

**MINUTES OF THE PLAINS TOWNSHIP BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING OF  
MARCH 8, 2018** **PAGE ONE**

**CALL TO ORDER TIME:** 7:32 P.M.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Led by: Gerald Yozwiak

**ROLL CALL:** Present: Peter J. Biscontini, Esq., Robert Sax, Thomas Shubilla, and Gerald Yozwiak. Absent: Ciro Cinti. Also Present Attorney Stephen Menn and Patricia Sluhocki.

**Secretary Read:**

The Sunshine Act requires that those in attendance be given the opportunity to comment before a vote is taken. Anyone wishing to comment on an issue is encouraged to notify the Board prior to roll call being taken on that issue. The Township policy is to limit comment to five minutes. Anyone requiring additional time is encouraged to make arrangements to meet with the Board at a later date. Additionally, all correspondence read or referred to is available at the North Main Street Municipal Building for public inspection during regular business hours. Note that the meeting is being recorded. At this time please turn off any cell phones to avoid disrupting the meeting.

**GENERAL ORDER OF BUSINESS**

Motion to accept: **Minutes:** The Board of Commissioners Regular Meeting of February 8<sup>th</sup>; Recreation Board Meeting of February 5<sup>th</sup>, Plains Sewer Authority Meeting of January 12<sup>th</sup> Wyoming Valley Sanitary Authority meeting of January 16<sup>th</sup>. **Monthly Reports** of the Police Department for January; Fire Report for February; Zoning Permits Issued for January; Secretaries Report for February. **Payrolls** of the Administrative, Zoning Office, Department of Public Works. Also the **Treasurers Report** – General Fund Checking Account Receipts \$583,551.23; General Fund Checking Account Disbursements \$519,272.32. Total Ending Balance in the General Fund Checking as of 2/28/2018 - \$375,846.93.

**BY: Biscontini 2ND: Sax All For Motion Carried**

**CORRESPONDENCE - None**

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**POLICE – Biscontini** announced that we will be welcoming a new police officer at the end of the month, Tom Lepore. He was with Jenkins Township and Wilkes-Barre Township. Born and raised in Plains and still lives here. The DA's office is still investigating that body that was discovered up at the trailer court. There was also a drug overdose up there. Anyone with any tips can call me or call the police and talk anonymously. The Police Report for the month; there were 0 robberies and burglaries. 27 accidents and the bulk are calls are domestic and noise calls.

**FIRE – Sax** reported that we had some personnel changes in the Fire Department. Our Fire Chief Carl Baker, since our last meeting, put in his paperwork and has retired. He deserves a nice round of applause for serving over 40 years with the department. He went out in style. We appreciate his service and has been our chief for the last eight years. We will be installing a Chief and entry level firefighter tonight.

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**PAGE TWO**

**DPW – Shubilla** reported on the winter weather events and that the DPW did a great job on the roads. Always told that driving through Plains is the best and want to thank them for that. On May 5<sup>th</sup> we will be having our Shred Fest. Anyone with any type of important documents you can take them up to the Recycling Center between 9 and 12Noon. Also we will be having our Electronics Recycling Event – November 17, 2018. Most small items is free and the bigger items have a small fee. We have a new Clutter Clean-up. If you have something you need picked up, stop by the office to register your items and the price is \$5.00. This will be a monthly service instead of once a year. The Yard Waste drop-off will open March 31<sup>st</sup> from 8 to Noon. Curbside pick-up will begin May 7<sup>th</sup> and end November 15<sup>th</sup>.

**RECREATION – Yozwiak** added that Commissioner Cinti is down in Harrisburg on business. Noted that he has pictures of the Tubs area, of the railroad right away. You can bike or hike from Giants Despair to the Lehigh Valley. **Sax** announced that Zoning Code Enforcement Officer, Kathy O'Boyle will be celebrating 30 years of service with the Township at the end of the month. Congratulations to her.

**OLD BUSINESS - None**

**NEW BUSINESS**

Motion to pay **General Fund Bills:** Utility\$23,978.99 Regular **\$135,810.96**; Total **\$159,789.95**  
**BY: Shubilla 2ND: Biscontini All For Motion Carried.**

Motion to authorize the renewal application of Samuel A. Gensel of 189 Ridgewood Road for Disabled Veterans Real Property Tax Exemption Certification. Township Portion is \$75.40.  
**BY: Sax 2ND: Shubilla All For Motion Carried.**

Motion to authorize a 2.5% raise to all Non-Union Administrative and Recreation Employees effective pay date of April 13, 2018. **BY: Shubilla 2ND: Sax All For Motion Carried.**

Motion to authorize a raise to \$12.00 per hour for part-time DPW employees, Robert Davis, Tom Giebus and Dominick Pizzella effective pay date of April 13, 2018. **BY: Biscontini 2ND: Shubilla All For Motion Carried.**

Motion to authorize use of the Commissioners meeting room to the Area Agency on Aging for Luzerne County on June 15, 2018 from 9:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. for the Senior Citizens Farmers Market Voucher Distribution. **BY: Sax 2ND: Biscontini All For Motion Carried.**

Motion to accept Chief Carl Baker's notice to retire from the Plains Township Fire Department effective February 23, 2018. **BY: Sax** He has been with us since 1978 and I thank him for his service to Plains Township for the last 40 years. **2ND: Shubilla All For Motion Carried.**

Motion to appoint Mark Ritsick Plains Township Fire Chief effective March 10, 2018.  
**BY: Sax** added incoming Chief has been Deputy Chief for the last eight years and I think it was a great choice. **2ND: Biscontini All For Motion Carried. Pictures Taken. Chief Ritsick** thanked the Board and pledged to keep the progressive department moving forward.