

**MINUTES OF THE PLAINS TOWNSHIP BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING OF
OCTOBER 10, 2019**

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CALL TO ORDER TIME: 7:32 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 September 12th; Plains Township Recreation Board Meeting of September 9th; Plains Township Sewer Authority Meetings of July 12th and August 9th; Wyoming Valley Sanitary Authority Meetings of July 23rd and September 3rd. **Monthly Reports** of the Police Department for September; Fire Department for September, DPW Report for September; Secretaries Report for September; Zoning Permits issued for September; Contractor Licenses Issued for September. **Payrolls** of the Administrative, Zoning Office, Department of Public Works and Recreation Departments. Also the **Treasurers Report** – General Fund Checking Account Receipts \$636,993.90 General Fund Checking Account Disbursements \$641,868.02. Total Ending Balance in the General Fund Checking as of 9/30/2019 - \$2,258,421.71. **BY: Biscontini 2ND: Cinti**
All For Motion Carried.

CORRESPONDENCE - None

COMMITTEE REPORTS

POLICE – Biscontini we submitted some proposals for the 2020 budget for hi-tech equipment to add to our police force. On October 26, 2019, they are going to have the prescription drug drop program at the Town Hall. Police will be present at the Lions Club Trick or Truck on October 27th at the Municipal Park from 1-2. There has been several reports of cars illegally parking on the streets. Starting next week our police are going to start cracking down on that.

FIRE – Sax reported that the department had 218 calls this month. Also they have installed over 400 smoke detectors. There are still smoke detectors available. October is Fire Prevention Month. Firefighters will be out educating the public on fire safety. Captains Krommes and Van Luvender presented a emergency preparedness class to the students at Solomon Elementary School. We are going to try to do this for the citizens of the township. The fire department will be out in full force for Halloween in three weeks.

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DPW – Shubilla announced a reminder that Electronic Waste Event will be held on November 2, 2019 Plains Municipal Park 11:00a.m. to 2:00p.m. Luzerne Co. 2019 Free Used Tire Recycling Event at Hanover High School on October 12th from 8:00a.m. to 2:00p.m. Recycling Report: Co-Mingled – 26 ton, Newspapers – 12 ton, Cardboard – 12 ton, Refuse/Yard Waste – 180 ton. DPW has various projects going on such as cleaning out a ditch on Cotton Avenue, cleaning out catch basins, sealing blacktop and would like to thank them for that. Great Job.

RECREATION – Cinti we are winding down on the pavilion rentals. After trunk or treat we will be getting all the water lines shut down for the winter. Football and soccer is still going on there. We do have a couple projects in mind for the spring. The Recreation Board sent a proposed 2020 budget to our board for consideration. We are also working on a master plan for the park. We are in the process of getting a Board together for that.

Yozwiak just as a reminder to check your balances on your bank accounts. Cyber issues with any of your accounts. Story about a girl using Google handshakes that thought she was interviewing someone and they sent her a check for \$1,099 to set up an office. If she cashed the check, they would have gotten her bank account number.

OLD BUSINESS – None

NEW BUSINESS

Motion to pay **General Fund Bills: Utility \$13,058.08 Regular \$133,423.21; Total \$146,481.29.**
BY: Shubilla 2ND: Sax For: Biscontini, Cinti abstain from Assured Partners Bill for business relation, Sax, Shubilla and Yozwiak. Motion Carried.

Motion to disburse the 2019 Commonwealth State Aid Pension Allocation and fund the balance of MMO's to Township pension plans as follows:

Pension Plan	State Aid	MMO Balance
Police	\$194,578.97	\$249,203.03
Fire	\$174,096.96	\$ 19,271.04
Non-Uniformed	\$ 81,927.98	\$130,370.02

Total State Aid Received \$450,603.91 Total Twp. Share \$398,844.09 (Gen. Fund)

BY: Biscontini 2ND: Cinti All For Motion Carried.

Motion to accept the resignation of Shawn Potter as Administrative Assistant effective October 1, 2019. **BY: Cinti 2ND: Biscontini Yozwiak** thanked Mr. Potter for his 10 years of service. **All For Motion Carried.**

Motion to ratify the hiring Lynell Ent as Administrative Assistant effective September 23, 2019 at a rate of \$12.00 per hour no benefits subject to a successful background check. **BY: Sax 2ND: Shubilla All For Motion Carried.**

Motion to authorize Change Order No. 1 of the 2019 Liquid Fuels Storm Drainage and Roadway Improvements Project for an increase of \$74,979.00 and for a three week time extension. **BY: Biscontini 2ND: Cinti All For Motion Carried.**

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Motion to increase hourly rate of Scott Christian, part-time DPW to \$9.50 per hour effective October 7, 2019 subject to completion of pre-employment testing. **BY: Shubilla**
2ND: Biscontini All For Motion Carried.

SOLICITORS REPORT

Motion to present proclamations at the Plains Sports Hall of Fame Banquet to be held on October 20, 2019 honoring inductees: Dr. Albert Janerich – Basketball, Justin Okun – Soccer, Michael Turner – Soccer, Haley Waslasky – Field Hockey. Proclamation read by Attorney Menn **BY: Shubilla 2ND: Sax All For Motion Carried.**

Motion to award the bid for the Hudson Road Drainage Project to Linde Corporation for the low bid of \$75,105.00 **BY: Cinti 2ND: Biscontini Shubilla noted** that this is a long time coming and a good thing. **Cinti** also noted that the drainage pipe is crushed. **All For Motion Carried.**

Motion to adopt a resolution approving the Townships participation with a TIF Agreement between the Luzerne County Redevelopment Authority and Valley Crest Real Estate LP. **Menn** explained how the TIF Agreement will work as far as taxes are concerned for this part of the project. This also has been approved by the School Board and the County. **BY: Cinti**
2ND: Biscontini For: Biscontini, Cinti, Sax, Yozwiak. Against: Shubilla. Motion Carried.

Motion to adopt resolutions authorizing the agreement with Berkheimer to collect Local Services Tax effective January 1, 2020 through December 31, 2022. **BY: Sax**
2ND: Shubilla All For Motion Carried.

Motion to adopt resolutions authorizing the agreement with Berkheimer to collect Business Privilege/Mercantile Tax effective January 1, 2020 through December 31, 2022.
BY: Shubilla 2ND: Sax All For Motion Carried.

Motion to adopt resolutions authorizing the agreement with Berkheimer to collect Amusement Tax effective January 1, 2020 through December 31, 2022. **BY: Sax**
2ND: Shubilla All For Motion Carried.

Motion to adopt resolutions authorizing the agreement with Berkheimer to collect Per Capita Tax effective January 1, 2020 through December 31, 2022. **BY: Cinti**
2ND: Shubilla All For Motion Carried.

Motion to adopt resolutions authorizing the agreement with Berkheimer to collect Mechanical Device Tax effective January 1, 2020 through December 31, 2022. **Tom Bowman** asked what type of tax that is. **Menn** explained that is a tax on the amusement machines such as the old pin ball machines and juke boxes. **Cinti** added amusement machines like you would see in the Plains Pub. **BY: Shubilla 2ND: Sax All For Motion Carried.**

Motion to request a Penn Dot traffic study for Old Pittston Boulevard and Jumper Road to restrict the use of oversized vehicles on that road. **BY: Cinti 2nd: Sax Tom Bowman** asked what type of vehicles. **Cinti** explained that tractor trailers that are going down Route 115 and turning onto Old Pittston Boulevard and they make the left and go toward the tunnel and have to turn around. There is no signs.

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Yozwiak added that we need signs that say no tractor trailers beyond this point. **Maria Bowman** added that it happens on the other side of the tunnel at the end of Jumper road. Motion amended to include Jumper Road in the traffic study. **All For Motion Carried.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS – By Yozwiak: The next regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners will be held November 14, 2019 at 7:30 P.M. The Department of Public Works will closed on Monday, November 11, 2019 in observance of the Veterans Day Holiday. Residents with Monday garbage collection, will have their garbage picked up on Tuesday, November 12, 2019. All other schedules will remain the same. Veterans Day ceremony at the Vet’s Park will be held on Noon time. Everybody get out and vote. Wished Mr.’s Cinti, Shubilla and Biscontini good luck in the upcoming election.

TAXPAYERS

Maria Bowman – Designed by her neighborhood to talk about the storm water fee. Asking the Board, feel the fee was imposed because we fall into the Township of Plains and not the federal guidelines. There is a federal map that specifically shows that anyone living on the urban side and rural side. Our neighborhood falls on the rural side which is exempt from the storm water fee. Asking Commissioners to exempt them from the fee. Presented a petition to Board. **Menn** explained that this is federally mandated. All the Township did was enter into an agreement for Wyoming Valley Sanitary Authority to handle the mandate. Discussion held between Mr. & Mrs. Bowman and Atty. Menn, Mr. Cerep and Mr. Adonizio regarding a meeting with the Wyoming Valley Sanitary Authority. Maria Bowman will be the contact person for the group. **Mr. Tamburro** also added some information to the discussion regarding his experience with Wyoming Valley Sanitary Authority.

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

Respectfully Submitted,



**Patricia Sluhocki
Secretary**

Accepted By,



**Gerald J. Yozwiak
Chairman**