

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

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

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Led by Gerald Yozwiak

**ROLL CALL:** Present: 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 September 9<sup>th</sup>, Recreation Board Meetings of September 13<sup>th</sup> and October 4<sup>th</sup>, Plains Sewer Authority Meetings of July 15<sup>th</sup> and August 19<sup>th</sup>, Wyoming Valley Sanitary Authority Meeting of July 20<sup>th</sup>, **Monthly Reports:** Fire Department for September; EMA Coordinator for September; DPW Recycling Report for September, Secretaries Report for September. Noted Receipt of: Wyoming Valley Sanitary Authority Independent Auditor Report for years ending 2019 and 2020. **Payrolls** of the Administrative, Zoning Office, Department of Public Works and Recreation Departments. The **Treasurers Report for September** General Fund Receipts **\$604,000.06**; General Fund Disbursements **\$689,693.90**; Total Ending Balance in the General Fund as of **9/30/2021 - \$2,115,407.22. BY: Shubilla 2ND: Cinti All For Motion Carried.**

**CORRESPONDENCE – None**

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**POLICE – Biscontini** reported that the police had a busy month with the opening of the new High School actively doing traffic control. They are working good together with the school officers and thanked them for that. Received a letter from a resident that thanked Officer Robbie Kelly for his assistance when he had an issue with his car. The cars patrolled 7,374 miles this month. Reported 36 domestics, 47 noise complaints, 33 suspicious persons. Assisted the DA's office and state police with various investigations. Chief Binker in attendance if there are any questions.

**FIRE – Sax** reported that the department had 226 calls. 183 regular and 43 captains calls. October is Fire Prevention Month and the firefighters will be conducting fire prevention classes at all the schools, day cares and businesses. Residents are reminded to change the batteries in their smoke alarms this month, at least once a year. We still have smoke detectors that were donated from the Red Cross. You can call our department and they will make arrangements to install the smoke alarms for the residents.

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**DPW – Shubilla** Recycling Report for September: 72 tons of recycling and 240 tons of garbage. Later on tonight we will be bringing on two great guys to full time DPW. Robert Davis and Tom Giebus.

**RECREATION – Cinti** reported that the questionnaire will be circulating for our Master Plan Grant for the Plains Municipal Park. If you do receive one, please fill out and return as soon as possible. The Master Plan will help us apply for grants in the future to develop the park. Finishing up pavilion rentals for the year. We have two requests for weddings next year. Finishing up biddy football, soccer and cheerleading at the park. We had a very good season.

**Yozwiak** reported that people have been dumping garbage in the containers at the Recycling Center. We will be meeting to discuss a solution. There is going to have to be changes. Also be cognizant of your bank accounts and credit cards.

**Sax** announced that we will be having a Veterans Day ceremony at 8:00 A.M. at the Vets Park.

**OLD BUSINESS –**

**NEW BUSINESS**

Motion to authorize payment of the **General Fund Bills** consisting of the **Utility Bills \$23,728.03; Regular Bills \$161,721.47; Total \$185,449.50. BY: Biscontini 2ND: Sax For: Biscontini, Cinti** abstain from Assured Partners Bill for business relations, **Sax, Shubilla, Yozwiak. Motion Carried.**

Motion to ratify the revised 2021 MMO's: Police Pension of \$135,288 and Non- Uniformed Pension of \$47,522.00 **Cinti 2ND: Shubilla All For Motion Carried.**

Motion to ratify the 2022 MMO's: Police Pension of \$152,027, Fire Pension of \$208,948 and Non-Uniformed Pension \$44,710. **BY: Sax 2ND: Biscontini All For Motion Carried.**

Motion to disburse the 2021 Commonwealth of Pa State Aid Pension Allocation to Township pension plans as follows:

<b>Pension Plan</b>	<b>State Aid</b>
Police	\$ 154,410.43
Non-Uniformed	\$ 66,644.43
Fire	\$ 201,106.00

**BY: Shubilla 2ND: Cinti** Yozwiak congratulated our pension administrators for orchestrating a plan for a loan to move our pensions to 95% funded. Took advantage for the low rates out there. **All For Motion Carried.**

Motion to authorize payment application # 3 in the amount of \$23,799.39 of the Hudson Road Storm Drainage Improvements Project and Change Order No. 4 for a decrease of \$9,986.00 to Linde Corp. **BY: Biscontini 2ND: Sax All For Motion Carried.**

**SOLICITORS REPORT**

Motion to award the bid for garbage bags Central Poly for a bid price of \$12.39 per case. **BY: Cinti 2ND: Shubilla All For Motion Carried.**

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Motion to authorize a request from Elite Revenue for transfer tax refund of the Township Portion that was paid of \$537.60 on property located at 32 W. Carey Street. Noted by **Menn**: This came about because of litigation and a court order. **BY: Sax 2ND: Biscontini All For Motion Carried.**

Motion to execute the Memorandum of Understanding between UFCW Local 1776 and Plains Township regarding starting salary subject to review and approval of the solicitor. **BY: Shubilla 2ND: Cinti All For Motion Carried.**

Motion to hire Tom Giebus and Robert Davis as full-time laborers in DPW effective 10/18/2021 subject to successful completion on a physical examination, background checks and per the terms of the UFCW Local 1776 Union Contract. **BY: Biscontini** Commented that it's been a long time coming. These are two great guys and hard workers. Thanks for sticking it out. **2ND: Sax** offered congratulations. **Yozwiak** introduced the men to the audience. **All For Motion Carried.**

Motion to re-advertise for sale of the 2007 Mack Packer Model MR6885. Noted by **Menn**: We did not receive any bids for this vehicle. **Yozwiak** noted that there was a Durango on the agenda, but that was taken off. **BY: Cinti 2ND: Shubilla All For Motion Carried.**

Motion to reimburse Police Officer Edward Asbury for Heart and Lung benefits due in the amount of \$12,424.43. Noted by **Menn**: Benefits will be based upon a signed release which I will be preparing and providing to his attorney then the money will be issued. **BY: Sax 2ND: Biscontini All For Motion Carried.**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS** – The next regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners will be held November 11, 2021 7:30 P.M. As we mentioned there will be a ceremony at 8:00 A.M. at the Vets Park with the Plains American Legion. November 2<sup>nd</sup> is voting day.

**TAXPAYERS**

**Erin George** - E-Mailed the Board asking for help with speeding on her street, Bear Creek Boulevard. There are no sidewalks and no double yellow lines and we have an increase of traffic. I know you painted some white lines to do a traffic study and I do see the officers up there. **Yozwiak** w like to talk our engineer about the width of that street. If we restripe it, should we include pedestrian lanes. We will talk about it at a work session. **Chief Binker** spoke up that we're not going to do a traffic study. Lines are there to enforce traffic. He sat up there to observe as did Officers Walsh and Poulos and there was only one ticket was given out. Asked what time of the day is there the most traffic. **George** said there is constant traffic on the road. Speeding has always been an issue. Discussion held between **board, George and Chief Binker**. **George** neighbors and I are just looking for help in making people slow down. **Binker** offered to put the speed trailer up there also.

**TAYPAYERS - Continued**

**David Onufer** – Asked if anyone knows what’s going on about the cats. Haven’t seen anybody there and wants something done. **Shubilla** they are going to be cited and you will be called to testify.

**Menn** added that Karen doesn’t see them feeding the cats. She could still cite them. But you need someone who has knowledge of this to come and testify at the Magistrate hearing. Karen will notify you when the Magistrate schedules the hearing. If you don’t come to testify, there not much more we can do. **Yozwiak** things are in motion. **Onufer** asked when Wiskers World is coming. **Shubilla** spoke with Brenda and she said she trapped 10 cats. **Shubilla** will call her again. **Onufer** complained about high weeds so the Board will send the fire department down there.

**Mary Woloski and Frank Pointek** signed in but did not speak.


**Allen Bartoli** – Lives at 95 Miner Street in front of the Polish Club. In 2018 the Polish Club decided clear an area for a parking lot that was not a parking lot. Contractor dropped a tree on his fence. When they plowed they pushed the snow against my gate. His attorney said that the old zoning officer said that in the ordinance you have to have a 10’ planting strip, shrubs, a fence no more than 6’ high. Millings from a state project created a road by the alleyway. Explained trouble he is having with the Polish Club. He wants the zoning ordinance enforced. Planting strip and the shrubs. Weeds aren’t being cut.

**Clem Walkowiak** – Living in his residence for 42 year which is located in front of a nuisance bar. Getting no where to get police protection. He wants it made a nuisance bar. **Yozwiak** will speak to the Polish Club and discuss with the solicitor about the LCB the District Attorney’s office. **Walkowiak** stated Police won’t investigate the polish club. Installed security cameras. He’s here today because the Polish Club put up a sign that any members that are harassed by the neighbors report it to the Polish Club management. Other neighbor is afraid to come to the meeting because of retaliation. **Chief Binker** three sides to the story. Incident was investigated fully. Other claims were made against Mr. Walkowiak. Nobody got arrested. Discussion between **Chief Binker** and **Mr. Walkowiak**. **Menn** researched correspondence going back to 2019 with Kathy O’Boyle about the road by the tank diamond. Would appreciated not having the snow plowed against Bartoli know. **Walkowiak** If he doesn’t get satisfaction he will call the state police.


**Yozwiak** announced Next Saturday is Shred fest and E waste recycling at the Municipal Park.

**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