

**MINUTES OF THE PLAINS TOWNSHIP BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING OF  
AUGUST 13, 2020** **PAGE ONE**

**CALL TO ORDER TIME:** 7:31 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.

**GENERAL ORDER OF BUSINESS**

Motion to accept: **Minutes:** Board of Commissioners Regular Meeting of July 9th; Plains Township Planning Commission meeting of June 4<sup>th</sup>, no meeting on July 2<sup>nd</sup>; Plains Township Recreation Board Meetings of July 6<sup>th</sup> and August 3<sup>rd</sup>; Plains Township Sewer Authority Meeting of June 12<sup>th</sup>. Wyoming Valley Sanitary Authority Meeting of June 16<sup>th</sup>. **Monthly Reports:** of the Police Department for June and July; Fire Department for July. DPW Report for July; Secretaries Report for July; Zoning Permits issued for June and July; Contractor Licenses Issued for June and July. **Payrolls** of the Administrative, Zoning Office, Department of Public Works and Recreation Departments. Also, the **Treasurers Report for July** General Fund Receipts \$431,516.53; General Fund Disbursements \$808,483.69; Total Ending Balance in the General Fund as of 7/31/2020 - \$1,505,890.00. **BY: Sax 2ND: Shubilla All For Motion Carried.**

**CORRESPONDENCE**

Motion to accept a letter of resignation from John Kozerski from the Plains Township Recreation Board effective August 3, 2020. **BY: Cinti 2<sup>nd</sup>: Biscontini Yozwiak** congratulated Mr. Kozerski. **Cinti** congratulated John on his retirement after 35 years of serving on one Board and publicly thank him for all that he did. He worked tirelessly scheduling of the teams. It's a thankless job. He has done a phenomenal job for the last 35 years. **All For Motion Carried.**

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**POLICE – Biscontini** reported a busy month with investigations of 2 rapes, 12 thefts, 8 overdoses, 43 disorderly conducts, 21 suspicious persons, 18 accidents. Later on, the agenda we will be hiring two new full-time police officers to help the department. The department investigated a suspicious death on Cleveland Street, there was a body found in the Susquehanna River, there was a strangulation incident, aggravated assault, shooting incident, where the victim was taken to Geisinger from Scranton. Extra bodies on the force is greatly needed. **Chief Binker** present to answer any questions, thanked the Board for the hiring of the two new police officers. Myself and the rest of the department appreciates it. Our officers just finished taser training. At the end of the month, we are sending 8 officers to active shooter classes. The week after that we are sending 9 officers to diversity training. Both classes are free to the Township. Hoping to do more training. **Cinti** commended that when we hired you as Chief, the department would be going in a different direction and glad you are proactive in these programs. Thanked the Chief for that. **Yozwiak** added that this Board is in complete support of our police department. **Pelak** from the audience asked how many officers we have. **Chief Binker** with the new officers, it will take us to 18. **Biscontini** asked how are we ranked in the County? **Chief Binker** we about third behind Wilkes-Barre and Hazleton. We are unique that our area is from the River to Windmills. Casino, New High School coming, making four schools in the town, a major trauma center. Numerous things are happening in the Township. Our officers used Narcan three times last month which we just acquired this year and is used on overdoses.

**FIRE – Sax** reported the department had 199 calls. There was 119 fire calls and 80 captain incidents which include high weed complaints. If there are any complaints from the residents about high weeds, we are always looking into them and citing them. Karen is here or you could call the fire department directly. Also, you are going to be seeing gold ribbons on porches and telephone poles during the month of September for pediatric cancer awareness month of the Little Eric Foundation. All ribbons will be taken down October 1<sup>st</sup>. They are \$3.00 apiece. You could see myself or Patty the secretary.

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**DPW – Shubilla** reported Recycling for July: Comingled 25 ton and 16 ton of combined newspaper/cardboard. Thanked DPW for their work and had a really busy month. Cutting grass, picking up the flags, blacktopping. If you know of any holes on your street, let him know.

**RECREATION – Cinti** reported youth soccer and football have already cancelled for this season. Little League is still playing. There are still dates available for the pavilion. Already had a few wedding receptions this year.

**Yozwiak** If you haven't responded yet, please answer the Census. It helps everyone. Thanked Penn Dot for painting under the Cross Valley where someone painted some graffiti. Thanked Karen for her response to the garbage complaints we have been getting. At the Tubs area, people are coming from all over and it was getting too crowded so DCNR stepped in to halt people from coming in. It is a state forest but our departments have to respond in an emergency. We want to recognize the people that do good for the Township.

**OLD BUSINESS**

Motion to correct the minutes of July 9th on the hiring of Matthew Westawski at a rate of \$9.00 per hour. Correct wage is \$9.50 per hour. **BY: Shubilla 2ND: Sax All For Motion Carried.**

**NEW BUSINESS**

Motion to authorize payment of the **General Fund Bills (Utility\$27,025.22; Regular \$203,237.53; Total \$230,262.75. BY: Biscontini 2ND: Sax For: Biscontini, Sax, Shubilla, Yozwiak, Cinti except abstain from Assured Partners Bill due to business relations. Motion Carried.**

Motion to authorize the handicapped parking application of Joseph F. Hunzer 32 E. Stanton Street as recommended by a police traffic study. **BY: Cinti 2ND: Shubilla All For Motion Carried.**

Motion to authorize payment application No. 2 of the Hudson Road Storm Drainage Improvements Project in the amount of \$44,526.52 to Linde Corporation. **BY: Sax 2ND: Biscontini Yozwiak** noted that they are not done yet. There is a temporary there. **All For Motion Carried.**

Motion to authorize Change Order #1 DPW Recycling Center Improvements Project – Contract #2 Decrease of \$18,472.00 with Stell Enterprises. **BY: Shubilla 2ND: Cinti For: Biscontini, Cinti, Sax and Shubilla. Abstain: Yozwiak due to the fact his son works for Stell Enterprises. Motion Carried.**

Motion to authorize Change Order #1 DPW Recycling Center Improvements Project – Contract #1 Decrease of \$5,690.00 with Pro Max Fence Systems, LLC. **BY: Biscontini 2ND: Shubilla All For Motion Carried.**

Motion to authorize Change Order #1 2020 Storm Drainage and Roadway Improvements Contract No. 3 – Hudson Section for a Decrease of \$239,266.70 with Pennsy Supply Inc. **BY: Cinti 2ND: Sax Pelak** asked what is the decrease for. **Yozwiak** reported that we put out 24 roads to bid. Pennsy Supply was the low bidder. Now there are change orders to eliminate some roads and changing some scope of work on some of the roads to keep it in budget. **Shubilla** added that we met the specs to get to the amount we have for budget. **All For Motion Carried.**

Motion to authorize Change Order #1 2020 Storm Drainage and Roadway Improvements Contract No. 1 – Plains Main Section for a Decrease of \$474,236.40 with Pennsy Supply Inc. **BY: Sax 2ND: Shubilla All For Motion Carried.**

Motion to authorize Change Order # 1 2020 Storm Drainage and Roadway Improvements Contract No. 2 – Hilldale Section for a Decrease of \$200,681.00 with Pennsy Supply Inc. **BY: Cinti 2ND: Sax All For Motion Carried.**

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Motion to hire Saif Mahmoud and Edward Walsh as entry level police officers effective September 19, 2020, subject to successful completion of all physical, psychological and background examinations per the terms of the police department union contract and civil service rules and regulations.

**BY: Biscontini 2ND: Cinti All For Motion Carried. Yozwiak** asked the Chief Binker to make arrangements for the physical and psychological examinations.

**SOLICITORS REPORT**

Motion to award the bid for the purchase of garbage bags for the low bid of \$8.78 per case under Option 6P to Central Poly Corp. **BY: Shubilla 2<sup>nd</sup>: Biscontini** Noted by **Menn** that 6P is the amount of cases we order which is 6,000. **Yozwiak** noted that we need to change that spec for next year. **All For Motion Carried.**

Motion to authorize the execution of the Sewerage Facilities Mailer for the Geisinger Wyoming Valley Medical Center – Cancer Building Addition Project. **BY: Cinti 2ND: Sax All For Motion Carried.**

Motion to adopt an ordinance approving the agreement and participation of the Plains Police Department with the Luzerne County Drug Task Force. **BY: Sax 2ND: Cinti All For Motion Carried.**

Motion to adopt an ordinance approving the agreement and participation of the Plains Police Department with the Luzerne County DUI Task Force. **BY: Shubilla 2ND: Biscontini All For Motion Carried.**

Motion to appoint John Kelly to the Plains Township Sewer Authority and adopt a resolution appointing Mr. Kelly as a member of an Authority and he will be filling the unexpired term of Andrew Lazar. **BY: Cinti 2ND: Sax All For Motion Carried.**

Motion to adopt a resolution for No Left Turn and No Outlet signs at the intersection of Emily and Farrell Street. **BY: Sax 2ND: Biscontini Pelak** asked where is this. **Yozwiak** in the Hilldale Section **All For Motion Carried.**

Motion to request a police traffic study for 4-Way stop signs at the intersection of Emily and Chamberlain Streets. **BY: Sax 2ND: Shubilla All For Motion Carried.**

**Originally on the Agenda there was a:** Motion to adopt an ordinance Regulating Conduct and Activities related to Skill Slot Machines. Held to the end of solicitor's report. Noted by **Atty. Menn** doing research on this ordinance where a recent commonwealth court case that just came down. It's being challenged whether we can enforce this. Would like to do more research before we pass this. This just came up after agenda was completed. Suggested to make a **Motion to table the adoption of the Ordinance Regulating Conduct and Activities related to Skill Slot Machines.** **BY: Cinti 2<sup>ND</sup>: Shubilla Pelak** questioned what type of machines are these. **Menn** the difference is when you go to a casino they are regulated by the Gaming Board. These machines are not regulated. We did an ordinance to make them a nuisance. **Pelak** asked what would the gas station and mini market owner think of this. **Menn** not sure their opinion. **All For Motion Carried.**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS** by **Yozwiak:** The next regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners will be held September 10, 2020 at 7:30 P.M. The Administrative, DPW and Zoning offices will be closed on Monday, September 7<sup>TH</sup> in observance of the Labor Day Holiday. Residents with Monday garbage collection will have their garbage picked up on Tuesday, September 8<sup>TH</sup>. Residents are also reminded that there will be an 8 bag limit the week after the holiday during the collection week of September 8<sup>TH</sup> through September 10<sup>TH</sup>. All other schedules remain the same.

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**TAXPAYERS**

**Debbie Bilby** – Lives up on Sandra Street. One way in and with the Township paving up there, there was no other way in or out of that development. Went up Cemetery Road which is in really bad shape. **Board and Menn** added that we do not own that road. The Diocese owns the road. **Bilby** asked if we can get some gravel up there to make it passable down to Union Street. **Yozwiak** we need to have the solicitor look into this. Road is deeded to the Diocese. **Bilby** also mentioned that the weeds are high as well and also complained of the job the DPW did going up Hill Street by pushing the brush back with a front-end loader. It looks a mess. The board did get other complaints about it and will talk to DPW. **Bilby** said for 30 years they did such a nice job. Not this year. Would like to make Cemetery Road drivable.

**Sax** made another announcement that there is a couple here married 54 years. Mr. & Mrs. Bailoni celebrating their anniversary today. Congratulations offered from the Board.

**ADJOURNMENT BY: Cinti 2ND: Yozwiak All for Motion Carried B C SA SH Y TIME: 8:06 P.M.**

Respectfully Submitted,



**Patricia Sluhocki**  
Secretary

Accepted by,



**Gerald J. Yozwiak**  
Chairman