

**MINUTES OF THE PLAINS TOWNSHIP BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING OF
JUNE 11, 2020**

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CALL TO ORDER TIME: 7:31 P.M.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Led by Gerald Yozwiak

- **MOMENT OF SILENCE ON THE PASSING OF ANDY LAZAR CHAIRMAN OF THE PLAINS TOWNSHIP SEWER AUTHORITY WAS OBSERVED. ANDY HAS BEEN ON THE SEWER AUTHORITY SINCE ITS INCEPTION PROBABLY AROUND 1970.**

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

GENERAL ORDER OF BUSINESS

Motion to accept: **Minutes:** Board of Commissioners Regular Meeting of May 14, 2020; Plains Township Planning Commission Meeting of May 7TH; Plains Township Recreation Board Meeting of June 1st.

Monthly Reports: of the Police Department for May; Fire Department for May; Contractor Licenses Issued for May and Zoning Permits Issued for May, DPW Report for May, Secretaries Report for May.

Payrolls of the Administrative, Zoning Office, Department of Public Works and Recreation Departments.

Also, the **Treasurers Report for May** General Fund Receipts \$3,328,845.70; General Fund Disbursements \$1,133,510.58; Total Ending Balance in the General Fund as of 5/31/2020 - \$2,633,100.46. **BY: Cinti 2ND: Sax All For Motion Carried.**

CORRESPONDENCE

COMMITTEE REPORTS

POLICE – Biscontini reported that the Owner of Danko's publicly announced that he was going to open up his gym contrary to Governor Wolf's order and the current state of emergency. A letter was prepared by Attorney Menn to Danko's that encouraged not to do that and that he would be cited. Our police department have been citing him every day that he is open. We are just going by the Governor's order. This month we have a new chief, Dale Binker who is in attendance, took over on May 16th. Doing a tremendous job so far. Revamping the police department. Recently there were some individuals that broke into ATM's at Coccia Ford and Dee's Diner. Detective Lewis, Sgt. Smith, Lt. Lussi and Chief Binker along with Patrolmen Dombroski and Allabaugh worked hard and within 24 hours caught the perpetrator and has been charged. Great Job to our police department. The police department will be changing the colors of our fleet going forward with new logos starting with two vehicles that are on order, one that was in an accident. Also, our police in conjunction with the New Jersey State Police worked together to apprehend and issue two warrants for an attempted homicide individual from New Brunswick New Jersey at the Wood Spring Suites. National Night Out has been cancelled this year. Chief Binker and Officer Minnick are going to work together to have something in the fall for the public. Chief Binker was introduced and thanked the Board for the opportunity to serve Plains Township and his door is always open to make Plains a better place.

FIRE – Sax reported that we have extended COVID 19 Declaration of Disaster Emergency to September 15, 2020. We have been getting back to normal responses and following all CDC guidelines. Total calls for the month of May have been 143. Also have been getting some high weed complaints. If anyone knows of any areas with high weed complaints, let us know and we will respond to those. Wished Mr. Biscontini a Happy Birthday.

DPW – Shubilla announced that Cemetery Street is now open for drop off of recycling and yard waste on Saturday's. Everything is back to normal. We had to close down for about a month up at Cemetery Street. Recycling Report for May: Co-Mingling 27 ton, Newspapers 3 ton, Cardboard 9 ton. Reminder to keep your eye out for what you recycle. Just reading something about wish cycling where you hope that it gets recycled. Make sure the items you put out are the items that we accept.

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RECREATION – Cinti announced that the June pavilion rentals have been cancelled. Hopefully in July we will be up and running again. Parks are open in following the COVID 19 guidelines for safety and social distancing. Encouraged to follow the guidelines. Commended on the appointment of Dale Binker for Police Chief bringing the town in a new direction, especially working with the youth and out in the public.

OLD BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

Motion to authorize payment of **May General Fund Bills (Utility\$23,548.26Regular \$238,535.55; Total \$262,083.81 BY: Shubilla 2ND: Biscontini For: Biscontini, Cinti Abstain from Assured Partners Bill for May for business relations, Sax, Shubilla and Yozwiak. Motion Carried.**

Motion to purchase a 2020 Police Interceptor Utility AWD vehicle from New Holland Group at a total cost of \$46,000.50 through the COSTARS Purchasing Program. (Note - Replacement vehicle for 2018 Interceptor that was totaled in an accident **BY: Biscontini 2ND: Cinti All For Motion Carried.**

Motion to request a police traffic study in the area of Delaware and East Carey Street. **BY: Sax 2ND: Shubilla Yozwiak** added that we did not put multiple No Parking Here to Corner signs in front of the old mill in Hudson by Yanaitis Funeral Home. Maybe the police could look at that as an alternative if the study deems it necessary. **All For Motion Carried.**

Motion to request a police traffic study on Foote Street in the rear of 58 Miner Street for No Parking. **BY: Cinti 2ND: Biscontini All For Motion Carried.**

Motion to authorize Holiday Pay for Tom Giebus, Dominick Pizzella, George Mehal, Lynell Ent and Patty Neishel. For 2020, Thanksgiving Day and Christmas Day. For 2021: Thanksgiving Day and Christmas Day and 3rd holiday of their choice. **BY: Shubilla 2ND: Sax All For Motion Carried.**

Motion to accept proposal from Computer Visionaries for internal IT System upgrades at the COSTARS price of \$28,145.50 **BY: Sax 2ND: Cinti Noted by Yozwiak** that we should have the hardware by July and a bunch of other upgrades. **All For Motion Carried.**

Motion to authorize a raise to Robert Davis to \$12.50 per hour and increase his clothing allowance to \$100.00 per year effective June 15, 2020. **BY: Shubilla 2ND: Biscontini All For Motion Carried.**

Motion to authorize Payment Request # 3 Final of the 2019 Storm Drainage and Roadway Improvement Project to American Asphalt in the amount of \$182,927.69 and also authorize Change Order # 3. **BY: Biscontini 2ND: Cinti All For Motion Carried.**

SOLICITORS REPORT

Motion to grant the Conditional Use Application of Geisinger Wyoming Valley for an addition to the Henry Cancer Center. **Menn** noted that a hearing was held on June 8th to take testimony where they presented their plans. This addition to Geisinger Hospital will be a great thing for Plains Township.

BY: Sax 2nd: Shubilla For: Cinti, Sax, Shubilla and Yozwiak. Abstain: Biscontini for business reasons. Motion Carried.

Motion to adopt the proposed amendment to Section 5.1 of the Civil Service Rules and Regulations extending the Eligibility List for Firefighters for one year due to the COVID 19 Pandemic Emergency Declaration. **Menn** stated that this is being done because the testing for firefighters can't be done during the COVID period with social distancing. **BY: Shubilla 2ND: Biscontini All For Motion Carried.**

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Motion to enter into an Intergovernmental agreement with Wilkes-Barre Area School District for Commitment with grant funding for the new Wilkes-Barre Area High School Project. Noted by **Menn** that we received approval for grant funding that will go to the Municipality and then transferred to the School District, also with any other future grants that they apply for. **BY: Biscontini 2ND: Sax For: Biscontini, Sax, Shubilla and Yozwiak. Abstain: Cinti for the program, but abstain because he coaches for the school district. Motion Carried.**

Motion to authorize execution of a Storm Water Agreement and Easement between Norsec/Route 315 Corp. and Plains Township subject to solicitors review and approval. Noted by **Menn** that this is the project that is going up where Wyoming Homes is on Route 315. Project is still going before the Planning Commission. **BY: Sax 2ND: Shubilla All For Motion Carried.**

5 is off the agenda and will be reviewed in the future.

Motion to authorize the execution of a letter of intent between Plains Township and Geisinger Wyoming Valley Medical Center regarding the Plains Township Health, Safety and Wellness Trail Project. **BY: Shubilla 2ND: Sax For: Cinti, Sax, Shubilla and Yozwiak. Abstain: Biscontini for business. Motion Carried.**

Motion to adopt an ordinance Regulating Public Peace, Health and Safety for the General Public from Activity of the Use of Drug Paraphernalia. Noted by **Menn** that the Ordinance has been duly advertised. **BY: Biscontini 2ND: Cinti All For Motion Carried.**

Motion to adopt an ordinance amending False Alarm Ordinance No. 2-1998. **Menn** noted that the Ordinance is being amended as a result of just the way false alarms are handled now. People have different systems and companies. This ordinance has also been duly advertised. **BY: Cinti 2ND: Sax All For Motion Carried.**

Motion to award the bid for the Department of Public Works Recycling Improvements Project – Contract No. 1 Fence & Gate Replacement to Pro Max Fence Systems, LLC under the Base bid for a low bid of \$62,927.50. **BY: Shubilla 2ND: Sax Cinti** commended that this long overdue and that this is for the security of the materials and equipment that is up there. **All For Motion Carried.**

Motion to award the bid for the Department of Public Works Recycling Improvements Project – Contract No. 2: Site Improvements to Stell Enterprises, Inc. under the Base Bid for a low bid of \$99,207.00. **BY: Cinti 2ND: Sax For: Biscontini, Cinti, Sax and Shubilla. Abstain: Yozwiak because his son works for Stell. Motion Carried.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS by Yozwiak: The next regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners will be held July 9, 2020 at 7:30 P.M. The Administrative, Zoning offices will be closed on Friday, July 3rd and DPW will be closed on Monday, July 6^h in observance of the July 4th Holiday. Residents with Monday garbage collection will have their garbage picked on Tuesday, July 7th. Reminder that there is an eight-bag limit for garbage bags for the collection week of July 7th through July 9th.

TAXPAYERS - None

ADJOURNMENT BY: Cinti 2ND: Yozwiak All For Motion Carried. TIME: 7:52 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,



**Patricia Sluhocki
Secretary**

Accepted,



**Gerald J. Yozwiak
Chairman**