

**MINUTES OF THE PLAINS TOWNSHIP BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING OF
APRIL 14, 2022** **PAGE ONE**

CALL TO ORDER TIME: 7:00 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 Commissioner Regular Meeting of March 10th; Plains Township Planning Commission meetings of November 4, 2021, December 2nd, no meeting, January 6th no meeting, February 3rd no meeting and March 3, 2022; Plains Township Sewer Authority Meeting of January 20th; Wyoming Valley Sanitary Authority Meeting of February 15th; Plains Township Recreation Meetings of March 7th and April 4th. **Monthly Reports:** Police Department for February and March; Fire Department for March; EMA Coordinator for March; DPW Report for March; Zoning Permits for February; Contractors Licenses Issued for February; Secretaries Report for March. **Payrolls** of the Administrative, Zoning Office, Department of Public Works and Recreation Departments. The **Treasurers Report for March:** General Fund Receipts **\$546,144.10**; General Fund Disbursements **\$687,675.16**; Total Ending Balance in the General Fund as of **3/31/2022 - \$197,040.87**. **BY: Biscontini 2ND: Shubilla**
All For Motion Carried.

CORRESPONDENCE – None

COMMITTEE REPORTS

POLICE – Biscontini reported that over the last month Chief Binker along with DA Sam Sanguedolce did a collection throughout the county of 110 body armor vests to be donated to the people of the Ukraine. Thanked Chief Binker and DA Sanguedolce for their efforts. Also 10 of our 20 officers attended counter terrorism training dealing with bomb threats in the schools and by the fall all officers will have received the training. Sgt. Smith attended top gun training in Indian Town Gap to dealing with search warrants. Thanked the department for sending Sgt. Smith down. Not a bad month in the department with 16 deaths, 3 burglaries, 3 stolen vehicles, 3 overdoses and 3 suspicious persons. Warned residents to stay vigilant.

FIRE – Sax reported 120 fire calls this past month with 53 captains calls. Also installed 21 smoke detectors. If anyone needs smoke detectors installed, let the department know and they will schedule installation. This spring we are going to step up efforts to hit some blighted properties. Seems to be the same properties but we will be getting more aggressive by citing on a daily basis. We are trying to hit the sections of town that are consistently neglected.

DPW – Shubilla reported for the month of March: 216 tons of garbage and 42 tons of Co-Mingled Recycling. Reminder that the yard waste drop off has started. Bear with us with the pot holes until the hot patch is available at the asphalt plants.

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RECREATION – **Cinti** reported that the pavilion letters have gone out. Some dates are still available. Roof on the concession stand at the football field was just replaced. There was some damage. Concession stand roof in the pit was also fixed. All fields are basically being used now.

CHAIRMAN MESSAGE – **Yozwiak** mentioned that the asphalt plants are supposed to be open next week. They are putting cold patch down but that doesn't really stay in place. April is highway workers month. As you see these workers around, be aware for their safety and slow down. Monday, April 18th is line workers appreciation day. After a tornado or big storm, they come out to restore your utilities. There are 327 million people in the United States and there are only 12,000 FBI agents. Referring the incident that happened in New York yesterday, they can't be everywhere

OLD BUSINESS - None

NEW BUSINESS

Motion to authorize payment of the **General Fund Bills** consisting of the **Utility Bills \$24,194.81; Regular Bills \$117,359.74; Total \$141,554.55. BY: Cinti 2ND: Sax For: Biscontini, Cinti, abstain only from Assured Partners bill because of business relations, Sax, Shubilla, Yozwiak. Motion Carried.**

Motion to authorize the engineer to prepare and advertise the Fox Hill Firehouse No. 2 HVAC and Building Renovation Project. **BY: Shubilla 2ND: Biscontini All For Motion Carried.**

Motion to ratify the authorization of the Chairman to apply for two LSA grants for equipment in the fire and DPW departments that were due 3/15/2022. **BY: Sax 2ND: Cinti All For Motion Carried.**

Motion to purchase a 2011 Chevrolet Silverado from the WVSA at a cost of \$10,250.00 for the recreation department. **BY: Cinti 2ND: Shubilla All For Motion Carried.**

Motion to authorize raises and benefits to the following non-union employees' effective payroll of May 6th as follows: Pat Delesandro and Patty Neishel 3%. Justin Reiser, Matthew Westawski and Nathan Matthey to \$12.00 per hour and extra paid floating holiday for Nathan Matthey with notification to supervisor Jeff Gustinucci. A \$150 clothing allowance for all three, no carry over and need to spent by December 31, 2022. **BY: Biscontini 2ND: Sax All For Motion Carried.**

SOLICITORS REPORT

Motion to ratify the adoption of a resolution authorizing application for Local Share Account Funding for Costar New DPW Pick-Up and Dump Truck Project in the amount of \$158,254.00. **BY: Shubilla 2ND: Cinti All For Motion Carried.**

Motion to ratify the adoption of a resolution authorizing application for Local Share Account Funding for Costar New Fire Truck Pumper Project in the amount of \$629,300.00.

BY: Sax 2ND: Biscontini All For Motion Carried. Noted by Menn that this is just requesting funding for these projects. **Yozwiak** there was a statewide grant application due March 15th.

Motion to adopt a resolution and authorize execution of promulgation page of the revised Emergency Operations Plan. **BY: Cinti 2ND: Shubilla All For Motion Carried.**

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Motion to authorize the execution of an amendment to Intergovernmental Cooperation Agreement regarding the New High School Project in Plains Township by and between certain Pennsylvania political subdivisions. **Menn** in this case Wilkes-Barre Area School District and Plains Township. **BY: Biscontini 2ND: Sax For: Biscontini, Sax, Shubilla, Yozwiak. Abstain: Cinti because he is a coach for Wilkes-Barre Area School District. Motion Carried.**

Motion to authorize the execution of a DEP Sewerage Planning Exemption Mailer submitted by Plains Township Dollar General. **BY: Shubilla 2ND: Cinti For: Biscontini, Cinti, Shubilla, Yozwiak. Abstain: Sax because of employment. Motion Carried.**

Motion to extend the Police and Fire Civil Service Entry Level and Promotional Lists to June 30, 2023. **BY: Sax 2ND: Biscontini All For Motion Carried.**

Motion to adopt a resolution for the placement of No Parking Here to Corner signs on Charles Street at the intersection of Maffett Street and also to post No tractor trailer signs on Charles Street authorizing DPW to install. **BY: Biscontini 2ND: Shubilla All For Motion Carried.**

Motion to promote Jarrod Million as Fire Captain/Inspector effective April 16, 2022. **BY: Sax 2ND: Cinti All For Motion Carried.**

Motion to promote Curt Nocera as Fire Captain/Inspector effective April 16, 2022. BY: Cinti 2ND: Sax Tom Kubusky from the audience asked how many inspectors do you have currently and do you have any open positions? **Yozwiak and Cinti** answered four presently. Charlie Krommes retired. **Sax** noted that the deputy is serving as a captain on one of the squads. So he will step out of that now. There will be four Captains, Deputy and Chief. **All For Motion Carried.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS by Yozwiak: The next regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners will be held May 12, 2022 at 7:00 P.M. The Administrative and Zoning Offices will be closed on Friday, April 15th and the DPW will be closed on Monday, April 18th all in observance of the Easter holiday. Residents with Monday garbage collection will have their garbage picked-up on Tuesday, April 19th. All other schedules will remain the same. Board wishes everyone a Happy Easter and there will be recycling tomorrow.

TAXPAYERS

Steve Grezdinski – Met with Karen and she filled me in and just here for a follow-up on his issue with the business at rear Martin Street. He appreciates the action taken. There are two other residents here that are having the same issue with this business.

Karen Myers – Lives at 29 Martin Street complaining about noise, smell from the triaxles in the back. Has health issues and under doctor's care for her lungs. The house was shaking because of the noise. It's residential not commercial anymore. It used to be commercial when Jack Kozik had it with the bottling company. Can't deal with the noise and smell. **Sax** asked if the same amount of trucks are still there. **Grezdinski** was not sure. Last time there were four now it looks like maybe six trucks.

Alan Savage - Lives at 53 Martin Street helps out at the church food pantry. The people pick the food up in the back of the church and some of there workers give the people a hard time about using the road behind the church which he understands they do not own. They are also dumping on PAV property which they had a surveyed.

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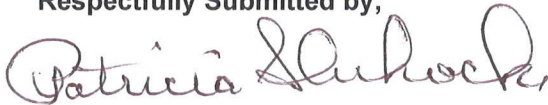
Mr. Dudder - Has his business there about 13 years. Don't know what the big deal is. We don't want anyone walking down on our property. It is a liability. **Shubilla** asked if the trucks are a new addition to the business. **Dudder** said the trucks have been there at least six years. Lives at 22 Martin Street and that is my back yard. **Biscontini** asked that at the last meeting there was testimony that there is a fueling station there. **Dudder** said it is a portable fuel tank that was installed by Button Oil. It was inspected and legal. **Yozwiak** you got to go back. It was a residential area and it was a bottling company that closed down. Are you operating a business in a residential area? Asked Karen Rubasky to verify. The church and our property are tied together. **Rubasky** would have to check but believes that religious buildings are allowed in residential districts. The issue with Mr. Dudder is we cannot find any type of permit for his business when he moved in. Charles Dudder applied for a use permit and she denied him now he will appeal her decision to the Zoning Hearing Board. **Dudder** when we first moved there we rented and did not know any better. But now we will do what we have to do to make it right. **Rubasky** asked Dudder what year they started to rent there. **Dudder** said 2007 or 2008. **Shubilla** added that at the end of day we what a compromise so the neighbors are not disturbed and you can still run your business. **Menn** this issue what we are talking about here, will be heard before the Zoning Hearing Board, which is a separate board. Not before this board. They will make the determination. **Rubasky** a church is allowed with special exception so that's a permitted use in a residential district. The goal here is to get the business permitted. **Yozwiak** you just have to have a hearing before the zoning board.

Bernie Antosh – Lives at 41 West Charles Street complaining about the condition of West Charles Street. **Sax and Yozwiak** were down to your street. Talked to Mrs. Frantz. The engineer has to go down there. We need to do some type of drainage there and to pave it. **Sax** said the lady at the end has a stream of water going through her yard. **Antosh** asked about tags or flags on the trees down there. **Yozwiak** replied that it's PPL. They are taking those trees down. **Antosh** could something be done about the weeds on the other side on the hill. **Yozwiak** A & E probably owns that. We'll look into that.

David Ciufferi – I have nothing to add from what Mr. Antosh reported, that the road is a mess. Also the difference in the level of the road. This should be fixed. His address is 31 W. Charles Street.

ADJOURNMENT BY: Cinti 2ND: Yozwiak All For Motion Carried. TIME: 7:40 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted by,



Patricia Sluhocki
Secretary

Accepted By,



Gerald J. Yozwiak
Chairman