

WESTTOWN TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS REGULAR MEETING

Westtown Township Municipal Building, 1039 Wilmington Pike, Westtown

Tuesday, January 16, 2018 at 7:30 PM

In attendance were: Chair Carol De Wolf, Vice Chair Scott Yaw, Police Commissioner Mike Di Domenico, Township Manager Rob Pingar, WEGO Police Chief Brenda Bernot, Township Solicitor Pat McKenna, Parks and Recreation Commissioner Susan Alloway, and Planning Commissioner Jack Embick. There were 3 guests.

I. Pledge of Allegiance & Call to Order

Ms. De Wolf called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM, and led the Pledge of Allegiance. She asked if anyone was recording the meeting. There was no response.

II. Approval of Minutes (January 2, 2018)

Mr. Yaw made a motion to approve the January 2, 2018 Board of Supervisors organizational meeting minutes. Mr. Di Domenico seconded the motion. There were no questions or comments, and the organizational meeting minutes were unanimously approved.

Ms. De Wolf requested a change to the January 2 regular meeting minutes in the section under Public Comment regarding her response to Mr. Pomerantz about the interruption to trash service on Saturday, December 30 to include more detail. Mr. Pingar noted her requested changes. Mr. Yaw then made a motion to approve the Board of Supervisors regular meeting minutes of January 2, 2018, with the changes requested by Ms. De Wolf. Mr. Di Domenico seconded the motion. There were no questions or comments, and the regular meeting minutes were unanimously approved.

III. Workshop Meeting Summary (January 16, 2018)

Ms. De Wolf stated that the Board listened to a presentation by Jack Stefferud from National Lands Trust, to discuss the process for land protection and conservation easements. The Board also reviewed the conceptual design of the Veterans' Memorial at Oakbourne Park, presented by Carter Van Dyke Assoc. The Board also had an Executive Session on litigation and a real estate matter, which will be continued after the regular meeting.

IV. Departmental Reports

A. Westtown East Goshen Regional Police (WEGO) – Chief Brenda Bernot

Chief Bernot began her report by stressing the importance of strong radio signals in schools and buildings. She encouraged anyone who would like to know about the goings-on in the township to check the police department website and Facebook page for updates. Chief Bernot reminded everyone that the police are still looking for the individuals involved in the T-Mobile store robbery in the Dilworthtown shopping center, and asked that the public report any information that may help close the case.

There were no comments or questions.

B. Township Solicitor – Patrick McKenna

Mr. McKenna reported that he has been drafting the Crebilly decision. His colleague, Tony Verwey, attended the PC meeting and has been working on the bi-directional amplifier ordinance, and the Minacci property (AME Cemetery). He has also asked an associate to follow up on the Asplen property so that he can resolve that matter for the township.

C. Parks & Recreation Commission (P&R) – Susan Alloway

Ms. Alloway stated that P&R did not have a December meeting due to the Winter Festival. She reported that it was a huge success. She also noted that many attendees mentioned that they learned about the event through the Township Facebook page.

At their January 9 meeting Ms. Alloway reported that the commission decided to discontinue pursuing National Wildlife Federation Community Wildlife Habitat certification. The commissioners believe their time could be better spent organizing events for Westtown residents. During this meeting, P&R also elected new officers (Ida Fritsche, Chair; Phil Garabedian, Vice Chair; Allison Corcoran, Secretary) and began slating 2018 events, including the spring yard sale, summer movie nights, and Winter Festival, and are considering a summer series for children.

There were no comments or questions.

D. Planning Commission (PC) – Jack Embick

Mr. Embick stated that at their January 3 meeting, the PC elected its 2018 officers (Dick Pomerantz, Chair; Russell Hatton, Vice Chair; Will Ethridge, Secretary) and continued discussion on a Bi-Directional Amplifier Ordinance. Mr. Scott Chandler from Metropolitan Communications and Township Solicitor Tony Verwey were in attendance to give more information about the cost of installing these amplifiers and how to balance these significant costs with public safety. During this meeting, Mr. Verwey explained that the Township's existing building code could leave any changes or additional provisions regarding Bi-Directional Amplifiers open to challenges. Due to these developments, the PC is slowing down moving forward until they have more answers.

Mr. Pingar questioned how much of an adverse effect cost would have on a new construction building that may not even need an amplifier. Mr. Embick replied that they are more worried about the cost and legal basis to retrofit existing buildings with amplifiers.

Mr. Di Domenico asked if the PC had considered the Chester County report that only a few buildings had poor enough radio signal to warrant an amplifier. Mr. Embick said that he did not see such a report and indicated that Chief Bernot would likely know the specifics of the report better. Mr. Di Domenico asked Chief Bernot if there were a large number of these buildings in Westtown. She replied that the test for radio signal strength was done in schools only and almost all of them received poor results. Mr. Embick and the Board continued to discuss the challenges associated with creating an ordinance addressing poor radio signals in pre-existing buildings.

Mr. Embick concluded his report with a reminder that there is a vacancy on the PC and Ms. De Wolf assured him that the Board was actively addressing it.

There were no other comments or questions.

V. Public Comment (Non Agenda Items)

Kevin Brink, Boy Scout Troop 222, was present to observe a public meeting for a Communications merit badge.

Nancy Harkins, 1521 Woodland Road, inquired how the Board is monitoring the Sunoco Pipeline and addressing any issues that arise. Mr. Di Domenico commented that he had recently been informed that many residents with wells have been receiving letters from Sunoco advising them to find an alternative water source. He has responded by directing residents to the PA DEP. Mr. Di Domenico said that he will also be sending copies of the letters to Representative Carolyn Comitta for follow up. Ms. De Wolf asked Mr. Di Domenico to share the letters with the Board. Ms. De Wolf also assured Ms. Harkins that she has been following the actions of neighboring municipalities closely.

Mr. Di Domenico commented that, per the Township's ordinance, the Township should be inspecting above-ground pipeline work, as these structures may exist for several years. Mr. Pingar stated that because the above-ground structures are construction-related and temporary, they are not subject to review under the current ordinance. However, he agreed to look into the Board's options concerning

oversight of these structures, which Mr. Yaw supported. Mr. Yaw also recommended copying Senator Killion on any communications as well. Ms. Harkins suggested putting a notice about these letters and link to the DEP on the website. Mr. Di Domenico replied that he has spoken with two residents, but has not yet received copies of any of the letters they have received.

There were no other comments or questions.

VI. Old Business

There was none.

VII. New Business

A. WEGO Police Commissioner Appointment – Thornbury Township Citizen-at-Large, Jim Benoit

Mr. Yaw made a motion to approve Thornbury Township Board of Supervisors' Jim Benoit as a Citizen-At-Large member of the Westtown-East Goshen Regional Police Commission for 2018. Mr. Di Domenico questioned why Mr. Benoit is being appointed, given that he has a history of not attending the Police Commission meetings. Chief Bernot noted that meetings in 2018 will be held during the day, and will be much easier for Mr. Benoit to attend. Mr. Di Domenico then seconded the motion. There was no public comment and the motion was approved.

B. Resolution 2018-03 – Bank Account Signatories

Mr. Yaw made a motion to adopt Resolution 2018-03 designating signatories on the township bank accounts for 2018. Mr. Di Domenico seconded the motion. There was no public comment and the motion was unanimously approved.

VIII. Announcements

1. **Comprehensive Plan Update Task Force Meeting** – Thursday, January 25, 2018, 7:00 pm at Township Building
2. **Parks & Recreation Commission Vacancy** – The commission meets at 7:00 p.m. on the second Tuesday of the month at Oakbourne Mansion. If you would like to volunteer on the Parks & Recreation Commission, please send your letter of interest and resume to the Township Manager, Rob Pingar.

IX. Public Comment on All Topics

There was none.

X. Payment of Bills

Mr. Yaw made a motion to approve General Fund bills in the amount of \$467,247.47, Wastewater Fund bills in the amount of \$34,682.43, and Capital Projects Fund bills in the amount of \$28,073.33, for a grand total of \$530,003.23. The motion was seconded by Mr. Di Domenico. There was no public comment, and the check registers were approved.

XI. Adjournment

Mr. Yaw made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mr. Di Domenico. The meeting adjourned at 8:16 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Pingar
Township Manager