

**MINUTES OF THE PLAINS TOWNSHIP BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING OF
JUNE 13, 2019** **PAGE ONE**

CALL TO ORDER TIME: 7:33 P.M.

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 May 9th; Plains Twp. Planning Commission Meeting of May 2nd; Plains Recreation Board Meetings of May 6th and June 3rd; Plains Sewer Authority Meeting of April 12th; Wyoming Valley Sanitary Meeting of April 16th. **Monthly Reports** of the Police Department for May; Fire Department for May, DPW Report for May, Zoning Permits issued for May, Contractor Licenses for May, Secretaries Report for May. **Payrolls** of the Administrative, Zoning Office, Department of Public Works and Recreation Departments. Also the **Treasurers Report** – General Fund Checking Account Receipts \$4,050,000.76 General Fund Checking Account Disbursements \$952,303.10. Total Ending Balance in the General Fund Checking as of 5/31/2019 - \$3,285,405.39. **BY: Shubilla 2ND: Sax For: Biscontini, Cinti Abstain from Michael Cinti Payroll- Rec, Sax, Shubilla, Yozwiak. All For Motion Carried.**

CORRESPONDENCE - None

COMMITTEE REPORTS

POLICE – Biscontini reported that vehicle break-ins are up and the Chief asked if residents could lock their vehicles. Accidents are high 34 for the month and asked residents to drive safely.

FIRE – Sax reported that we had 131 fire calls. Majority of them were rescue and emergency service calls. Also responded to a lot of high weed complaints. Residents can report high weed complaints to the office.

DPW – Shubilla reported on the Recycling Report: Co-Mingled – 22 ton, Newspapers – 10 ton, Cardboard – 8 ton, Refuse/Yard Waste – 212 ton. DPW is also repairing some catch basins throughout the town, cleaning catch basins due to the rain, cutting grass, putting up the flags for Memorial Day. They have been doing a really great job and I thank them for that.

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RECREATION – Cinti reported that all the parks are open and trying to keep up with the parks with all the rain. The summer helpers are working. The main pavilion is booked up through October. There are some dates available. Call Pat Delesandro or the office. We also have a small pavilion where we had some issues up there. If anyone rents that pavilion and other people are trying to come in at the same time, call 911. The children's summer camp will start this Monday at 10:00a.m. To 2:00 p.m. There are no lunches this year, but there will be snacks. The age group is kindergarten to sixth grade. Noted that we were notified that the Pa. Compensation Rating Bureau sent a letter to Selective Insurance certifying our Safety Committee, entitled us to a 5% credit on our workers compensation insurance policy, which amounts to around \$20,000.00. Mike Sebia is charge of the Safety Committee and would to thank him publicly for doing this every year.

Yozwiak thanked Patty the secretary and Patty Neishel for delivering the wreath to our recent Memorial Day ceremony. Noted that Luzerne Co. got hacked into their computer system. Baltimore, Philadelphia and Atlanta also got hacked. Reminded residents to watch their personal information. We have been in touch with Computer Visionaries who handles our IT needs. We are also looking at insurance. Advised residents not to open suspicious emails. U.S. Army celebrating 244th year tomorrow.

OLD BUSINESS – None

NEW BUSINESS

Motion to pay **General Fund Bills** (Utility\$34,021.23Regular\$261,725.80; Total \$295,747.03)
BY: Biscontini 2ND: Shubilla Roll Call: B C SA SH Y For: Biscontini, Cinti Abstain from Assured Partners bill due to business relations, Sax, Shubilla, Yozwiak abstaining from reimbursement for flowers at Veterans Park. Motion Carried.

Motion to ratify a raise for Karen Rubasky, Zoning Officer to \$14.00 per hour effective May 24, 2019. **BY: Sax 2ND: Cinti All For Motion Carried.**

Motion to authorize payment request # 2 for the Signal Upgrades Project to Northeast Signal & Electric Co. in the amount of \$50,342.30. **BY: Cinti 2ND: Sax Noted by Yozwiak** that is the Signal upgrade emitters at the Cross Valley and Route 115. That is an 80% Penn Dot reimbursement to us. **All For Motion Carried.**

Motion to authorize payment application # 3 for the 2018 Storm Drainage and Roadway Improvement Project to Stell Enterprises in the amount of \$22,227.76 and authorize Change Order # 4 for a decrease of \$6,783.10. Note that \$2,289.36 of Liquid Fuels monies will be used for this payment. **BY: Shubilla 2ND: Biscontini All For Motion Carried.**

Motion to hire Joseph Pahler as a summer recreation worker at a rate of \$8.50 per hour effective June 17th **BY: Cinti 2ND: Sax Cinti** noted that one of people we hired is leaving that is why we are hiring. **All For Motion Carried.**

Motion to hire Brian Redmond as an entry-level firefighter effective July 8, 2019, subject to successful completion of all physical, psychological and background examinations per the terms of the fire department union contract and civil service rules and regulations. **BY: Sax 2ND: Cinti All For Motion Carried.**

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Motion to hire Lee Hampton, Adam Valkos and John F. Ankenbrand as part-time fire-fighters at a rate of \$10.00 per hour no benefits subject to successful completion of physical and post-offer employment test. **BY: Biscontini 2ND: Shubilla All For Motion Carried.**

SOLICITORS REPORT

Motion to solicit bids for the purchase of garbage bags. **BY: Shubilla 2ND: Sax All For Motion Carried.**

Motion to adopt a resolution expressing opposition to Pa H.B. 349 of 2019 requiring Municipalities to retain two third party agencies to act on their behalf. **BY: Biscontini 2ND: Shubilla Noted by Menn** that this bill would require the municipality to hire more than one inspector and this resolution expresses our opposition to that House Bill. **All For Motion Carried.**

Motion to award the bid for the 2019 Liquid Fuels Pave Project to American Asphalt Paving C.as follows: Blanchard Street Base bid with deduct alternate No. 4 and Terrace Road base bid with deduct alternate No. 6 for a combined total bid price of \$318,397.85. **BY: Cinti 2ND: Shubilla All For Motion Carried.**

Motion to apply for a Multimodal Transportation Fund Grant for 5 Projects are as follows: William Street, E. Merritt Street, Hudson Road, River Street and North Main Lighting and authorize any paperwork necessary for the application process as deemed approval of our grant writer. **BY: Biscontini 2ND: Sax All For Motion Carried.**

Motion to honor Francis P. Gavin with a Proclamation for his dedicated years of service to the youth of Plains Township read by Attorney Menn. **BY: Cinti 2ND: Shubilla Cinti noted** that Mr. Gavin was a main stay for baseball for the kids in Plains Township for over a half century. Invited the public to a brief ceremony on Monday, July 1st around 5:30 P.M. where we will be presenting this Proclamation to members of his family. **All For Motion Carried.**

Motion to authorize execution of Payment Request from the Luzerne Co. Disaster Recovery Buyout Program Contract # 2 Environmental Abatement Summer 2018 to Datom Products, Inc. in the amount of \$2,380.00. **BY: Sax 2ND: Biscontini Yozwiak** noted that this for abatement for the demolished houses down the flats. **All For Motion Carried.**

Motion to adopt and execute Memorandum of Understanding between Plains Township and UFCW Local 1776 Reclassifying 3 members of DPW from laborers to truck drivers effective July 8, 2019 subject solicitor review and approval. **BY: Shubilla 2ND: Cinti All For Motion Carried.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS by Yozwiak: The next regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners will be held July 11, 2019 at 7:30 P.M. The Administrative, Zoning Office and DPW will be closed on Thursday, July 4, 2019 in observance of the 4th of July Holiday. Residents with Thursday garbage collection will have their garbage picked-up on Wednesday, July 3, 2019. Residents are reminded that there is an 8 bag limit the week after the holiday. All other schedules remain the same. Wished the gentlemen in the audience a Happy Father's Day!

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TAXPAYERS

Tom Bridgen of 9 Gail Drive - Came to meeting to see what is going on about his complaint. He signed the forms to do the job. **Yozwiak** engineer found that in that development there is an easement of 15' in the rear of the lots. **Menn** this is separate and apart from the railroad property. **Bridgen** asked that the only thing he wants the Township to do is clean out Township property. **Yozwiak** the 15' easement is on everyone's property. Discussion held between **Bridgen, Yozwiak and Atty. Menn**. **Yozwiak** said they will talk after the meeting.

Fred Silveri - Asked the Board for an update on the lights on Mitchell Street. Brian Palmiter of Borton Lawson is the one that was working on this and he is not here this evening. The Board said they will have Brian call him.

Myron Fesczchak - Was supposed to get the Board some papers, but cannot get any answers. Tried to get in touch with Mr. Wincek of DPW and could never get in touch with him. He doesn't return my messages. Asked if the engineer went up there to check the situation. **Menn** told him that he was supposed to get documents to us so we can get them to the engineer and the Board. **Fesczchak** says all he needs the measurements of the road and right of way. Discussion between **Fesczchak and Menn**. **Yozwiak** we need to look at the sewer maps. Also complained about the cats in the neighborhood. **Shubilla** said he will get in touch with Brenda of Whiskers World.

ADJOURNMENT BY: Cinti 2ND: Yozwiak TIME: 8:21 P.M

Respectfully Submitted,



**Patricia Sluhocki
Secretary**

Accepted By,



**Gerald J. Yozwiak
Chairman**