

MINUTES OF THE PLAINS TOWNSHIP BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING OF
NOVEMBER 11, 2021 PAGE ONE

CALL TO ORDER TIME: 7:29 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 October 14th, Planning Commission Meeting of September 2nd and No meeting on October 7th, Recreation Board Meeting of November 1st, Plains Sewer Authority Meeting of September 16th, Wyoming Valley Sanitary Authority Meeting of September 21st., **Monthly Reports:** Police Department for September and October; Fire Department for October; EMA Coordinator for October; Zoning Permits Issued for September and October; Contractor Licenses Issued for September and October; Secretaries Report for October. **Payrolls** of the Administrative, Zoning Office, Department of Public Works and Recreation Departments. The **Treasurers Report for October** General Fund Receipts **\$175,951.92**; General Fund Disbursements **\$1,050,689.50**; Total Ending Balance in the General Fund as of **10/31/2021 - \$1,240,669.64**.

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

CORRESPONDENCE – None

COMMITTEE REPORTS

POLICE – Biscontini reported that the department was very busy. Fraud was up 300%. Several reports of mail theft, 12 thefts total, 4 overdoses, 122 traffic citations, 27 suspicious persons, 34 domestics and Chief Binker is here if there are any other questions.

FIRE – Sax reports that the department had 153 regular calls and 57 captains calls for a total of 210. October was fire prevention month and thanked the firefighters for conducting the classes. There are smoke detectors still available. If you contact the fire department, they will even install them if needed.

DPW – Shubilla reported that there was 195 tons of garbage picked up in October. Next Saturday is the last day to drop off yard waste at the recycling center and this week is the last week for pick up at the curb side for yard waste.

RECREATION – Cinti announced that the Plains Yankees C team won the super bowl. Asked residents for participation at the Community meeting which will be held regarding the municipal park on Tuesday, December 7th at Bernadine Hall of SS Peter & Paul to have a say so for improvements to the Municipal Park.

Yozwiak noted that today is Veterans Day and thanked all Veterans for their service.

OLD BUSINESS – None

NEW BUSINESS

Motion to authorize payment of the **General Fund Bills** consisting of the **Utility Bills \$24,046.05; Regular Bills \$152,577.64; Total \$176,623.69. BY: Shubilla 2ND: Biscontini For: Biscontini, Cinti abstain from Assured Partners Bill because of business relations, Sax, Shubilla, Yozwiak. Motion Carried.**

Motion to accept the resignation of Gerry Gryboski from the Plains Township Planning Commission. **BY: Sax 2ND: Cinti Sax** thanked Gerry for his years of service on the Planning Commission. **Cinti** also thanked Gerry for his service. **All For Motion Carried.**

Motion to hire Adam Valkos as an entry-level firefighter effective November 27, 2021, subject to successful completion of all physical, psychological and background examinations per the terms of the fire department union contract and civil service rules and regulations. **BY: Sax 2ND: Cinti Sax the hire is for replacing Firefighter Charlie Krommes. All For Motion Carried.**

SOLICITORS REPORT

Motion to support the Penn Dot MTF Grant application of Geisinger Wyoming Valley Medical Center for improvements to the front entrance to the hospital campus. **BY: Cinti 2ND: Biscontini All For Motion Carried.**

Motion to solicit bids for Yard Waste Management Services for 2022. **BY: Shubilla 2ND: Sax All For Motion Carried.**

Motion to authorize the execution of the term proposal letter, adopt a resolution and any other paperwork necessary for FNCB bank for the 2022 Tax Anticipation Note in the amount of \$500,000.00 at an interest rate of 1.99%. **BY: Cinti 2ND: Biscontini All For Motion Carried.**

Motion to adopt a resolution for municipal lease with Fidelity Bank for the lease/purchase of the 2021 Police Department Ford Interceptor. **BY: Biscontini 2ND: Shubilla All For Motion Carried.**

Motion to enter into an intergovernmental agreement with the Plains Township Sewer Authority and adopt a resolution extending the life of the Sewer Authority and leasing of the building. **BY: Sax 2ND: Cinti All For Motion Carried.**

Motion to enter into an agreement with Cohen Law Group to negotiate the renewal of the upcoming Comcast contract for a fee in the amount of \$9,900.00 and this price includes an audit. **BY: Shubilla 2ND: Biscontini All For Motion Carried.**

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Motion to transfer title to the 2009 Dodge Durango to the Wilkes-Barre Area School District. Noted by **Menn** that this vehicle is not in use. **BY: Sax 2ND: Biscontini For: Biscontini, Sax, Shubilla, Yozwiak. Abstain: Cinti** due to being a coach for the WBASD. **Motion Carried.**

Motion to authorize execution of amendment # 5 of the sub-recipient agreement by and between Luzerne County and Plains Township. **BY: Shubilla 2ND: Cinti All For Motion Carried.**

Motion to authorize execution of Payment Request #1 of the WBASD MTF Driveway Access Grant in the amount of \$1,288,911.00. **BY: Biscontini 2ND: Shubilla For: Biscontini, Sax, Shubilla, Yozwiak. Abstain: Cinti** due to being a coach for the WBASD. **Motion Carried**

Motion to read and accept the first reading of the **2022 Budget.**

INCOME	2022 TENATIVE OPERATING BUDGET
Real Estate Taxes	\$ 1,672,500.00
Taxes, Enabling Act	2,809,200.00
Licenses & Permits	704,100.00
Fines, Forfeits & Costs	45,700.00
Interest & Rents	18,000.00
Grants & Gifts	5,934,240.00
Department Earnings	364,300.00
Non-Revenue Receipts	537,500.00
Misc Revenue Receipts	188,050.00
TOTAL REVENUE	\$12,273,590.00

EXPENDITURES	
General Government	\$ 267,815.00
Mun Bldgs/Offices	871,300.00
Tax Collection	6,975.00
Bldg, Regulations, Plan/Zone	239,440.00
Police Protection	1,951,930.00
Fire Protection	1,640,123.00
Health Services	5,750.00
Sanitation	404,632.00
General Services/Highways	1,197,239.00
General Services Main.	1,366,515.00
Parks & Recreation	236,720.00
Library Contributions	22,000.00
Principal/Interest -Unpaid Bills	1,212,711.00
Benefits, Payroll Taxes, Insurances	2,850,440.00
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$ 12,273,590.00

BY: Cinti 2ND: Sax Noted by Cinti no tax increase. **Sax** thanked Commissioner Yozwiak and the staff for their work on the budget. **All For Motion Carried.**

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ANNOUNCEMENTS – The next regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners will be held December 9, 2021 7:30 P.M. The Administrative and Zoning Offices be closed on Thursday and Friday November 25th and 26th in observance of the Thanksgiving Holiday. The DPW will be closed on Thursday, November 25th in observance of the Thanksgiving Holiday and Monday November 29th. Residents with Thursday garbage collection will have their garbage collected on Wednesday, November 24th. Residents with Monday garbage collection, will have their garbage pick-up on Tuesday, November 30th. Residents are reminded that there will be an eight-bag limit after the holiday collection week of November 30th through December 2nd. All other schedules remain the same. The Board wishes everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

TAXPAYERS

John Timko complaint of quads driving on the road by his house on Saylor Avenue. Showed pictures to the Board and is not getting any cooperation from the police. Just asking for the police to follow the law because he thinks it is a safety issue.

Allen Bartoli Asked the Board their responses to his complaint about the zoning ordinance, fence since he came to the last meeting. **Menn** spoke to Karen about this. \$700 bill for damage to his fence that the Township caused three years in a row. **Menn** you would have to submit to our insurance carrier. **Bartoli** asked why the police couldn't we set up a speed trap when one was set up for another area in Plains at the last meeting? Complaint about the nuisance bar by his house and several complaints were filed with the LCB. Complaint about the LCTA bus parked on his sidewalk and his front yard. Called LCTA about this complaint. I cannot use my sidewalk. Requesting saw horses because he cannot clean the sidewalks and does not want anyone using them. Thanked Veterans for their service.

Kevin Czekalsky Complaint about the sidewalks installed in front of his residence about three years ago, where they encased his water shut off. **Yozwiak** responded that he did call the water company about that and they told him that the complaint is on the list. Our engineer is here and maybe he could follow-up on this. **Czekalsky** also asked about street lights that was supposed to be put in with the sidewalks. **Yozwiak** responded that it was over budget. **Czekalsky** also thanked the veterans for their service.

Bernard Prevenak Thanked all veterans for their service. Complaint about a blast that happened at the New Enterprise Stone Quarry on October 27th that was severe. Called DEP and they reported it was within the guidelines. There has been damage to our homes in Heavenlee Acres from blasting. **Menn** reached out to DEP to express residents concerns and they said they did receive complaints. Also said the blasting was within the guidelines. DEP did mention that the mine shafts beneath the development will make the vibrations feel stronger. **Prevenak** asked the Board to broker a meeting with state representatives to express concerns and to see if we could change the blasting regulations.

Bob Angeli from audience spoke about the blasting and the amount of explosives they use.

Kim Bartoli asked the Board what has changed since last month when her husband was here complaining about their damaged fence and zoning. **Menn** answered that they are not in violation. **Bartoli** stated nothing has been done. Discussion between **Bartoli's and Menn**. **Menn** asked to have their attorney contact him.

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Clem Walkowiak Thanked the veterans for their service. Read to the Board what constitutes a nuisance bar. Stated that the Polish Club is a nuisance bar and he is getting a lawyer. **Biscontini** is the police commissioner and will look into what can be done.

ADJOURNMENT BY: Cinti 2ND: Yozwiak All For Motion Carried. TIME: 8:58 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,



Patricia Sluhocki
Secretary

Accepted By,



Gerald J. Yozwiak
Chairman