

WESTTOWN TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS REGULAR MEETING

Westtown Township Municipal Building, 1039 Wilmington Pike, Westtown

Monday, August 6, 2018 – 7:30 PM

In attendance were: Vice Chair Scott Yaw, Police Commissioner Mike Di Domenico, Township Manager Rob Pingar, Public Works Director Mark Gross, Historical Commissioner Paul Mullin and Planning Commissioner Jack Embick. There were 6 guests.

I. Pledge of Allegiance & Call to Order

Mr. Yaw called the meeting to order at 7:33 PM, and led the Pledge of Allegiance. He asked if anyone was recording the meeting. There was no response.

II. Approval of Minutes (July 16, 2018)

Mr. Yaw noted one typo in the minutes and also requested that any motions that were unanimously approved be noted as such. Mrs. Di Domenico also noted one typo. Mr. Yaw then made a motion to approve the Board of Supervisors meeting minutes of July 16, 2018 with corrections. Mr. Di Domenico seconded the motion. There were no questions or comments, and the minutes were unanimously approved.

III. Workshop Meeting Summary (August 6, 2018)

Mr. Yaw reported that the Board held an Executive Session on contractual and legal matters. The Board discussed sewer rates for non-standard institutions. The Historical Commission made a presentation to the Board on the Huey House ruins at 950 S. New Street. The acquisition of this property is on the agenda tonight.

There were no comments or questions.

IV. Departmental Reports

A. Public Works (PW) – Mark Gross

Mr. Gross reported that Public Works has focused on grass cutting and preparing for the annual paving project. The crew has been replacing stormwater inlet tops and rehabbing inlet boxes, and also replacing manhole frames and covers. He said that given the significant rainfall this summer, it has actually worked out well that the paving project was pushed back.

A stained glass window was completely restored and replaced at the mansion and should be good for another 150 years. All the jewels and glass were cleaned and reassembled with new lead and additional support.

In wastewater, the clarifier brackets are corroded and being replaced. The grit chambers are also being cleaned. Mr. Gross stated that the township is waiting for Carroll Engineering to provide the plans for the Kirkwood Pump station replacement and force main relocation. He had hoped to put it out for bid this month for award in September. He would like to complete that project before winter.

The crew will be working in Plumly Farms to re-line deteriorating stormwater pipes. The contractor will be televising the lines and relining them in September. The township will also be repainting road lines during the evenings this week.

Mr. Gross also provided an update on the construction of the new Public Works facility. The foundation is finished and the underground electrical conduits are in, and the plumber is working this week. He hopes the concrete floors will be poured this week. Once the floors are done, then

the mason can be brought in to put the walls up. Mr. Yaw asked the anticipated completion date. Mr. Gross replied that it's looking like mid-November.

There were no other questions or comments.

B. Historical Commission (HC) – Paul Mullin

Mr. Mullin stated that the HC has been working to update *A History of Westtown* by Arthur James. The township secured the copyright to this publication. Mr. Mullin also reported that the HC has provided the Board with their suggestions and comments on the design for the Veterans Memorial. The Westtown Day planning committee met again and plans are going well, with several new organizations attending this year, including the Brandywine Battlefield Association.

The HC is discussing how to best utilize and preserve the Huey House ruins once it is purchased by the township. The Rustin Walk interpretive sign has been delivered. There is still considerable construction going on at the development, so installation will be delayed until the development is completed.

Last week, Mr. Pingar and several HC commissioners toured the Gatehouse at Oakbourne Park in an attempt to determine if this was the location of the former 19th century Mercer Schoolhouse. The result was inconclusive.

There were no comments or questions.

C. Planning Commission (PC) – Jack Embick

Mr. Embick reported that the July 18 meeting was cancelled due to a lack of quorum. At their next meeting on August 8, the PC will discuss the Malvern School application and the Jaguar/Land Rover building expansion application. They will also review the Ballester, Cahill, and Stancato subdivision applications. The PC also plans to discuss the Jackson Variance for an over-height fence at 193 Pheasant Run Road.

There were no comments or questions.

V. Public Comment (Non Agenda Items)

There was none.

VI. Old Business

A. Land Acquisition – 950 S. New Street (Huey house ruins)

Based on research by the Westtown Historical Commission, this 0.55-acre lot was part of a 125-acre tract originally owned by William and Gennet Huey, who built a house on it in 1731. It has historical significance in that it is the sole remaining property in Westtown that has ruins of a house that was standing at the Battle of Brandywine. This 0.55-acre lot is not buildable due to its size, shape, the presence of a watercourse and an associated riparian buffer requirement. The Historical Commission asked that the township acquire this property to study its history, preserve the Huey house ruins, and perhaps develop it as a historic site. The board discussed this acquisition with Pat McKenna at the 7/16 BOS meeting. The Donald and Deborah Asplen signed the deed on July 19, 2018.

Mr. Yaw made a motion to approve the purchase of an approximately 0.55-acre parcel from Donald and Deborah Asplen, known as UPI #67-4-2, more commonly referred to as 950 S. New Street, in the amount of \$4,000, and to accept the deed to the property from the Asplens. Mr. Di Domenico seconded the motion.

Charlie Barber, 1030 Little Shiloh Road, asked for clarification on the intended purpose of acquiring this parcel of land and any additional costs associated with the project. Mr. Yaw replied that this project will be completed in several phases and that if anything with archeological significance is discovered, the township will consider restoration as a course of action. However, there are no estimated costs established at this time, as costs will vary depending on what is discovered.

Mr. Di Domenico added that this acquisition is the first step of many in determining a course of action for the property. The next steps include conducting a survey, determining the costs of any needed stabilization of the site, and then presenting the findings to the public. Mr. Pingar clarified that the township had no intention to restore the site, only stabilize it.

There were no other comments and the motion was unanimously approved.

VII. New Business

A. Planning Commission Resignation – Edward Yost

Mr. Yost submitted his immediate resignation from the Planning Commission due to personal reasons, dedicating his time to public service in another way. Mr. Yaw made a motion to accept the resignation of Ed Yost from the Planning Commission. Mr. Di Domenico seconded the motion and complimented Mr. Yost on his time served. Mr. Yaw also thanked him for his contributions to the Comprehensive Plan Update Task Force. There were no other comments or questions and the motion was unanimously approved.

VIII. Announcements

Mr. Yaw made the following announcements:

1. **Childrens' Series at Oakbourne Park** – 10:30 am Wednesday, August 8 at the pavilion. Peter Moses Interactive Musical Experience.
2. **Summer Movie Night** – 8pm Friday, August 17 at Oakbourne Park. Featuring the original “Star Wars: A New Hope”
3. **Citizens Police Academy** – This is a 13-week program designed to give residents a better of understanding of the operations of the Police Department and its officers. Classes are held on Tuesdays beginning September 4. Class size is limited. Enroll at www.wegopd.org.
4. **Neighborhood University** - Thursdays from 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm from September 6 to November 15, 2018. Neighborhood University is a free program offered by the West Chester Area Council of Governments to educate citizens about local government and increase awareness of available municipal services and resources. Enroll in Neighborhood U at www.nugwc.org.

IX. Public Comment on All Topics

Kathy Di Domenico, 1530 Woodland Road, asked for clarification regarding the length of the Citizens Police Academy program due to conflicting information from Chief Bernot and the township. Mr. Yaw assured her the township would confirm the length and amend any mistaken information.

There were no other questions or comments.

X. Payment of Bills

Mr. Yaw made a motion to approve the General Fund bills in the amount of \$1,538,523.09, the Wastewater Fund bills in the amount of \$60,428.30, and Capital Projects Fund bills of \$28,691.57, for a total of \$1,627,642.96. The motion was seconded by Mr. Di Domenico.

Kathy Di Domenico, 1530 Woodland Road inquired who PeopleShare was as they received several payments from the township. Mr. Pingar replied that they are a Temp Agency that the township is using for part-time accounting work.

Mrs. Di Domenico also inquired about a payment made to Board Chair Carol De Wolf. Mr. Pingar replied that this was to replace her outdated and non-functioning township iPad.

There were no other questions or comments, and the check registers were unanimously approved.

XI. Adjournment

Mr. Yaw made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Di Domenico seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved and the meeting adjourned at 7:57 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Pingar
Township Manager