

**MINUTES OF THE PLAINS TOWNSHIP BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING OF
JANUARY 14, 2021** **PAGE ONE**

CALL TO ORDER TIME: 7:30 P.M.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Led by Gerald Yozwiak

ROLL CALL: 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:** Board of Commissioners Regular Meeting of December 10, 2020; Plains Township Recreation Board Meeting of December 7, 2020; Wyoming Valley Sanitary Authority Meeting of November 17, 2020. **Monthly Reports:** of the Police Department for December 2020; the Fire Department for December 2020 and Annual Report for 2020; Zoning Permits Issued for November and December 2020; DPW Recycling Report for December 2020; Secretaries Report for December 2020. **Payrolls** of the Administrative, Zoning Office, Department of Public Works and Recreation Departments. The **Treasurers Report for December 2020:** General Fund Receipts **\$742,411.51**; General Fund Disbursements **\$1,526,628.06**; Total Ending Balance in the General Fund as of 12/31/2020 - **\$237,748.50**. **BY: Cinti 2ND: Biscontini All For Motion Carried.**

CORRESPONDENCE – None

COMMITTEE REPORTS

POLICE – Biscontini reported a very busy month in December. Had several officers out with COVID. Chief Binker and Lt. Bohan did a great job shifting the schedule. I believe everyone is back. **Chief Binker** replied that there is still one officer out. We will be announcing later on in this meeting that we will be hiring another police officer. Commended Officer Allabaugh for his professionalism and compassion during an incident on Christmas Eve with a resident with a mental health condition that wanted to take their life. That was one of four mental health calls the department responded to last month. The Department also assisted various agencies and police departments last month. Drug overdoses last month seem to be still present last month. Chief Binker is here to answer any questions.

FIRE – Sax reported that the department had 203 calls last month. Ended the year on bad note with a 2 ½ story structure on Skidmore Street was fully engulfed when they got there. The response time was three minutes. Thanked all the departments who assisted our department with this fire. The home was deemed unsafe so we had the walls knocked down to protect the neighbors. Finally follow the CDC guideline for COVID and continue to fight the fight. Hopefully 2021 will be a better year.

**MINUTES OF THE PLAINS TOWNSHIP BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING OF
JANUARY 14, 2021** **PAGE TWO**

DPW – Shubilla reported on recyclables for December 42 ton, Refuse: 250 ton. The snow storm and the holidays put us behind but we are slowly catching up.

RECREATION – Cinti thanked Gary Vanderburg, who no longer wants to be on the Recreation Board. Gary served many years on the Board, life long resident of Plains and was very knowledgeable. He was a great asset. We are taking the pavilion reservations. Dates are filling up fast. There are three weddings scheduled for this year already. Also we are taking applications for summer help of college students or high school graduating seniors working in DPW, the Rec Board and also the summer camp with clearances.

Yozwiak added the vaccine is out there and believes this will be a better year. Thanked Police, Fire and DPW. It was a rough December. Especially want to point out with DPW the tremendous amount of garbage and recycling collected out there. People are working from home and it's just a stressful time of the year. Side note about his son's Christmas present of a record player. Hang on to your 33 1/3 records. Worth some money.

Sax added thank you to Santa's Helpers with letters to Santa project was a great success. We received over 100 letters. Thanked Chief Ritsick's wife and his wife for helping out.

OLD BUSINESS – None

NEW BUSINESS

Motion to authorize payment of the **General Fund Bills (Utility\$21,253.03; Regular \$198,709.84; Total \$219,962.87. Total State Aid Bills: American Rock Salt \$5,338.46 BY: Shubilla 2ND: Sax For: Biscontini, Cinti except abstain from Assured Partners Bill due to business relations, Sax, Shubilla and Yozwiak. Motion Carried.**

Motion to appoint Stephen Motil as Assistant Emergency Management Coordinator effective January 15, 2021. **BY: Sax 2ND: Biscontini Sax** added that he knows he will do a great job. **Motil** from the audience thanked the Board for the confidence in appointing him and he brings 10 year's experience as a coordinator to the table and looks forward to working with Mike. **All For Motion Carried.**

Motion to authorize the handicapped parking application of Charlene Exeter of 99 Abbott Street as recommended by a police traffic study. **BY: Biscontini 2ND: Shubilla All For Motion Carried.**

Motion to forward the handicapped parking application of Melissa Trebunak of 141 Gouge Street to the police department for a traffic study. **BY: Cinti 2nd: Shubilla All For Motion Carried.**

Motion to authorize payment application No. 3 of the 2020 Storm Drainage and Roadway Improvements Contract No. 2 Hilldale Section in the amount of \$32,409.00 to Pennsy Supply and approve Change Order No.3 for an increase of \$17,099.30. **BY: Cinti 2ND: Biscontini All For Motion Carried.**

**MINUTES OF THE PLAINS TOWNSHIP BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING OF
JANUARY 14, 2021**

PAGE THREE

Motion to hire Brandyn Cole as an entry level police officers effective March 6, 2021, 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 noted that he looks forward to having Brandyn on board. He will be the third police officer to be hired in the last few months. **2ND: Sax All For Motion Carried.**

SOLICITORS REPORT

Motion to adopt DAP 1 Form Resolution and authorize Emergency Management Coordinator to submit DAP 2 and any other forms to the PEMA portal for COVID related expenses.

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

Motion to adopt the revised Plains Township Civil Service Rules and Regulations.

BY: Biscontini 2nd: Sax All For Motion Carried.

Motion to adopt the DEP Sewerage Facilities Planning Module Resolution for the WBASD New High School and Stadium. **BY: Shubilla 2nd: Biscontini For: Biscontini, Shubilla and Yozwiak. Abstain: Cinti due to the fact he coaches and is employed by the school district. Sax abstain due to working conditions. Motion Carried.**

Motion to dispose of old Tax Collector records consisting of tax bill duplicates from 2006- 2008.

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

Motion to re-appoint Kathleen Hess to the Zoning Hearing Board for a term to expire December 31, 2025. **BY: Sax 2ND: Shubilla All For Motion Carried.**

Motion to re-appoint John Kelly to the Plains Township Sewer Authority for a term to expire December 31, 2025. **BY: Biscontini 2ND: Cinti All For Motion Carried.**

Motion to appoint Lisa Giovannini to the Plains Township Civil Service Commission for a term to expire December 31, 2025. **BY: Sax 2ND: Shubilla Sax thanked Norma Nardone for her years of service this will be a good replacement for her. All For Motion Carried.**

Motion to re-appoint Gerald J. Yozwiak to the Plains Township Civil Service Commission for a term to expire December 31, 2025. **BY: Shubilla 2ND: Biscontini For: Biscontini, Cinti, Sax Shubilla. Abstain Yozwiak because it is his appointment. Motion Carried.**

Motion to appoint Jeff Gustinucci to the Plains Township Recreation Board for term a to expire December 31, 2025. **BY: Cinti 2ND: Biscontini All For Motion Carried.**

Motion to adopt a resolution appointing these members to the Boards, Commissions and Authorities. **BY: Sax 2ND: Shubilla For: Biscontini, Cinti, Sax, Shubilla. Yozwiak for except abstain from his appointment on the Civil Service Commission. Motion Carried.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS – The next regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners will be held February 11, 2021 at 7:30 P.M.

MINUTES OF THE PLAINS TOWNSHIP BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING OF
JANUARY 14, 2021 PAGE FOUR

TAXPAYERS - None

Chief Binker added that Officers Saif Mahmoud and Ed Walsh will be finishing their probation period soon and they are both doing a fine job. Just wanted to let the Board know that.

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

Respectfully Submitted,



Patricia Sluhocki
Secretary

Accepted By,



Gerald J. Yozwiak
Chairman