

MINUTES OF THE PLAINS TOWNSHIP BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING OF
MAY 13, 2021 PAGE ONE

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Led by Gerald Yozwiak

-Announced by the Board that the CDC just lifted the mask mandate for people who are fully vaccinated.

ROLL CALL: Present: Peter J. Biscontini, Esq., **Yozwiak** noted that Commissioner Cinti just had his gallbladder out and is on the phone calling into the meeting; Ciro Cinti – on the phone, 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 April 8th; Plains Township Recreation Board Meetings of April 5th and May 3rd; Plains Township Sewer Authority Meetings of February 18th and March 18th; Wyoming Valley Sanitary Authority meeting of March 23rd; **Monthly Reports:** Fire Department for April; EMA Coordinator for April; DPW for April; Zoning Permits Issued for April; Contractor Licenses Issued for April; Secretaries Report for April. **Payrolls** of the Administrative, Zoning Office, Department of Public Works and Recreation Departments. The **Treasurers Report for April** General Fund Receipts **\$1,323,301.46**; General Fund Disbursements **\$646,689.31**; Total Ending Balance in the General Fund as of 4/30/2021 - **\$688,084.02. BY: Shubilla 2ND: Cinti All For Motion carried.**

E. CORRESPONDENCE – None

F. COMMITTEE REPORTS

POLICE – Biscontini thanked Red's Township and Valley Chevrolet for donating vehicles to add to our unmarked vehicle fleet for our detective's drug investigation unit. Working with the Wilkes Barre Area school district to secure some cops grants. This month we 642 calls. Our vehicles traveled 9,942 miles. We have a full staff now.

FIRE – Sax reported that the fire department had 118 calls last month. Captains incidents were 32 for a total of 150. Note on a particular call that they were on was a motor vehicle accident with entrapment on Route 115 on March 30th. The department responded with the police department and Medic 2.

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Firefighters had to use the jaws of life to get the patient out and did it within 9 minutes. Patient was transported to GWV trauma unit. Due to the severity of the accident our police department had to conduct an investigation with the assistance of the PA State police. We have been informed that the patient is out of critical care and rehab. Commissioner Sax acknowledged the people on that call were Captain Russ Howell, Firefighters Paul Sabol and Andy Shedlock and Colby Ozgo. Chief Ritsick thanked the board for their support of manpower and equipment. Thanked the police department and Medic 2 for the assistance.

DPW – Shubilla announced that a reminder that Saturday yard waste drop off is started. Also the curbside yard waste has begun the same day as your garbage collection. During the month the DPW started blacktopping in repairing some streets. Recycling Report for April: Recycling 43 tons; Refuse and yard waste of 228 ton.

RECREATION – Cinti announced that the summer camp will be starting June 14th and run through Friday July 30th. The rentals of the pavilion are booked for Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays. There are dates available for Monday through Thursday.

OLD BUSINESS – Noted a clarification from the April 8th meeting that the Lou Luchetti hiring is effective March 22nd and his raise of .50 will be effective May 1st.

NEW BUSINESS

Motion to authorize payment of the **General Fund Bills** consisting of the **Utility Bills \$22,947.41; Regular Bills \$346,867.01; Total \$369,814.42. BY: Biscontini 2ND: Sax For: Biscontini, Cinti abstain from Assured Partners bill for business relations., Sax, Shubilla, Yozwiak. Motion Carried.**

Motion to authorize Change Order No.1 of the Haines Street Drainage Improvements Project with Leeward Construction for an increase of \$8,796.00.. **BY: Cinti 2ND: Shubilla All For Motion Carried.**

Motion to re-hire Michelle Waslasky as the Summer Camp Director at a rate of \$13.50 per hour. **BY: Sax 2ND: Biscontini For Biscontini, Sax, Shubilla, Yozwiak. Abstain: Cinti because she is a relation. Motion Carried.**

Motion to re-hire Hailey Waslasky as Assistant Summer Camp Director at a rate of \$11.00 per hour. **BY: Biscontini 2nd: Shubilla For Biscontini, Sax, Shubilla, Yozwiak. Abstain: Cinti because she is a relation. Motion Carried.**

Motion to hire the following **summer help recreation workers** at \$10.00 per hour effective May 17th: Elizabeth Kolojchick, Ben Yozwiak and Matthew Egidio. **Summer Camp counselors** at \$10.00 per hour effective June 14th: Angeline Rubasky, Matthew Monaghan and Jacob Khalife. **BY: Sax 2ND: Cinti Roll For: Biscontini, Cinti, Sax, Shubilla, Yozwiak, abstain from Ben Yozwiak because he's his son. Motion Carried.**

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Motion to authorize holiday pay for the following Non-Union employees effective April 1, 2021 as follows: Tom Giebus one extra holiday of choice, Robert Davis Thanksgiving, Christmas and one extra holiday of choice, Matt Westawski -Thanksgiving, Christmas and one extra holiday of choice and Justin Reiser Thanksgiving, Christmas and one extra holiday of choice.

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

SOLICITORS REPORT

Motion to authorize the solicitor to prepare and advertise a Food Truck Ordinance

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

Motion to approve the conditional use application of Mitch, Ross, Gary and Eric Kornfeld of 1073 Highway 315 for the new Woodlands Residential Development Project. Noted by **Menn** that a hearing was held on Monday. **Biscontini** also noted that this located in the back of the property. **Menn** information was provided to us and if anybody wants to see what it will look like, we have it available here. **BY: Biscontini 2nd: Shubilla All For Motion Carried.**

Motion to request a police traffic study for No Parking at the intersection of Stadium Lane and Abbott Street to allow crossing of school children from 8-10a.m. and 2-4p.m.

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS by **Yozwiak**: The next regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners will be held June 10, 2021 at 7:30 P.M. The Administrative, Zoning offices and DPW will be closed on Monday, May 31st in observance of the Memorial Day Holiday. Residents with Monday garbage collection will have their garbage picked on Tuesday, June 1st, Reminder that there is an eight-bag limit for garbage bags for the collection week of June 1st to June 3rd. There will be a ceremony on Memorial Day at the Vets Park at 8:00 A.M.

TAXPAYERS:

Charlie Krommes 43 S. Main Street. Problem with the proposed traffic light at the intersection of S. Main, Maffett and Abbott Streets. Owns property on 43 S. Main Street. They are taking ¾ of his sidewalk according to their lines. They are putting a pole right in front of my door. Son in law purchased lot next store and they are putting a pole and junction box in the middle of the property. That was a commercial property. He bought it because it was commercial and now he can't use it for a business. Realizes the Board is not in support of the light. In 1997, 24 years ago when they put in the Solomon School there was a push on to put a light in and make Abbott Street a one way going down. The light was not put in and there was never a major accident at that intersection. We have all these businesses here and asked why is there a concern about a new school ¾ mile down the road with three entrances? **Yozwiak** commented that we offered multiple scenarios instead of a light. We have not passed or approved anything regarding this light. The markings are probably in the Penn Dot right-a-way. Suggested for Charlie to speak with Representative Carroll who is on the Transportation Board. Discussion with Board and Charlie regarding the placement of the poles. **Menn** this Board and I'm sure the School District is not in favor of this light. **Krommes** added he believes this is going to create a bad response time for emergency vehicles because the lights will be backed up at Carey Street. There are a lot of safety factors involved here. Explained about fender benders on the off ramp of the Cross Valley because of it being backed up. **Brian Palmiter** added that as far as the placement of the poles, there are ADA rules that have to be complied with for sidewalks.

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Mike Yeosock spoke from the audience about how they are going to cut into his sidewalk and make them narrower for people using them.

John Corcoran 20 S. Main Street. Noted that Mr. Yeosock's sidewalk measures 150' of heated sidewalk from the old Siani's Cleaners to his property. His concern is the light backing up the town causing more congestion. We do have a problem there 1 hour in the morning when people are going to work and 1 hour in the afternoon when they are going home. Noted that he does not see any school buses passing his house. The buses use Bailey Street and the access road coming from the Oak Woods for Solomon. For the record the Township engineer is Borton Lawson. The engineer for the School District is Borton Lawson. Asked who is the engineer for Penn Dot and **Menn** replied that they have their own engineers. **Menn** clarified that Sam Stiner works for Borton Lawson who submitted plans for the school district to Penn Dot. **Brian Palmiter** clarifies further that Penn Dot provides what is required to Borton Lawson, for the school project. **Corcoran** stated that the Yeosock's, Mr. Kutch and Mr. Krommes are most affected by this light in trying to get out of their properties. He is also concerned with the three lanes being proposed for South Main to the light. We were told at a meeting that this middle lane is called a suicide lane which where two people could get in at the same time. He was told that this was off the beaten path. Now just heard it is back in the plans. Borton Lawson called it a suicide lane. **Yozwiak** stated that in the letter from Sam Stiner today, the turning lane is back on the project. **Brian Palmiter** did not see the plans but was told this morning that the turning lane is back on. **Corcoran** asked if the turning lane is back then he cannot make a left hand turn out of his property. For the record Mr. Yeosock has lived at his residence since 1942. He has been there since 1955. Is very concerned for the safety of the people in our town with a third lane. There is no shoulder on this stretch of road. For the record it is not 33' wide. It is 29' wide. Encouraged the board to look into that by using a school bus or tractor trailer. He has observed cars going on the yellow line now. He doesn't think Borton Lawson physically came down here to observe traffic in this area. They had to do it from plans. Safety is at risk here. Wants it documented that he is worried about safety there as do his neighbors worry as well that there is going to be a bad accident there. Curb to curb is 29'. **Yozwiak** added that Penn Dot is big on safety and believes no one from Penn Dot has been to that intersection. **Corcoran** added he does not believe Penn Dot was there either. Thanked the Board for standing up for us and the issues and concerns. Also asked who at Penn Dot came up with this scenario. **Menn** responded that probably an engineer in the regional director. **Sax** added that another one of the Penn Dot recommendations for the new school was to move the curbs back a foot at Hollenback and River Streets in Wilkes-Barre.

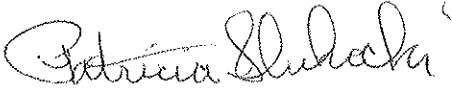
Kevin Kutch owns 41 South Main Street which was the former Nardy's TV. As mentioned by Mr. Krommes, Yeosock and Corcoran about the placement of the poles for the traffic signal, would like to go on record that he is very concerned about the safety of the people who walk in the town. Our paramedics are probably going to have respond to increase in accidents. If Mr. Krommes screen door was a foot bigger, he wouldn't be able to open it. A standard size youth wheel chair is 24" wide and an adult size is 30" wide. They are not going to make it through Mr. Krommes sidewalk. If the pole goes in on his sidewalk and I choose to park on my sidewalk or do something on the sidewalk, they have 5" of space to put that pole. Also want to point out again what Mr. Corcoran said that Borton Lawson works for us and the school district. Seems like a conflict of interest. Would like to go on record that he is very concerned especially for the people who walk. Also believes traffic would not be coming from Laflin, Jenkins and Pittston to the new school. Did not get a letter that the last meeting with Borton Lawson was cancelled. **Mr. Yeosock** received a letter about the three lanes, not about the traffic signal.

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Corcoran also added one item for the record. Questioned if there was something mentioned in the new letter from Borton Lawson saying that the ones that were most affected by this signal were offered compensation. He was never offered compensation nor did he ask for any compensation. **Sax** explained that they were probably referring to the fact that you were offered access to the back of their properties. **Corcoran** stated that when you put on paper, residents were offered compensation, makes it sounds like we were offered money, we were never offered compensation. **Corcoran** asked Brian Palmiter what that meant. For the record he would to know from Sam what he meant by compensation. **Krommes** also added that where they want to put the poles, it takes their property value down. If his son-in-law wants to put a business on that lot, he can't do it now. **Yozwiak** explains how Penn Dot right a ways work. He does not know what the right a way is on South Main Street.

ADJOURNMENT BY: Cinti 2ND: Yozwiak All For Motion Carried. TIME: 8:25 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,



**Patricia Sluhocki
Secretary**

Accepted By,



**Gerald J. Yozwiak
Chairman**