

**MINUTES OF THE PLAINS TOWNSHIP BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING OF
FEBRUARY 14, 2019** **PAGE ONE**

CALL TO ORDER TIME:

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Led by: Gerald Yozwiak

ROLL CALL: Present: Peter J. Biscontini, Esq., Ciro Cinti, Robert Sax, Thomas Shubilla, and Gerald Yozwiak. 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 January 10th; Planning Commission Meeting of January 3rd; Plains Sewer Authority Meeting of December 14th. Wyoming Valley Sanitary Authority Meetings of November 13th and December 18th 2018; Recreation Board Meetings of January 7th and February 4th. **Monthly Reports** of the Police Department for December 2018 and January 2019; the Fire Department Annual Report for 2018 and monthly report for January, DPW Report for January, Zoning Permits issued for December 2018 and January, Contractor Licenses for January, Secretaries Report for January. **Payrolls** of the Administrative, Zoning Office, Department of Public Works and Recreation Departments. Also the **Treasurers Report** – General Fund Checking Account Receipts \$596,897.43; General Fund Checking Account Disbursements \$1,199,374.48. Total Ending Balance in the General Fund Checking as of 1/31/2019 - \$34,760.53. **BY: Biscontini 2ND: Shubilla All For Motion Carried.**

CORRESPONDENCE - None

COMMITTEE REPORTS

POLICE – Biscontini last Thursday, Skate with a Cop event happened at Skateaway in Wilkes-Barre. The organization donated a bulletproof shield to our police department. Thanked the organization. There were 216 traffic citations which is way up from any month last year. Car accidents are down. The police traveled 8,742 miles and thanked the police department for their hard work. Lock your vehicles. There was 20 thefts reported.

FIRE – Sax reported on the Medico fire which occurred on one of the coldest days of the year. Nobody got hurt. On April 28th the American Red Cross will giving out smoke alarms. If anyone needs one, contact the Red Cross. Our fire department will help installing the alarms if needed.

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DPW – Shubilla thanked the DPW for all of the weather events we have been having in the last month. Plains roads are fantastic compared to some other municipalities. Through the month of January the department finished picking up Christmas trees, cleaned catch basins. For Recycling: Co-Mingled – 25 ton, Newspapers – 9. ton, Cardboard - 11 ton and Refuse – 203ton. Reminded residents to make sure it's a recyclable item and that it's clean. Reimbursement of \$932.50 received for the 2018 Electronics Recycling Event held November 2018. Hopefully we will be able to make this an annual event and will be having our paper event as well.

RECREATION – Cinti reported that applications are being accepted for the pavilion and there are still dates open. After the first round of applications, the notification letters will be going out this week. Applications are available at the town hall. Also we are accepting applications summer recreation help at the parks and summer camp. Plains Soccer Association attended the Recreation Board meeting about the condition of the mitigated areas down the flats which they will be using for fields. We got in touch with Jim Brozena, who is our engineer working on the project and will be meeting to resolve the situation in the spring.

Yozwiak announced that we used to get a lot of money from China for recycling. We still will be separating our recycling. We are not getting charged but also not getting money for the materials. We only pay for the transportation of the dumpsters. Right now separating is better than going single stream, which is not recommended. Also, on theft, I heard that Dave Willis in the audience, was a subject of theft of ID. I always tell the residents, watch your bank accounts, watch your name, and watch your credit cards. **Mr. Willis** explained to the audience what happened to him with his theft situation. **Yozwiak** thanked everyone for coming on Valentines Day.

OLD BUSINESS - None

NEW BUSINESS

Motion to pay General Fund Bills: Utility\$22,559.33; Regular\$197,652.49; Total\$220,211.82
BY: Shubilla 2ND: Biscontini For: Biscontini, Cinti, Except abstain from Assured Partners Bill for business relations, Sax, except abstain from GBM Bill due to employment, Shubilla, Yozwiak. Motion Carried.

Motion to authorize the handicapped parking application of Gloria Chiucchi at 36 West Carey Street as recommended by a police traffic study. **BY: Sax 2ND: Cinti All For Motion Carried.**

Motion to accept the resignation of John Javick from the Plains Township Hearing Board effective immediately. **BY: Cinti 2ND: Sax** who also thanked Mr. Javick for his many years on the Zoning Hearing Board. **All For Motion Carried.**

Motion to accept the resignation of Kathleen O'Boyle as Zoning/Code Enforcement Officer and authorize pension benefits as calculated by AFG Pension Administrators. **BY: Sax** added congratulations on 30 years of service to Plains Township on her retirement. Kathy worked on and received many grants for the Township. **2ND: Biscontini. Cinti** commented that he knew Kathy a long time and she did a lot of good things. It's not the easiest job to have. She did a great job for us and wish her the best in her retirement. **Yozwiak** also thanked Kathy for her service. **All For Motion Carried.**

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Motion to hire Michelle Waslasky as summer camp counselor at a rate of \$12.00 per hour no benefits effective June 17th. **BY: Shubilla 2ND: Sax For: Biscontini, Sax, Shubilla and Yozwiak. Abstain Cinti due to relation. Motion Carried.**

Motion to authorize a new application from Richard L. Glosser of 4 Spruce Avenue for a Pennsylvania Department of Military and Veterans Affairs Disabled Veterans Real Property Tax Exemption Certification. Township Portion is \$248.15. **BY: Biscontini 2ND: Cinti All For Motion Carried.**

Motion to authorize Karen Rubasky attendance at a PATH course – Duties of a Zoning Officer on April 17, 2019 at a cost of \$50.00. **BY: Sax 2ND: Shubilla All For Motion Carried.**

SOLICITORS REPORT

Motion to solicit bids for the 2019-2020 Back-Up Salt Bid contact year. **BY: Shubilla 2ND: Biscontini All For Motion Carried.**

Motion to request the Civil Service Commission do entry level police officer testing and waive the testing fee. **BY: Biscontini** noted that we waived the fee to try to get some good applicants. Last year when we gave the test we did not have many applicants. Hopefully we will be applying for a grant to hire some police. **2ND: Cinti All For Motion Carried.**

Motion to appoint Gary Januszko to the Plains Township Zoning Hearing Board for a term expiring December 31, 2021 and adopt a resolution noting the same upon review and approval of solicitor. **BY: Sax 2ND: Shubilla All For Motion Carried.**

Motion to ratify Payment Request from the Luzerne Co. Disaster Recovery Buyout Program Contract # 1 Environmental Abatement Summer 2018 to Datom Products, Inc. in the amount of \$9,520.00. **BY: Biscontini 2ND: Cinti Noted by Yozwiak** that this is for abatement down the flats. **All For Motion Carried.**

Motion to ratify Payment Request from the Luzerne Co. Disaster Recovery Buyout Program#1 Structure Demolition Summer 2018 to TSE, Inc. in the amount of \$13,880.00. **BY: Shubilla 2ND: Sax Noted by Yozwiak** that this is demolition down the flats. **All For Motion Carried.**

Motion to ratify Payment Request from the Luzerne Co. Disaster Recovery Buyout for reimbursement of advertising to Plains Township in the amount of \$4,029.70. **BY: Cinti 2ND: Biscontini All For Motion Carried.**

Motion to adopt an ordinance establishing regulations for the operation and parking of motor vehicles during snow/ice emergencies on certain streets within the Township. Noted by **Menn** that this was duly advertised. **BY: Shubilla 2ND: Sax Mr. Pelak** from the audience asked what are the streets. **Menn** read off the streets and explained the ordinance. **Shubilla** noted those streets were recommended by our DPW where they have difficulty getting down in a storm.

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Mr. Pelak discussed with **Menn** the particulars of the ordinance when it comes to a snow emergency. **Mr. Pelak** had a concern about lower section of Warner Street which is one way. **Unidentified Woman** from the audience asked how are we going to know when there is a snow emergency. Board will have to figure out a way to inform the residents. **Audrey Serniak** asked about Perkins Street. **All For Motion Carried.**

Motion to authorize execution of a storm water agreement by and between Wilkes-Barre Area School District and Plains Township for the New High School Project. **Noted by Menn** that this is required by Penn Dot. **BY: Cinti 2ND: Biscontini All For Motion Carried.**


ANNOUNCEMENTS by Yozwiak: The next regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners will be held March 14, 2019 at 7:30 P.M. The Administrative Office and DPW will be closed on Monday, February 18th in observance of the Presidents Day Holiday. Residents with a Monday garbage pick-up will have pick-up on Tuesday, February 19th. All other schedules will remain the same.

TAXPAYERS


Myron Feszchak - Has a little bit of a cat problem with about half a dozen cats. He called the SPCA and they asked where he lived and was told that Plains Township did not sign a municipal contract. Was told to call cat rescue, where they capture cats, have them spade and release them back. Asked the Board why didn't sign with the municipal contract. Board opted to go with Blue Chip for dogs and Whiskers World for cats. **Shubilla** said that he can send somebody up to relocate the cats.

ADJOURNMENT BY: Cinti 2ND: Yozwiak All For Motion Carried. TIME: 7:55 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,


Patricia Sluhocki
Secretary

Accepted By,


Gerald J. Yozwiak
Chairman