

November 20, 2023 @ 6:30 P.M.

The Township Board of Commissioners held their regular monthly meeting on the above date and time at 97 Wanamaker Avenue, Essington, PA 19029 with Patrick McCarthy, Board President, presiding. Present:

Patrick Barr, Vice President
Dennis Arthur, Commissioner
Roger Joseph, Commissioner
David D. Schreiber, Manager
Sam Auslander, Esq., Solicitor
Dennis O'Neill, Engineer

Commissioner Lisa Edmiston was absent from this meeting.

Mr. McCarthy called the meeting to order and all rose for the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

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PRIOR TO the regular meeting, the Board held a special Conditional Use Hearing for the application of Action Rental at 23 Industrial Highway to construct a canopy over a wash pit designed to clean their equipment after rental usage. A transcript of this hearing is prepared under separate cover.

AFTER the Conditional Use Hearing concluded, the regular Commissioner Meeting resumed.

ON A MOTION by Patrick Barr and second by Dennis Arthur, the minutes of the October 2023 Commissioners Monthly Meeting were accepted and approved by a unanimous voice vote.

Board President McCarthy reported that all members had received copies of the Treasurer's and Secretary's Report of Receipts. There being no questions;

ON A MOTION by Roger Joseph and second by Patrick Barr the reports were accepted and approved as submitted by a unanimous voice vote.

Mr. McCarthy reported that the bill list for November 2023 will be distributed to all members at the end of the month. There being no questions;

ON A MOTION by Dennis Arthur and second by Roger Joseph, the bill list will be paid for the month of November 2023 by a unanimous voice vote.

Public Comments on Agenda Items:

Zurdi Dobi, 200 Powhattan Ave, asked if he could provide a handout to the Commissioners and proceeded to provide a copy of an article from “Officer.com” entitled “Police Department Accreditation: A Hollow Enterprise?” Regarding Item # 12 “Agreement with Aspirant Consulting for Accreditation Services” Mr. Dobi suggested that this item should not be considered and opined that it should be tabled.

Regarding Item #14, Appointment of Administrative Assistant, Mr. Dobi stated that the Board has not provided any justification for this hire and objected to it.

Asked Mr. McCarthy for an explanation regarding a “security incident” of a couple of weeks ago. Asked Mr. Barr for a report on the amount of funds collected from Vendors during the Farmers Market and the distribution of said funds. Asked the Solicitor for an update on the “expert testimony” regarding the Wu litigation and an update on the Wawa and Health Department Litigation.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

ADMINISTRATION, LAW, ORDINANCE, PUBLIC SAFETY AND FINANCE – Patrick K. McCarthy Chairman

Land Development Application of O’Gara, LLC at 519 W. Second Street

ON A MOTION by Patrick Barr and second by Roger Joseph the Board voted via unanimous roll call vote to accept applicant O’Gara LLC request to grant the Board an extension of time by which the Board must consider the applicant’s land development application at 519 W. Second Street. At the applicant’s request, the extension shall be for 90 days following the Township’s receipt of a letter from the Applicant specifically requesting the Township to take action on the application. Said application is to construct a 296,000 sq. ft. warehouse with 85 loading docks, 198 passenger vehicle spaces and 79 trailer spaces.

Adoption of Ordinance 2023-918 Residential Parking Permit

ON A MOTION by Roger Joseph and second by Patrick Barr the Board voted unanimously via roll call vote to adopt Ordinance 2023-918 amending Chapter 360 of the Township code. This ordinance will change the requirement to obtain a residential parking permit annually to once over the lifetime of ownership of the vehicle.

Adoption of Resolution 2023-010 Making Application to the Commonwealth Financing Authority for Grant Funds

ON A MOTION by Dennis Arthur and second by Patrick Barr the Board voted unanimously via roll call vote to adopt Resolution 2023-010 making application to the Commonwealth Financing Authority for an allocation of \$ 526,000 in Statewide Local Share Assessment grant funds to be use for the Replacement of Jansen Avenue Sewer Force Main

Commitment of American Rescue Plan Funding of 2021

ON A MOTION by Dennis Arthur and second by Patrick Barr the Board voted unanimously via roll call vote to commit approximately \$431,000 in 2021 American Rescue Plan funding to eligible sewer and storm water projects, including replacement of the Water Treatment Plant sludge heater and the repair/replacement of the Jansen Avenue sanitary sewer line replacement.

Revision to Chapter 355 of the Township Code Governing Weeds, Shrubs, and Plants

ON A MOTION by Patrick Barr and second by Roger Joseph the Board voted unanimously via roll call vote to instruct the Township Solicitor to draft and advertise an amendment to the Township Weeds and Brush Ordinance prohibiting weeds, grass and unhealthful growth to be located on premises located within the Township which shall exceed a certain height.

Agreement with Aspirant Consulting Group for “Accreditation Services”

Prior to Voting on this item, Mr. McCarthy stated that he has reviewed many pros and cons on the issue, both by discussion with law enforcement personnel and via print media and in his view the process is a worthwhile pursuit.

ON A MOTION by Roger Joseph and second by Patrick Barr the Board voted unanimously via roll call vote to enter into an agreement with Aspirant Consulting Group to provide consulting services leading to the state accreditation of the Tincum Township Police Department. Said agreement will be in the amount of approximately \$25,000.

Release #1 for 2023 Street Resurfacing

ON A MOTION by Patrick Barr and second by Roger Joseph the Board voted unanimously via roll call vote to approve Release #1 for the Township’s 2023 Street Resurfacing program in the Amount of \$ 267,889 payable to Gessler Construction Co., Inc. of Media Pa. The release has been reviewed and approved by the Township Engineer

Appointment of Administrative Assistant

ON A MOTION by Patrick Barr and second by Roger Joseph the Board voted 3-0 via roll call vote to appoint Mr. Jack McCarthy of Essington as Administrative Assistant as of November 13, 2023 at a pay rate of \$20 per hour.

Mr. McCarthy abstained from voting on this item, citing his family relationship with the candidate.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Code Enforcement Report – Roger Joseph, Chairman

October 2023 - The Code Enforcement Officer Issued:

25 Certificates of Occupancies for a total of **\$ 3,575**

22 Building Permits for a total of **\$ 500,743**

Police, Fire, and Buildings: Patrick K. McCarthy, Chairman

Police Report: October 2023

Township Fines: **\$ Not Available**

The department handled **502** incidents and made **16** criminal arrests
16 of those criminal arrests were adults
00 of those criminal arrests were juveniles.
00 of the juveniles were handled within the Department and Released.
00 animals were taken into custody

Fire Company Report: October 2023

Building fire	11	(01 Working Fire)
Vehicle fire	04	
Brush Fire	01	
Assist EMS	07	
Assist PD	01	
MVA w/ injuries	04	
MVA w/o injuries	03	
MVA w/ entrap	01	
CO Alarm	04	
<u>Auto Fire Alarms</u>	<u>08</u>	
Total Fire Calls	44	

EMS Calls: 164

Sanitation: Dennis R. Arthur, Chairman

Tinicum Township Wastewater Treatment Plant: October 2023

Total flow	34,622,000 gallons	
Average Daily Flow	1,110,000 gallons	
Total sludge	54,000 gallons	(2.8 solids)
Methane Gas	78,119 cu ft	

- Investigated sewer complaints on the 400 block of N. Gov Printz and 100 block of S. Gov Print Blvd.
- Installed new hour meter reader on Aeration Tank
- Repaired section of sewer line on 400 block of N. Gov Printz Blvd.
- Replaced wire on fence at front of Main Plant
- Completed repairs on 1 of 2 settling tanks
- Marked out several PA 1-Call requests

Louis Clark, Jr., Superintendent

Health & Recreation: Pat Barr, Chairman

Mr. Barr reported that the hockey sign-ups are ongoing and that the season begins after Christmas. Mr. Barr stated that Community Day was held on November 11 after having been rescheduled because of weather a couple of times. Mr. Barr thanked all of the volunteers and those who helped bring this event together. Mr. Barr stated that the event was well attended and included events such as the Christmas tree lighting, 5K run, live music, fireworks and other festivities.

Mr. Barr thanked Mrs. Barr for her many hours dedicated to this event.

Mr. Barr stated that the Patriotic Organization Treasurer was still putting together the figures as to how much was collected and disbursed over the course of the season but in “round” figures, the Patriotic Organization collected and gave away approximately \$15,000 to various causes and individuals.

Solicitor’s Report: Sam S. Auslander, Esquire

Mr. Auslander reported that his office has finalized the recording of documents for the Berwind Hangar project and the Ivy Realty Land Development project. Regarding the Wu litigation, Mr. Auslander stated that the Court has scheduled trial for February 2025, expert reports for Tinicum Township and Vitetta have not yet been completed, but has been for Wu. Wawa litigation is not expected to proceed prior to the end of this year. The County Health Department litigation order remains in place for Tinicum Township to continue to conduct inspections and no further order has been issued.

Engineer’s Report: Dennis O’Neill, P.E.

Mr. Dennis O’Neill reported that the regular monthly meeting with PHL has taken place and that the airport has approximately 50 projects that will be taking place on the “airfield side” through 2029. The project that the Board previously approved at Cargo Building C2 (for a temporary structure) has been tabled by the applicant until further notice.

Tinicum Island Road traffic signal upgrades have been submitted to PennDOT and are anticipated to be bid and construction begin in 2024. Improvements include license plate readers, signal controls, and redesigning timing controls.

The Engineer’s office is reviewing the draft of the Long Hook Creek flood study conducted by the Airport. The Engineer’s office will be submitting comments to the Army Corps of Engineer’s regarding the proposed “Eastwick levee” by December.

Mr. Barr suggested that the Eastwick levee and Long Hook Creek studies should be reviewed collectively. Mr. O’Neill stated that this has been unequivocally stated to the Army Corps.

Manager’s Report: David D. Schreiber

The Township Manager reported that there are no Zoning Hearing Board items being heard this month. PennDOT, Energy Transfer, and Wally Park have resolved the issues that had been holding up the Rt. 291 Bridge replacement near Scott Way. Work on this bridge is scheduled to begin in 2024. Equipment has been ordered by ConRail and PennDOT for the upgrades to the railroad grade crossings in Town. This work should also begin in 2024. State Representative Regina Young is keeping office hours at 629 N. Gov Printz from Monday to Friday during the week.

Secretary’s Correspondence – **John Morton Boy Scout Winter Survival Weekend**

On A MOTION by Roger Joseph and second by Patrick Barr the Board voted unanimously via voice vote to approve the request of the John Morton Winter Survival groups request to hold their annual event at Westinghouse Grove Park on the weekend of January 6th and 7th 2024 with a bad weather date of January 13 and 14 2024.

Other Business – There was no Other Business discussed

Adjourn the Business Portion of Meeting

ON A MOTION by Dennis Arthur and second by Patrick Barr to adjourn the business portion of this meeting by a unanimous voice vote.

Public Participation

Mr. Zurdi Dobi, 200 Powhattan Ave., took issue with the term “state” accreditation, suggesting that the state did not do the accrediting. Stated that the clock at former Town Hall was not working, there was new graffiti in town that needed to be addressed on a highway guide rail and telephone pole. Mr. Dobi referred to the recent Budget Workshop meetings and Mr. Barr’s comment that the Township should consider “incremental tax increases” and asked Mr. Barr to elaborate. Mr. Barr stated that the Township has been using funds obtained from the Township’s 2015 Airport Agreement to keep up with increased expenses, but that these funds were finite and had an end date. Mr. Barr suggested that it may be better to incrementally increase taxes rather than have a large increase all at one time.

Ms. Sharon Watkins asked if holiday lights can be placed on the 629 N. Gov Printz Building.

Mrs. Barbara Cellich, Jansen Ave., asked if there was a time frame for the Jansen Avenue force main replacement. The Board responded that it is just in the planning stage. Mrs. Cellich commented on the “touching ceremony” for veterans on Community Day.

Adjournment of Meeting

ON A MOTION by Roger Joseph and second by Patrick Barr this meeting was adjourned by a unanimous voice vote.

Respectfully Submitted,
David D. Schreiber
Manager/Secretary