

**MINUTES OF THE PLAINS TOWNSHIP BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING OF
SEPTEMBER 10, 2020** **PAGE ONE**

CALL TO ORDER TIME: 7:34 P.M.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Led by Gerald Yozwiak

-Moment of Silence in memory of tomorrow's date of 9/11, 2,977 killed on that date. Including 343 firefighters and 60 policemen. Tomorrow is Patriot Day, Friday September 11th.

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 Aug13th; **Monthly Reports:** of the Police Department for August; Fire Department for August, DPW Report for August; Secretaries Report for August; Zoning Permits issued for August; Contractor Licenses Issued for August. **Payrolls** of the Administrative, Zoning Office, Department of Public Works and Recreation Departments. Also, the **Treasurers Report for August** General Fund Receipts **\$1,100,780.72**; General Fund Disbursements **\$687,324.69**; Total Ending Balance in the General Fund as of 8/31/2020 - **\$1,919,346.03**.

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

CORRESPONDENCE – None

COMMITTEE REPORTS

POLICE – Biscontini reported another busy month for the police department. The two new patrolmen will be starting on the 19th. They have all their certifications. We have our officers going for firearms training over the next couple months. The department is working on and/or have completed several investigations. There were several calls of vandalism. If anyone has information of suspicious activity or questions, you could see Chief Binker tonight. Eight officers attended active shooter training. Eleven officers attended diversity training. **Chief Binker** announced that his day shift officers will be around for the first day of school tomorrow for Wilkes-Barre Area, maybe even the second shift officers depending when school gets out. Monitoring the traffic situation around Abbott and South Main Street. Officer Brennan is doing a project selling tee shirts for Breast Cancer Awareness Month. Money will be donated to research.

Cinti added that we need to get vigilant with our community policing. Let the police know of any suspicious activity. The police need your help with this. The element is there. **Binker** we are looking into that program and things got pushed back with virus but things are in the works.

FIRE – Sax reported 206 calls for August. Captains calls of almost 100. October is Fire Prevention Month. It has been discussed how we get into the schools with the pandemic. Received a thank you card from the Little Eric Pediatric Foundation. September is Pediatric Cancer Awareness Month. That's what the yellow ribbons are for. To date the foundation has raised over \$200,000 for research. If anyone is interested in the bows they are \$3.00 and can be purchased at Michael's Restaurant or the Foundation has a Facebook Page. **Biscontini** asked if the Fire Department will be checking smoke alarms and giving them out. **Sax** reported we will be doing that with Fire Prevention Month coming up. **Captain Krommes** reported that we do have smoke alarms, but everything was halted do to the virus. With the schools, we will probably will be doing something virtual.

DPW – Shubilla reported Recycling Report for August: Comingled – 34 ton; Newspaper – 1 ton; Cardboard – 17 ton; Refuse and Yard Waste – 107 ton. Reminders the County tire clean-up has been cancelled this year. If anyone has tires, please dispose of properly. Reminder that Delaware Street is partially a one way coming off East Carey Street. **Mr. Pelak** asked why that was done.

Commissioners responded that there were too many accidents pulling out of Delaware Street.

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RECREATION – **Cinti** announced that soccer is not playing, little league just finished up. Football is not playing. Pavilions are still being used. Now the high school will be using the tennis courts. Rates will be coming out for next year. Two weddings already planned for next year. Plains residents get the first shot at renting the pavilion.

Yozwiak get a very good anti-virus for your home. Congratulate Patty for 40 year with the Township. Job well done.

OLD BUSINESS - None

NEW BUSINESS

Motion to authorize payment of the **General Fund Bills (Utility\$25,089.03; Regular \$134,606.54; Total \$159,695.57. BY: Shubilla 2ND: Sax For: Biscontini, Cinti except abstain from Assured Partners Bill for business relations, Sax, Shubilla, Yozwiak. Motion Carried.**

Motion to request a police traffic study for a stop sign at the intersection of Harriet Street and Hilldale Avenue. **BY: Cinti 2ND: Biscontini All For Motion Carried.**

Motion to request a police traffic study for a No Outlet Sign on Hollywood Avenue. **BY: Biscontini 2ND: Sax All For Motion Carried.**

Motion to request a police traffic study for a stop sign at the intersection of Gibbons Lane and Miner Street and a speed limit sign on Gibbons Lane. **BY: Sax 2ND: Cinti All For Motion Carried.**

Motion to ratify the hiring of Justin Reiser as a part-time laborer effective September 8, 2020 at a rate of \$10.00 per hour, no benefits subject to successful completion of physical, pre-employment testing and background check. **BY: Shubilla 2ND: Biscontini All For Motion Carried.**

Motion to increase the hourly rate of Matt Westawski, part -time DPW and Lou Luchetti, part-time Recreation to \$10.00 effective 9/8/2020 **BY: Cinti 2ND: Sax All For Motion Carried.**

Motion to authorize the 2021 MMO calculations for the Police Pension Plan in the amount of \$536,266.00, Non-Uniformed Pension Plan in the amount of \$221,780.00 and the Fire Department Pension Plan in the amount of \$201,106.00 to be included in the 2021 budget. **BY: Biscontini 2ND: Shubilla All For Motion Carried.**

Motion to authorize payment request No. 1 of the 2020 Storm Drainage and Roadway Improvements Project to Pennsy Supply, Inc. in the amount of \$188,288.69 and approve Change Order No. 2 for a decrease of \$23,209.67 **BY: Sax 2ND: Cinti All For Motion Carried.**

SOLICITORS REPORT

Motion to adopt a resolution and execute the 2020-2021 Penn Dot Winter Maintenance Agreement. **BY: Shubilla 2nd: Biscontini All For Motion Carried.**

Motion to waive the permit fees for the WVSA Rain Gardens Project. **BY: Cinti 2ND: Sax For: Cinti, Sax, Shubilla, Yozwiak. Against: Biscontini. Motion Carried.**

Motion to remove the tabled item of the Skilled Slot Machine Ordinance off the agenda. Until further clarification on pending lawsuits. **BY: Biscontini 2ND: Shubilla All For Motion Carried.**

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Motion to adopt a resolution for a four way stop at the intersection of Emily and Chamberlain Streets.
BY: Sax 2ND: Cinti All For Motion Carried.

Motion to adopt a resolution amending the fee schedule of Zoning and Code Enforcement Permits.
Noted by Menn that has been at least 20 years since these have been amended to get us up to speed with other municipalities. **BY: Sax 2ND: Shubilla All For Motion Carried.**

Motion to provide a letter of support for the Geisinger Multimodal Transportation Fund Grant Application.
BY: Cinti 2ND: Sax For: Cinti, Sax, Shubilla, Yozwiak. Abstain: Biscontini due to business relations. Motion Carried.

ANNOUNCEMENTS by Yozwiak The next regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners will be held October 8, 2020 at 7:30 P.M.

TAXPAYERS

Brian Palmiter of Borton Lawson did a presentation on the activities going on with Stormwater and MS4: Explained that we are in partnership with the WVSA for at least 2 or 3 years now. As part of the annual report that must be filed with DEP, had a meeting today with WVSA and DEP which is done once every five years. Public involvement which is what we are doing tonight, illicit discharge and housekeeping measures at our buildings were discussed. We went through documents at the town hall and answered all DEP questions for which we passed with flying colors. Went to the Recycling facility for which we found a couple of things that were recommended to addressed. He was looking out for the Township if there was an EPA audit. Everything went well. As was passed tonight, there is a Rain Garden Project at the Vo-Tech School that will benefit the Township with the pollution reduction plan. There is another rain garden being constructed in Kingston Borough which will benefit the Township for the pollution reduction plan as well. The WVSA was just awarded a grant for \$100,000 for a stream restoration project in Mill Creek in the Irishtown section. There is the Storm Water Park at the Burgio parcel of the park. There are a couple other little projects here and there that the WVSA is looking into doing in the Township. Brian was available for any questions. **Yozwiak** added he knows people are a little leery of the tax but there are some benefits that we are getting from this. Including the vacuum trucks sucking up a lot debris from the storm drains, the televised portion if we have a problem. We have a problem on Haines Street by Genoa Foods that they televised for us, we found out that we have a blocked pipe. We will be using the rebate money we get back from the tax to repair that pipe. Corner of Haines and River Streets to Warner Street. On Hudson Road we have other issues there. Presentation will be put on record as education for the taxpayers.

ADJOURNMENT BY: Cinti 2ND: Yozwiak All For Motion Carried. TIME: 7:55 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,



**Patricia Sluhocki
Secretary**

Accepted By,



**Gerald J. Yozwiak
Chairman**