

**WILLISTOWN TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
688 SUGARTOWN ROAD, MALVERN, PA
MONDAY, JUNE 19, 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, Molly H.B. Perrin, and William R. Shoemaker were present. Also present were Township Manager Shanna Lodge, Chief of Police Robert Klinger, Director of Planning and Zoning Robert Smiley, Township Planner John Gaadt, and Solicitor Max O'Keefe.

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

Announcements

Supervisor Perrin announced that the Board of Supervisors met in executive session on June 13 and June 19, 2023, to discuss legal and personnel issues.

Supervisor Perrin announced that the Board of Supervisors will hold a Special Meeting at 5:30 PM on June 26, 2023 at the Township Building and via Zoom for a presentation by the Township Sewer Engineer, along with public questions and comment, regarding the process and scope of upcoming sewer studies.

Minutes

Supervisor Lange moved to approve the minutes of May 8, 2023. Supervisor Perrin seconded the motion. There were no comments from the Board or the public, and the motion carried.

Supervisor Shoemaker moved to approve the minutes of the meeting of May 22, 2023. Supervisor Lange 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 investigations into the theft of a minibike and other thefts from an unsecured garage; the department made an arrest for fraud. Chief Klinger reminded the public to be wary of putting checks in the mail and advised they be dropped off at the post office. There were 26 traffic crashes – 2 related to deer – in May.

Public Hearing – Township Comprehensive Plan

Township Planner John Gaadt presented the 2023 Update to the Willistown Township Comprehensive Plan, *Guidelines for Growth and Sustainability*. A court reporter was present for the public hearing, and a transcript is on file at the Township Office. Mahala Renkey of 45 Tulip Drive, Marie Kania of 2905 Sagewood Drive, and Joseph Heenan of 713 Monument Road commented on the plan and presentation.

Resolution

Supervisor Perrin introduced Resolution 13 of 2023, a Resolution Adopting the 2023 Update to the Willistown Township Comprehensive Plan. Supervisor Shoemaker moved to adopt the Resolution. Supervisor Lange seconded the motion. There were no comments from the Board or the public, and the motion carried unanimously.

Administration

Supervisor Perrin presented a Memorandum of Understanding relating to a \$200,000 contribution toward Willistown Conservation Trust's purchase of the 6.504-acre property located at 864 Grubbs Mill

Road, Malvern, PA. Supervisor Shoemaker moved to approve the contribution. Supervisor Lange seconded the motion.

Mr. Heenan commented that, while he is not opposed to the Township's acquisition of property, he prefers outright purchase rather than contribution. Supervisor Shoemaker noted that outright purchase is not always possible; the Township is not legally permitted to purchase property for a price greater than an appraisal, and appraisals may be below market value. Mr. Heenan requested that the appraisal price be made public; Manager Lodge noted that this was included in the meeting packet.

Tom Renkey of 45 Tulip Drive inquired regarding the street address, specifically the city, of the property. The Supervisors noted that the property sits on or near the zip code line between Malvern and Newtown Square.

Mike Kerr of 33 Stonehenge Lane inquired regarding the dog policy that is a part of the agreement. Supervisor Shoemaker amended his motion to specify that the dog policy is relevant to the parcel in question only, not the preserve in whole. Supervisor Lange seconded the amended motion. There were no further comments from the Board or the public, and the motion carried unanimously.

Expenditures

Supervisor Shoemaker moved to approve the list of expenditures dated June 16, 2023. Supervisor Lange seconded the motion. There were no comments from the Board or the public, and the motion carried unanimously.

Citizens' Comments

Julie Frissora of 34 Chetwynd Road inquired about the parcel recently in the news as having been acquired by M. Night Shyamalan; she asked if Willistown will be contributing to a purchase by a land trust to preserve a portion of the parcel. Supervisor Shoemaker noted that the Township has been approached, but has not yet discussed or made any contribution. Manager Lodge noted that, at a previous meeting, the Township approved a letter of support for a grant application, but that this did not include a financial contribution.

Ms. Frissora separately asked about an email she and other residents had sent regarding the accounting of sewer funds and why fees related to the sale of the sewer system were charged to the sewer accounts. Solicitor O'Keefe explained that the costs fall under sewer system operation, which refers both to the operation of the physical infrastructure as well as administrative operation. Ms. Frissora asked why the funds from the potential sale would have been placed in the general fund; it was explained that the sewer funds would have been closed out if the sale had proceeded. Pam Schafer of 129 South Cedar Hollow Road similarly objected to the accounting of funds for the sewer sale and inquired where the sewer system assets appear on the books. Supervisor Shoemaker reiterated that the sale of the Township sewer system was terminated. It was emphasized that the Township keeps all sewer funds in separate accounts.

Allie Barchi of 21 Laurel Circle commented that she had heard from Zoom attendees that the Comprehensive Plan presentation slides were not progressing for virtual attendees. Manager Lodge apologized and noted that she would post the presentation to the Township website right after the meeting. Ms. Barchi separately thanked the Police Department for their help with noise issues regarding a rooster.

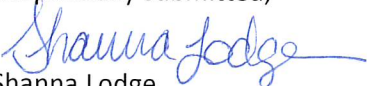
Next Meeting

The next regular meeting of the Board of Supervisors will be on July 17, 2023, at 7 PM. The Board of Supervisors will hold a Special Meeting at 5:30 PM on June 26, 2023, regarding upcoming sewer studies.

Adjournment

There being no further business before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 8:11 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Shanna Lodge
Township Secretary