

**WILLISTOWN TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
688 SUGARTOWN ROAD, MALVERN, PA
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2023, AT 7:00 PM**

MINUTES

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Supervisors came to order at 7:01 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, and Solicitor Max O'Keefe.

The meeting was called to order at 7:01 PM. Supervisor Perrin led the Pledge of Allegiance and moment of silence, noting the anniversary of the September 11th tragedy.

Announcements

Supervisor Perrin introduced Caroline O'Connor, the Township's new Assistant Director of Planning and Zoning.

Supervisor Perrin reminded residents about the upcoming Municipal Trash Service Exploration meeting to be held on October 5 at 6:30 PM at General Wayne Elementary School.

Supervisor Perrin announced that the Board met in executive session on September 11, 2023 regarding personnel, legal, and real estate matters.

Minutes

Supervisor Shoemaker moved to approve the minutes of August 21, 2023. Supervisor Lange seconded the motion. There were no comments from the Board or the public, and the motion carried unanimously.

Expenditures

Supervisor Shoemaker moved to approve the list of expenditures dated September 8, 2023. Supervisor Lange seconded the motion. Julie Frissora of 34 Chetwynd Road inquired regarding the payment to William Coyle; Manager Lodge identified the payment as being for the installation of gutters at Township pump stations. There were no further comments from the Board or the public, and the motion carried unanimously.

Police Report

Chief Klinger reported on recent Police Department activity, including arrests for DUI and criminal trespass. He offered a clarification regarding the Reverse 911 program mentioned at the last meeting; the notifications are sent both to cell phones and land lines.

Public Hearing – Conditional Use Application

A hearing was held regarding Conditional Use application C-3-23, the application of 944 Providence, LLC for conditional use approval pursuant to §139-152.B in order to allow for the subdivision of the property known as tax parcel #54-7-44 with an address of 944 Providence Rd., Newtown Square, PA 19073, into five (5) separate lots pursuant to the requirements of the underlying RU District rather than the Open Space Conservation District. The Board and the applicant introduced exhibits into the record, witnesses were called, and the public was afforded the opportunity to comment. The record was subsequently closed. A court reporter was present at the hearing, and a transcript of the hearing is on file at the Township office.

Administration

Supervisor Shoemaker moved to authorize Township Manager to sign Assignment and Assumption of Engineering Services Agreement with Nave Newell, Inc. Supervisor Lange seconded the motion. There were no comments from the Board or the public, and the motion carried unanimously.

Supervisor Shoemaker moved to approve the purchase of a Warren Stainless Steel Dump Body for 2004 Berman Freightliner Dump Truck for \$24,205. Supervisor Lange seconded the motion. There were no comments from the Board or the public, and the motion carried unanimously.

Supervisor Shoemaker moved to authorize the Township Manager to sign application for the Pennsylvania Recycling Technical Assistance Program seeking funding to update Chapter 87: Garbage, Rubbish and Refuse of the Willistown Township Code. Supervisor Lange seconded the motion. Jerry Childers of 8 Colonial Way requested clarification on the item, which Supervisor Perrin offered. There were no further comments from the Board or the public, and the motion carried unanimously.

Citizens' Comments

Supervisor Lange announced that he brought along sweet corn from his farm available in the back lobby for any who would like to take an ear.

Ms. Frissora inquired about any update regarding the re-allocation of expenses related to the sewer sale from the sewer funds to the general fund. Supervisor Perrin advised that any resident who wishes to comment on the issue is welcome to do so. She noted she has explored the issue with other municipalities. Ms. Frissora subsequently inquired regarding records requests she had submitted; Manager Lodge offered some details regarding the responses to some of these. A discussion followed and it was offered that Manager Lodge and Ms. Frissora could connect on the issue soon.

Mr. Childers inquired regarding financial records requests, and if the public could have the opportunity for unfettered access to the Township's books. Solicitor O'Keefe noted that some of the restrictions on records release. Separately, Mr. Childers inquired regarding his records requests as well as the requests of some others. A discussion followed; Manager Lodge noted some distinctions between the requests.

Steve Sarmiento of 230 Spring Road reported that he had received a call from Manager Lodge regarding the issue he brought up at the previous meeting, and had communicated with the Zoning Officer as well. He thanked the staff for the follow up.

Joe Heenan of 713 Monument Road referred to the issue of the sewer sale expenditures and stated that he had inquired of the Pennsylvania State Association of Township Supervisors (PSATS) on the issue. He asserted that this organization provided input on the proper classification of expenditures. Supervisor Perrin and Manager Lodge requested the detail provided by PSATS for further exploration; Mr. Heenan noted he did not ask for anything in writing.

Henry Jordan of 152 Grubb Road suggested that Willistown Township is the only Township where sewer users bore the cost of expenditures related to a sewer sale, given that the sale was not finalized and therefore, proceeds were not distributed to the municipality as a whole.

David Rawson of 2690 Crum Creek Drive shared his thoughts on what he described as the sewer lobby and noted his disagreement with their stance regarding any re-allocation. He believes that the expense is properly classified in the sewer fund.

Tom Renkey of 45 Tulip Drive noted that there was neither a tax increase nor a sewer rate increase last year, and shared his conclusion that therefore there would be no material benefit to any re-allocation. He further stated that the Supervisors have already identified the remedy for objection to the Township Audit as the Court of Common Pleas. He further noted that there is no legal precedent for re-allocation and the auditor believes the audit to be accurate.

Supervisor Shoemaker stated that while there was no sewer rate increase last year, the Board has noted many times that an increase is inevitable. He stated that the Township will not re-open any past years' audits, but will continue to explore alternative options.

Ted Leisenring of 2575 Whitehorse Road thanked the Board of Supervisors for their patience. He noted that the school district taxes are a significantly larger portion of the real estate taxes paid by Willistown residents.

Pam Schaffer of 129 South Cedar Hollow Road noted the importance of public engagement and suggested that just because an issue affects a specific group, this does not decrease its importance.

Lewis Pettinos of 6 Applewood Road asked Supervisor Perrin who she reached out to regarding sewer; Supervisor Perrin noted that she has spoken to officials at several local municipalities, including East Goshen, East Whiteland, and Tredyffrin.

Mr. Childers stated that auditors have no responsibility for the allocation of expenses.

Supervisor Perrin made a statement regarding emails being sent by Mr. Yordan and Ms. Frissora to the sewer sale group list. She noted that the political emails being sent currently are not in keeping with the purpose for which the list was established. She spoke about the Board's unanimous vote to terminate the sewer sale. She discussed her record of transparency. She noted the lack of civility by some members of the public. She offered her statement for inclusion in the minutes.

Robin Flavelle of 2 Arlington Road applauded Supervisor Perrin and thanked her for her comments.

Mr. Childers commented regarding fencing in the Township, which he believes is under siege. He suggested that this and other unresolved items be included on agenda or minutes.

Adjournment

There being no further business before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 8:38 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Shanna Lodge
Township Secretary

Statement of Molly Perrin, Chair, Willistown Board of Supervisors at the September 11, 2023 Board of Supervisors meeting.

I was not planning to respond to the emails from Henry Yordan and Julie Frissora that they put out regarding the sewer issues, but it's become clear to myself and others that their recent emails have become political. It has also become evident to even the most casual observer that the tone of the emails has become spiteful and they are making dubious assertions that are nothing more than attempts to tarnish my reputation as a Supervisor.

I also felt it was necessary to make this statement in public so Henry and Julie could not distort what I said or take anything I said out of context.

When residents requested to receive the emails about the sewer from Henry and Julie, it was for the purpose of joining together to oppose the sewer sale. In case they forgot, the board has unanimously rejected the sewer

sale. And although I suspect their emails are now largely ignored by residents, it is highly inappropriate for Julie and Henry to now co-opt this email list to bash the township or smear my reputation every time they don't like the way something is done. This is not serving our community.

I have served our township on various boards and commissions for over 6 years. I ran for Supervisor 2 years ago because of the experience I had gained on these boards and I thought I could do more for my community as a Supervisor. To the best of my knowledge, neither Henry nor Julie have ever served on any of the township boards or have ever run for Township Supervisor.

Henry and Julie complain that I have not brought about meaningful transparency. But let's look at my record concerning transparency. In less than 2 years of serving on the board, I have led the effort to publicly post the meeting minutes, board documents and agenda prior to each meeting. I have also ensured that all meetings are recorded and posted on the township website.

To say that these actions do not represent meaningful transparency is a perfect example of the lengths they will go to disparage my record as a Supervisor. It also illustrates the unprincipled way that they are using the sewer sale email list to insinuate themselves into an election... with a total lack of transparency.

The relentless false and defamatory attacks must stop. I am appalled at the lack of civility in the emails that I read and the lack of truth.

They claim in their most recent email that they are not going away. Well, neither am I. I am running for re-election as I feel that there is more work to be done and I want to continue to make a positive difference in our community. I will not be bullied by the unethical attempts to discredit my record as a Township Supervisor. I am more than happy to include this statement in writing to be included in the minutes.

Thank you.