

**MINUTES OF THE PLAINS TOWNSHIP BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING OF  
JULY 8, 2021**

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**CALL TO ORDER TIME:** 7:33 A.M.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Led by Thomas Shubilla

**ROLL CALL:** Present: Peter J. Biscontini, Esq., Ciro Cinti, by phone, Robert Sax and Thomas Shubilla. Absent: 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 June 10th; Plains Township Recreation Board Meeting of June 7<sup>th</sup>. **Monthly Reports:** Police Department for June; Fire Department for June; EMA Coordinator for June; DPW for June; Zoning Permits Issued for June and Contractor Licenses for June; Secretaries Report for June. Noted receipt of the Auditor General Report on the Liquid Fuels Tax Fund Audit for 2019. **Payrolls** of the Administrative, Zoning Office, Department of Public Works and Recreation Departments. The **Treasurers Report for June** General Fund Receipts **\$383,364.81**; General Fund Disbursements **\$809,502.00**; Total Ending Balance in the General Fund as of **6/30/2021 - \$2,519,630.15**. **BY: Biscontini 2ND: Sax For: Biscontini, Cinti except relations on summer camp payrolls, Sax, Shubilla. Motion Carried.**

**CORRESPONDENCE – None**

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**POLICE – Biscontini** the department had a very busy month. Our cars patrolled around 7,000 miles. Accidents are up since restrictions are lifted, including one of own vehicles. National Night Out is August 3<sup>rd</sup> at the Municipal Park from 5 to 9p.m.

**FIRE – Sax** the department had 136 fire calls, 44 captains calls for a total of 180 calls. Thanked the first responders who were at the tragic accident on River Street. June continues to have numerous high weed complaints. Please cut your grass.

**DPW – Shubilla:** Announcement of the Township being awarded a 902 Recycling Grant put together by Jeff Gustinucci, DPW Director in the amount of \$206,965.00. Recycling Report for June: 49 tons of recycling and 250 tons of refuse/yard waste. Spoke of the notice that we received from our recycling vendor about the condition of our recycling. We are in danger of losing the privilege of recycling. We are putting out flyers to remind residents of the acceptable recyclables and make sure they are clean. Announcement that Solomon Plains Elementary School is conducting a “Back to School Supply Drive” starting July 12<sup>th</sup> at Solomon or at the Town Hall for students who underprivileged and need school supplies.

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**RECREATION** – **Cinti** reported that the summer camp is up and running and is a huge success. Thanked the police fire and DPW departments for coming up and talking to the children. The willow tree that was in the Hilldale park was hit by lightning. Has been a landmark in Plains for many years. He have it all cleaned up now and are planning to plant a new willow tree there for generations to come. We had four weddings booked this year at the pavilion and have one looking for next year already. Lastly the Municipal Park Master Plan grant is moving forward. Survey will be coming out soon for public input.

**OLD BUSINESS** – None

**NEW BUSINESS**

Motion to authorize payment of the **General Fund Bills** consisting of the **Utility Bills \$22,807.29; Regular Bills \$340,276.67; Total \$363,083.96. BY: Sax 2ND: Biscontini For: Biscontini, Cinti except abstain from Assured Partners Bill for business relations, Sax, Shubilla. Motion Carried.**

Motion to ratify the hiring of Jacob Urbanski as a seasonal part time recreation worker at \$10.00 per hour effective June 28, 2021. **BY: Cinti 2ND: Sax All For Motion Carried.**

Motion to authorize payment application # 4 of the 2020 Storm Drainage and Roadway Improvements Contract No. 1 – Plains Main in the amount of \$96,536.20 and authorize execution of Change Order # 4 for an increase of \$42,616.68. **BY: Biscontini 2ND: Sax All For Motion Carried.**

Motion to authorize payment application # 5 of the 2020 Storm Drainage and Roadway Improvements Contract No. 2 – Hilldale Section in the amount of \$114,688.47 and authorize execution of Change Order # 4 for an increase of \$43,690.70. **BY: Cinti 2ND: Biscontini All For Motion Carried.**

**SOLICITORS REPORT**

Motion to adopt an ordinance regulating Mobile Food Facilities or Booths. Noted by **Menn** that this was duly advertised. **BY: Sax 2ND: Biscontini All For Motion Carried.**

Motion to enter into an agreement with RCN to provide cable services to Plains Township subject to review and approval of the solicitor. Noted by **Menn** that this another cable company that will be offering the residents services. Noted by **Sax** that there is no cost to the Township for doing this. **Mr. Onufer** asked from the audience when they will be starting. Commissioners responded soon. **BY: Cinti 2<sup>nd</sup>: Sax All For Motion Carried.**

Motion to accept the proposal of Fidelity Bank for the 2021 Federally Taxable Pension Obligation Note in the amount of \$5,100,000.00 subject to review and approval of the solicitor. Noted by **Menn** that this is a note that we will be taking a very low interest rate to pay off pension obligations and will be saving us a lot of money. **BY: Biscontini 2<sup>nd</sup>: Sax All For Motion Carried.**

Motion to authorize the solicitor to prepare all ordinances and documents necessary for the 2021 Federally Taxable Pension Obligation Note. **BY: Cinti 2<sup>nd</sup>: Biscontini All For Motion Carried.**

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Motion to adopt a resolution and authorize Vice Chairman to execute Penn Dot Traffic Signal Plans and paperwork necessary for signal improvements at the intersections of River Road with Maffett Street and the SR 309 Ramps. **BY: Sax 2ND: Biscontini**  
**All For Motion Carried.**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS** by **Shubilla**: The next regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners will be held August 12, 2021 7:30 P.M. At this point, **Commissioner Cinti** leaves the meeting.

**TAXPAYERS:**

**David Onufer** – His issue is the cat situation in the area of Burke and Powell Streets that has been going on since the end of January. His property has turned into a giant-sized litter box. **Shubilla** responded that we have a trap and release program here for cats. **Menn** we have no agreement with the SPCA. We have the woman here from Whiskers World here tonight who can explain the process of what we do here with that program. Explained his experience with people who feed the cats and get fined.

**Gary Bowman** – It's not only that there is an abundance of cats, they are doing their business all over his property after he has invested a lot of money fixing it up. They are all over his property. **Menn** the solution to the problem is not going to happen overnight. **Biscontini** asked if they can go to the Magistrate and file something like a nuisance complaint.

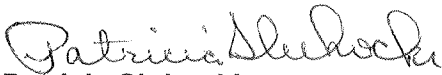
**Brenda Buckler** – From Whiskers World explained the program that she has been involved with for 20 years. It's called the vacuum effect. There are deterrents on the market that you can buy on Amazon to keep them out of your garden. Our program works. We've done it in Luzerne and Jenkins Township, now they do not have a cat problem. **Shubilla** added he installed the deterrent at his mother's house and it works. **Menn** added that the trap and release program does not cost the resident anything we have an agreement with Whiskers World. **Buckler** continues to explain program. **Gary and Sandy Bowman** continue to explain what the cats are doing on their property. **Sax** question to Karen Rubasky about letters she sent to the residents who are feeding the cats. Discussion held between board, residents and Buckler. **Brenda Buckler** will be going down to the area to try to help with the situation.

**Cathy Silveri** - The reason she came to the meeting is to express her concern over the condition East Carey Street. Our area of Plains Proper looks bad. The brick area looks so nice and then you turn onto East Carey Street. Is there something we can do? How as a community could we make it better and assist Karen with her job. **Sax** added that we have a landlord tenant ordinance. **Karen Rubasky** explains the ordinance. **Silveri** asked if we could make it stronger. **Menn** said the only thing you can do is be vigilant.


**Mary Woloski** – Signed in but did not want to speak.

**ADJOURNMENT BY: Sax 2ND: Biscontini All For Motion Carried. TIME: 8:32 P.M.**

Respectfully Submitted,

  
**Patricia Sluhocki**  
Secretary

Accepted By,

  
**Thomas Shubilla**  
Vice Chairman