

**MINUTES OF THE PLAINS TOWNSHIP BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING OF
JULY 11, 2019** **PAGE ONE**

CALL TO ORDER TIME:

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Led by: Gerald Yozwiak

ROLL CALL: Peter J. Biscontini, Esq., Ciro Cinti, Robert Sax, Thomas Shubilla, and Gerald Yozwiak.

- **Introduction ceremony of newly appointed Firefighter Brian Redmond.**
- **Introduction/picture of newly appointed Police Detective Dan Lewis**

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 June 13th; Plains Sewer Authority Meeting of May 10th **Monthly Reports** of the Fire Department for June, DPW Report for June, Zoning Permits issued for June, Contractor Licenses for June, Secretaries Report for June. **Payrolls** of the Administrative, Zoning Office, Department of Public Works and Recreation Departments. Also the **Treasurers Report** – General Fund Checking Account Receipts \$457,491.88 General Fund Checking Account Disbursements \$803,632.13. Total Ending Balance in the General Fund Checking as of 6/30/2019 - \$2,939,265.14. **BY: Biscontini 2ND: Shubilla For: Biscontini, Cinti abstain from Michael Cinti on rec payroll, Sax abstain from Samantha Sax payroll, Shubilla, Yozwiak abstain from Ben Yozwiak payroll. Motion Carried.**

CORRESPONDENCE - None

COMMITTEE REPORTS

POLICE – Biscontini announced that National Night Out to be held 8/20/2019 at the Municipal Park. Our patrol officers apprehended the Mountaintop bank robber. John Allabaugh and Tim Minnick were involved with that. Commended them on great work. The County has an active program going on for Mosquitos spraying. If the mosquitos test positive for West Nile they will spray the areas.

FIRE – Sax reported that we had 223 calls this month. Fire calls were 127 and ambulance calls were 96. We had a lot of high weed complaints that the fire inspectors and the zoning officer were responding to. American Red Cross smoke alarm program is on their way. In May we had 93 smoke alarms installed. If anyone wants to participate in the program, just call the fire department. Congratulated Firefighter Brian Redmond.

**MINUTES OF THE PLAINS TOWNSHIP BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING OF
JULY 11, 2019** **PAGE TWO**

Fire Chief Mark Ritsick spoke about the smoke alarm programs and the two rescue operations that occurred this past month. First incident involved a water rescue at which Firefighters Ozgo, Martin, Long and part-time firefighter John Ankleman, his first day on the job was this call. Second incident involved a man falling off a ladder. Firefighters Curt Nocera, Million, Long and Brian Redmond were on that call. Chief thanked the Board for the training and their support. **Sax** added that it is an added service to have the fire department responding for every medical call ahead of the ambulance and is very grateful for that.

DPW – Shubilla reported that DPW has been working everywhere throughout the town clearing the catch basins with all the rain we have been getting. They installed speed bumps at the Municipal Park for the summer season. Repaired catch basins. Recycling Report: Co-Mingled – 28 ton, Newspapers – 12 ton, Cardboard – 10 ton, Refuse/Yard Waste – 191 ton.

RECREATION – Cinti announced that Plains Lions Club Golf Tournament on 7/14/2019 this weekend but is filled up. Plains Rotary Golf Tournament August 24, 2019. They would appreciate your support. Plains Yankee football has already started using the fields. Plains Soccer will be starting shortly. The summer camp is doing well with up to 70 children on some days. They do projects with the kids and have different organizations come in the talk to the kids. The Hilldale baseball field has been picked again as one of the sites of the Keystone Games which will be August 1-4th. **Yozwiak** commented on what a nice field the Hilldale field is. DPW did a nice job down on South River Street clearing the brush where the blinking light is. It's a Penn Dot road. Lock your car doors. Told a story about a bear that got into an unlocked car.

OLD BUSINESS – None

NEW BUSINESS

Motion to pay **General Fund Bills** (Utility\$20,380.84Regular\$143,111.46; Total \$163,492.30)
BY: Sax 2ND: Biscontini For: Biscontini, Cinti abstain from Assured Partners bill for business relations, Sax, Shubilla and Yozwiak. Motion Carried.

Motion to ratify the hiring of George Oko as summer part-time DPW worker at a rate of \$8.50 per hour. **BY: Shubilla 2ND: Sax Roll Call: Roll Call Motion Carried.**

Motion to approve the handicapped parking application of Dennis Fernandes of 5 Margaret Street as recommended by a police traffic study. **BY: Biscontini 2ND: Cinti Roll Call: All For Motion Carried.**

Motion to hire Lou Luchetti as part-time parks and recreation maintenance laborer at a rate of \$9.50 per hour no benefits effective August 5, 2019. **BY: Cinti 2ND: Shubilla Noted by Cinti** we had another person in that position that resigned. **Yozwiak** added that Mr. Lucchetti was a police officer going back 30 years ago for the township. **Roll Call: For: Cinti, Sax, Shubilla, Yozwiak. Against: Biscontini never met him. Motion Carried.**

Motion to promote Officer Dan Lewis to police detective effective July 13, 2019 per the terms of the police department contract and civil service rules and regulations. **BY: Biscontini 2ND: Sax Noted by Biscontini** he is a brilliant young man. He gets a lot of respect and praise throughout the department. He was highly recommended by the Chief and fellow officers and he tested nearly perfect for this position.

**MINUTES OF THE PLAINS TOWNSHIP BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING OF
JULY 11, 2019**

PAGE THREE

Sax dittoed that comment. Nothing but good news about Detective Dan Lewis. **All For Motion Carried.**

SOLICITORS REPORT

Motion to award the bid for the purchase of garbage bags under Option 6P (Noted that this is 6,000 boxes of purple bags) to Central Poly Corp at a bid price of \$9.90 per case. **BY: Sax 2ND: Cinti Roll Call: All For Motion Carried.**

Motion to adopt a resolution authorizing the Township to enter into a loan agreement with the Pa Infrastructure Bank and appoint Gerald Yozwiak to execute any documents on behalf of the Township of Plains. **BY: Shubilla 2ND: Biscontini Roll Call: For: Biscontini, Cinti, Sax, Shubilla. Abstain: Yozwiak because of his name being on the documents. Motion Carried.**

Motion to authorize execution of an ownership/maintenance form with the Luzerne Co. Flood Protection Authority for the property at 22 Roberts Street under the Wyoming Valley Levee Raising Project Mitigation Program. (Noted by **Menn** that this property did not qualify with PEMA/FEMA and was acquired by the Flood Protection Authority. The authority is asking us to take responsibility for the property). **BY: Cinti 2ND: Sax Roll Call: All For Motion Carried.**

Motion to authorize the solicitor to execute a settlement agreement with Pa. American Water Co. for a tax appeal. (Noted by **Menn** that this goes back 19 years and it has finally been resolved) **BY: Sax 2ND: Cinti Roll Call: All For Motion Carried.**

Motion to solicit bids for sale of a DPW 1996 Dodge Pick-Up Truck. **BY: Shubilla 2ND: Biscontini Roll Call: All For Motion Carried.**

Motion to adopt a resolution to install stop signs on Sarnecki Lane as it intersects with Poplar and Laurel Streets. **BY: Sax 2ND: Cinti Roll Call: All For Motion Carried.**

Motion to authorize execution of an agreement with First Law Strategy Group LLC the new law firm in the Highmark litigation. (Noted this is a lawsuit with Highmark about excessive premiums paid. The law firms that were handling the case changed) **BY: Cinti 2ND: Biscontini Roll Call: All For Motion Carried.**

Motion to authorize execution of a Mutual Release of Liability as negotiated by the solicitor with Derman Associates. **BY: Shubilla 2ND: Sax Roll Call: For: Cinti, Sax, Shubilla, Yozwiak. Against: Biscontini. Motion Carried.**

Motion to adopt a resolution authorizing submission of DCED Multimodal Transportation Grant Application for the William Street Infrastructure Project. **BY: Biscontini 2ND: Shubilla Roll Call: All For Motion Carried.**

Motion to adopt a resolution authorizing submission of DCED Multimodal Transportation Grant Application for the East Merritt Street Infrastructure Project. **BY: Cinti 2ND: Sax Roll Call: All For Motion Carried.**

**MINUTES OF THE PLAINS TOWNSHIP BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING OF
JULY 11, 2019** **PAGE FOUR**

Motion to execute the Growing Greener Grant Agreement subject to solicitor review and approval. **BY: Sax 2ND: Biscontini Dave Willis** asked what that was. Explained by **Brian Palimiter** of Borton Lawson that the WVSA will be putting in the Plains Township Park (Burgio property section) for 4 or 5 storm water BMP's **Roll Call: All For Motion Carried**

ANNOUNCEMENTS – The next regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners will be held August 8, 2019 at 7:30 P.M.

TAXPAYERS

Gene Lazarus of 30 Kennedy Drive: Has two comments to make. First complimented Commissioner Shubilla on getting the mess cleaned up at the old Plains Lumber. Commended the DPW on the job they did again this year on the roads in the winter. Complained about the condition of William Street. Suggested instead of using the money in the center of town, the Board should have fixed William Street. **Biscontini** noted that it was a grant that we had to use in the center of town. **Yozwiak** discussed the cost to do William Street came in at \$429,000.00, the township budget and township tax rate. **Lazarus** also complained about dog poop and smoking in the park even though there are signs there. Should send police there to patrol.

Kathy Cardoni of 7 Farrell Street. Complaining about the Furniture Doctor property and high weeds. There are a lot of skunks in Hilldale because of the condition of the homes. Her sister's dogs are catching rodents from the Furniture Doctor property. Have complained to the fire department and filled out a complaint form at the office and nothing is done. **Sax** will send Karen the zoning officer down.

Myron Feszchak of Hancock Street noted three occasions where he saw DPW working along roads cutting weeds. One on South River Street, St. David Street and down by North River Street. **Yozwiak** explained that the South River Street was a safety issue. St. David and North River Street is a swale that they clean because a resident on St. Mary Street gets flooded. Asked about the By-Laws of the Township. **Menn** that would be our code of ordinances which are on-line at plainstownship.org. **Feszchak** asked if he's on his own about the weeds on hill. **Yozwiak** acknowledged yes.

ADJOURNMENT BY: Cinti 2ND: Yozwiak Roll Call: All For Motion Carried.
TIME: 8:20 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,



Patricia Sluhocki
Secretary

Accepted By,



Gerald J. Yozwiak
Chairman