

**MINUTES OF THE PLAINS TOWNSHIP BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING OF
AUGUST 12, 2021** **PAGE ONE**

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Led by Gerald Yozwiak

ROLL CALL: Present: Robert Sax, Thomas Shubilla, and Gerald Yozwiak. Absent: Peter J. Biscontini, Esq. and Ciro Cinti. Also present: Attorney Stephen Menn and Patricia Sluhocki.

Proclamation Presentation to the Henry Club commemorating 100-Year Anniversary. Yozwiak read proclamation and congratulations to Club Members who were in attendance.

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 July 8th; Plains Township Recreation Board Meetings of July 6th and August 2nd, Wyoming Valley Sanitary Authority Meeting of May 18th. **Monthly Reports:** Fire Department for July; EMA Coordinator for July; DPW for July; Zoning Permits Issued for July and Contractor Licenses for July; Secretaries Report for July. **Payrolls** of the Administrative, Zoning Office, Department of Public Works and Recreation Departments. The **Treasurers Report for July** General Fund Receipts **\$850,233.48**; General Fund Disbursements **\$1,324,720.00**; Total Ending Balance in the General Fund as of 7/31/2021 - **\$2,045,143.63**. **(Yozwiak abstain from Ben Yozwiak Recreation Payroll) BY: Shubilla 2ND: Sax For: Sax, Shubilla and Yozwiak except abstain on Ben Yozwiak recreation payroll. Motion Carried.**

CORRESPONDENCE – None

COMMITTEE REPORTS

POLICE – Shubilla commended Officers Lepore, Oatridge and Cole. Also Saif Mahmoud and Kelly for their responses to two different drowning incidents that occurred recently in the town.

FIRE – Sax reported: Thanked the police department and Chief Binker on their efforts in making National Night Out a great success. Also want to thank our new event coordinator, Bill Poulos, who did a great job. On the fire department, we had 170 Calls. We are also the recipient of the 2020 FEMA Fire grant for two exhaust evacuation systems for our fire houses in the amount of \$97,000. Thanked Captain Van Luvender and Firefighter Steve Motil for their assistance with this grant application. Also announced Plains Rotary 36th Annual Memorial Golf Tournament August 21, 2021.

DPW – Shubilla announced that the Plains Township Paper Shred Event has been scheduled for October 23rd from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. details were explained and Electronic Recycling will be on the same day at the Municipal Park. Recycling Report for July: Recycling 46 ton; Refuse/yard waste 177ton.

RECREATION – Yozwiak announced that we are progressing on the park master plan which will lead into additional grants. Softball leagues are still going. The Plains Yankees Football teams started practicing. Plains Soccer is going to start in a few weeks. The Tubs are going to be remodeled. We are doing so brush clearing down at the Ray Condo Memorial Kayak Boat Launch at Owens Grove, we received some grant money to do that. Lastly this building is going to be remodeled. We received two years of local share grant money. New roof, HVAC, windows, carpeting, etc. Well needed modifications.

OLD BUSINESS – None

NEW BUSINESS

Motion to authorize payment of the **General Fund Bills** consisting of the **Utility Bills \$25,814.89; Regular Bills \$179,205.13; Total \$205,020.02. BY: Shubilla 2ND: Sax All For Motion Carried.**

Motion to authorize clothing allowance of \$75.00 and holiday pay for Thanksgiving and Christmas for part-time DPW laborer Nathan Matthey effective immediately. **BY: Shubilla 2ND: Sax All For Motion Carried.**

Motion to authorize payment application # 5 of the 2020 Storm Drainage and Roadway Improvements Contract No. 1 – Plains Main in the amount of \$38,291.29 and authorize execution of Change Order # 5 for an increase of \$2,370.00. **BY: Sax 2ND: Shubilla All For Motion Carried.**

Motion to authorize payment application # 6 of the 2020 Storm Drainage and Roadway Improvements Contract No. 2 – Hilldale Section in the amount of \$39,551.72 and authorize execution of Change Order # 5 for an increase of \$3,720.00. **BY: Sax 2ND: Shubilla All For Motion Carried.**

Motion to authorize Disabled Veterans Real Property Tax Exemption to Steven C. Gonzales of 85 Hancock Street. Plains Township Face Value portion is \$183.80. **BY: Sax 2ND: Shubilla All For Motion Carried**

Motion to authorize a purchase of a 2021 Chevrolet Tahoe PPV 4 x 4 for the police department. **BY: Sax 2ND: Shubilla All For Motion Carried.**

Motion to request a police traffic study for Sarnecki Lane. **BY: Sax 2ND: Shubilla Question from Mike Pelak** in the audience of where on Sarnecki Lane and informed the Board that the stop sign was taken out. **Yozwiak and Sax** this is located at the curb on the top by Shuleski's house. Police to look at for signage. **All For Motion Carried.**

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Motion to authorize payment application # 4 in the amount of \$7,916.40 and payment application # 5 in the amount of \$25,068.00 of the Haines Street Improvements Project also to authorize Change Order No.2 for an increase of \$6,776.20. **BY: Shubilla 2ND: Sax All For Motion Carried.**

Motion to grant the handicapped parking application request of Sandra Kozich 19 Warner Street as recommended by a police department traffic study. **BY: Sax 2ND: Biscontini All For Motion Carried.**

SOLICITORS REPORT

Motion to authorize the Chairman to sign a letter of support for the Geisinger Wyoming Valley MTF Hospital Entrances Improvement Project. **BY: Shubilla 2ND: Sax All For Motion Carried.**

Motion to authorize the Chairman to sign letters of support for two Penn Vest grant applications for Mill Creek Stream Restoration and Gardner Creek/Mill Creek Stream Restoration Projects. **BY: Sax 2ND: Shubilla All For Motion Carried.**

Motion to waive the Township portion of permit fees for the Plains Township Sewer Authority Roof Project amounting to \$578.25. **Menn** because they are a function of Plains Township, we will be waiving those fees. **BY: Sax 2nd: Shubilla All For Motion Carried.**

Motion to approve the 2021-2022 Penn Dot Winter Maintenance Services Agreement. **Menn** this for the maintenance of the Penn Dot roads in the winter. **BY: Shubilla 2nd: Sax All For Motion Carried.**

Motion to adopt an ordinance authorizing the general obligation note borrowing for the reduction of unfunded accrued liability in the amount of \$5,100,000.00 in the police and non-uniformed pension plans . **BY: Sax 2nd: Sax All For Motion Carried.**

Motion to advertise for sale of the following vehicles: 2009 Dodge Durango with 64,737 miles and 2007 Mack Packer Model MR6885. **BY: Shubilla 2ND: Sax All For Motion Carried.**

Motion to ratify the contract by and between the International Association of Firefighters Local 840 and Plains Township effective 1/1/2022 through December 31, 2024.

BY: Sax 2ND: Shubilla Sax thanked the fire department. Chief Ritsick, Union Representative Firefighter Scott Martin and the department for working with us.

All For Motion Carried.

ANNOUNCEMENTS by Yozwiak: The next regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners will be held September 9, 2021 7:30 P.M.

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TAXPAYERS

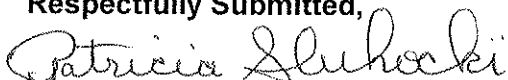
Debra Hazeltine – Lives at 150 Gouge Street and has a driveway. Her mother needs access to get down a ramp to the driveway. We had a car blocking the driveway all weekend and she can't get down the ramp. I asked the Township for painted lines on the sidewalk and you don't do that. Asking the Board what she should do. Also if she applies for Handicapped parking space, she can't get it because she has a driveway. The police wouldn't tow the car from when she called on February 20th. **Chief Binker** answered that the officer who responded probably determined that there was no violation. He is pulling up the report. Pictures were reviewed by Board, Steve Menn and Chief Binker. After reviewing pictures, **Chief Binker** responded that the officer probably could not determine if it's a driveway in looking at the pictures with the snow on the ground. Ms. Hazeltine left the meeting at this point.

Mary Ann Pistack - Has two questions regarding the Valley Crest Development which is progressing. How are they going to put the utilities in underground? Jack Hammer or are they going to blast it. **Yozwiak** no plans have been presented yet. They are only doing demolition right now. **Menn** they have to get the highway traffic situation fixed first and then they will present something to the Planning Commission. Those are the meeting that you would want to attend. **Pistack** asked what assurances do we have when he does start, that our homes are not going to get destroyed. **Menn** the development plans being presented to the Planning Commission may not be for a few years. **Pistack's** second question asked if there was a fee for the electronics recycling. Secretary provided her with a flyer on the E-Waste Event.

Yazan Mahmoud – Lives at 87 Helen Street. Came to the meeting to address an issue that has been going on since 2017. This was brought to the attention of the Board through a member that is not here tonight unfortunately. In March of 2017 we had a big snow storm. The Township hired contractors to remove the snow. While they were pulling the snow off the sidewalk with their equipment and they damaged what I had repaired just previous to that. It is getting worst and he doesn't have the money to replace the whole sidewalk. Has two witnesses and the damage occurred so coming to the Board because he doesn't know what to do. **Menn** asked why he didn't report this in 2017? It was made aware a month later to Mr. Biscontini and Shubilla. They said that google images showed damage prior to the snow storm. Pictures are shown by **Mahmoud** to the Board and Steve. **Menn** asked what are you asking the Township to do. **Mahmoud** to go back to the contractors. **Menn** it has been done 4 years ago even through your home owners or the contractors who did it. Every homeowner is responsible to maintain their sidewalk. May have waited too long to file any claim. **Mahmoud** did present estimates to replace the sidewalks. Just wanted to personally come here and explain the situation.

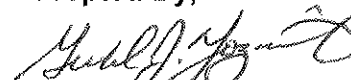
ADJOURNMENT BY: Sax 2ND: Yozwiak All For Motion Carried. TIME: 8:22 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,



Patricia Sluhocki
Secretary

Accepted By,



Gerald J. Yozwiak
Chairman