of the challenges of including an ad-hoc committee. A discussion of the resident group's leadership followed. Supervisor Shoemaker noted that the effort will focus on a timely delivery of results. Manager Lodge thanked Mr. Yordan for his comment regarding stormwater and noted that any such comments or concerns can be shared at regular meetings of the Board like this one.

Ms. Frissora suggested that the resident group could provide expertise. Kevin Rice of 6 Colonial Way concurred and noted that volunteerism can save time.

Richard McDonnell of Wistar Road indicated that he is one of the interested residents with experience in wastewater. He inquired regarding the Township sewer engineer; Manager Lodge noted that the firm is Carroll Engineering.

Supervisor Shoemaker concurred that users of the system should be included throughout the process of the sewer study efforts. A discussion of the nature of that involvement followed, with Manager Lodge and Solicitor O'Keefe noting that meetings will need to be in public and publicly advertised in order to comply with the Sunshine Act.

Jerry Childers of 8 Colonial Way commented on the difference between civil engineering and specialties, suggested ten-year instruments of uniform replacement and annualized capital improvement. He suggested that a fear of raising sewer rates has impeded capital improvements.

Louis Pettinos of 6 Applewood Road spoke about the complexity of the sewer system and suggested that the inclusion of an ad-hoc committee could expedite the work.

Fred Haack of East King Road commented on inquiries at previous meetings related to the timeliness of the Township audit. He contended that, in his experience, the Township has always been conscientious and that the timing has never seemed to make a difference to the Township operations. Manager Lodge noted that the firm conducting the audit is nearing the end of the process. Ms. Frissora offered a counterpoint, suggesting, as an example, that audit numbers can show the balance of funds like the sewer fund.

George Asimos, counsel for the McCabes at 2244 South Valley Road noted that he was present at the Planning Commission meeting on Wednesday and responded to comments made at that meeting regarding the Township operating in good faith. He hand-delivered a letter to the Board and Planning Commission; Manager Lodge accepted the letter.

Mr. Yordan suggested that the Manager could invite a group of interested residents to a meeting regarding the sewer studies. Manager Lodge suggested a special meeting of the Board to comply with transparency requirements. Supervisor Shoemaker asked Mr. Yordan and his fellow interested residents to supply the Township with a contact list. Joe Heenan of 713 Monument Road requested that the meeting be introductory before the work is begun rather than a summary of the results. Mr. McDonnell offered his support.

Next Meeting

The next regular meeting of the Board of Supervisors will be on June 19, 2023 at 7 PM.

Adjournment

There being no further business before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 7:56 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Shanna Lodge
Township Secretary