

MINUTES OF THE PLAINS TOWNSHIP BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING OF  
OCTOBER 13, 2022

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CALL TO ORDER TIME: 7:05 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 September 8<sup>th</sup> and Special Meeting of September 22<sup>nd</sup>; Plains Twp. Recreation Board Meetings of September 12<sup>th</sup> and October 3<sup>rd</sup>; Plains Township Sewer Authority Meeting of July 21<sup>st</sup>; Wyoming Valley Sanitary Authority Meeting of July 26<sup>th</sup>. Receipt of WVSA Independent Auditor Report for years ending 2020 and 2021. **Monthly Reports:** Police Department for September; Fire Department for September; EMA Coordinator for September; DPW Report for September; Secretaries Report for September. **Payrolls** of the Administrative, Zoning Office, Department of Public Works and Recreation Departments. The **Treasurers Report for September:** General Fund Receipts **\$1,262,052.11**; General Fund Disbursements **\$1,713,099.75**; Total Ending Balance in the General Fund as of **9/30/2022 \$2,980,779.07**. **BY: Sax 2ND: Cinti All For Motion Carried.**

**CORRESPONDENCE – None**

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**POLICE – Biscontini** thanked Jeff Gustinucci and DPW going forward they will be assisting the police department with the evacuation drills at the schools. Also thanked the department for their efforts in pursuing a suspect stealing vehicles. Thanked Chief Ritsick for his assistance in helping capturing a subject that stealing vehicles. Chief Binker made arrangements for a speaker to talk to the senior citizens about scams on Monday.

**FIRE – Sax** reported the department had 124 fire calls, 68 captains calls for a total of 192 calls for the month of September. October is fire prevention month. Reminder to check your batteries in your smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors. Practice your family evacuation plans if possible. To date the firemen have installed smoke alarms in 136 households.

DPW – Shubilla reported that for the month of September: 205 tons of garbage and 37 tons of Co-Mingled Recycling. Note that West Saylor Avenue has been closed since 9/30/2022 and will be closed for one month. Reminder that Saturday, November 5<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 A.M. to 11:00 A.M. there will be electronics recycling at the municipal park. Most small items there will be no charge. Larger items have a small charge. Also from 9 A.M. to 12 Noon the same day there will be a paper recycling event. Confidential papers can be shredded free of charge.

RECREATION – Cinti reported that mini football, cheerleading and soccer are done at the park. Trunk or Treat will be Sunday, October 30<sup>th</sup>. The bathrooms at the park are being updated, so they will be temporarily closed. In January we will start accepting requests for the pavilion rental. I'll know next month if the rates are going to stay the same.

CHAIRMAN MESSAGE – Yozwiak reminded everyone that Friday, November 11<sup>th</sup> is Veteran's Day. We have our annual ceremony at the Vet Park on the corner of Maffett and River Streets. On this date in 1792, the first cornerstone was laid for the White House. Sax added that it's also the Navy's birthday.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**NEW BUSINESS**

Motion to authorize payment of the **General Fund Bills** consisting of the **Utility Bills \$23,434.83; Regular Bills \$268,514.31 Total \$291,949.14. BY: Shubilla 2ND: Biscontini For: Biscontini, Cinti except abstain from Assured Partners bill due to business relations, Sax, Shubilla, Yozwiak. Motion Carried.**

Motion to authorize the handicapped parking application of Anna Mae Yelland 76 Skidmore Street as recommended by a police traffic study. **BY: Cinti 2<sup>ND</sup> Sax All For Motion Carried.**

Motion to disburse the 2022 Commonwealth of Pa State Aid Pension Allocation to Township pension plans as follows:

Pension Unfunded Liability Loan Payment to Fidelity Bank **\$440,351.00**

Pension Plan	Remainder State Aid	MMO Balance – General Fund
Police	\$ 8,629.89	\$143,397.11
Fire	\$ 8,629.88	\$200,318.12
Non-Uniformed	\$ 8,629.89	\$ 36,080.11
Totals	\$ <b>25,889.66</b>	<b>\$379,797.34</b>

**Total State Aid Received \$466,240.66 BY: Biscontini 2ND: Shubilla All For Motion Carried.**

**SOLICITORS REPORT**

Motion to adopt a resolution and authorize execution of a Franchise Agreement with Comcast Cable subject to review and approval of the solicitor. **Noted by Menn**, they get renewed every 10 years and we are coming up on that 10-year mark where we renew that agreement.

**BY: Biscontini 2ND: Shubilla All For Motion Carried.**

Motion to authorize the solicitor to prepare and advertise a Consumer Fireworks Ordinance. **BY: Sax 2ND: Cinti All For Motion Carried.**

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Motion to award the bid for the Hilldale Stormwater Improvements Project – Phase 3 to Don E. Bower, Inc. for the low bid of \$487,486.00. **BY: Shubilla 2ND: Biscontini Noted by Shubilla to Mrs. De Vincenzo in the audience, that this project may help with your problem. All For Motion Carried.**

Motion to award the bid for the Wilcox Street Drainage Improvements Project to AR Popple TKG & EXC, LLC for the low base bid of \$58,200.00. **BY: Cinti 2ND: Sax All For Motion Carried.**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS by Yozwiak:** The next regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners will be held November 10, 2022 at 7:00 P.M.

**TAXPAYERS:**

**Mark Saks** – 59 Maple Street in the Fox Hill Section of Plains. Commenting on the last concert that was held on September 30<sup>th</sup> at Mohegan Sun that the Board gave permission to hold. The noise was so devastating that the bass was vibrating the walls in his home. It was going on from 7:30 to 1:45 in the morning. Asked what the criteria is used to approved these permits. Called the police department twice that night. Questioned the noise ordinance. **Board** said it was the Brett Michaels concert. **Karen Rubasky** explained the process of the special use permit. **Chief Binker** also explained the noise ordinance and how the department charges under the disorderly conduct state law. The **Board** was not aware of the concert or noise complaints, but will look into the situation. Also **Saks**, complained about the noise barriers being taken down by developers of the Dolphin Plaza and the Casino. The noise is unbearable enough where he can't keep his windows opened at night or during the day. Asked if anything could be done about the Jake Brake noises from the Microtel to the Casino entrance and E. Main Street to Route 315. Board we would have to request a study from Penn Dot. **Saks** is requesting Jake Brake signs to help alleviate the noise that has gotten worse. **Yozwiak** we will request a study from Penn Dot.

**Kathie De Vincenzo** – 5 Skyview Drive their street is constantly deluged with water after a storm. Thanked the Board for approving the Hilldale Project. Something happened in the last 10 days that she is getting water gushing into her sump pump. Waiting for pump to kick and basement be destroyed. **Yozwiak** asked if she called the water company that she may have something leaking in the neighborhood. **De Vincenzo** did call the water company and they tested it and said it is ground water because there is no chlorine in the water. **Yozwiak and Brian Palmiter** explained the Hilldale project. Project has to be done by May. **De Vincenzo** asked if the catch basins could come in the mean time to unblock. She thinks someone altered the water table. **Cinti** said he would call WVSA to unblock. **Brian Palmiter** is also going to meet with them to discuss further and look where they could put catch basins. **Yozwiak** told them you could connect to our catch basins but we cannot go on your property.

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**Steve Grzezdziński** – 28 Martin Street and is looking for an update on the landscaping business that is in his neighborhood because it is business as usual. Nothing has changed. Asking if they were cited and relocated. **Karen Rubasky**, Zoning Officer explained the status and what has happened since the zoning hearing. Received notice in July to cease operations. Has issued citations and is awaiting a court date. Filing citations weekly. We went through the steps. **Biscontini and Sax** asked when did she start citing him. **Rubasky** said she just started citing him this month. He said he was looking for another property to re-locate to. **Yozwiak** that is the status. We gave him notice and we are citing him and just waiting for a court date. **Grzezdziński and Board** wants to know when the hearing is scheduled for. **Shubilla** asked if he can be cited every day. **Menn** said that's not going to make a difference.

**ADJOURNMENT BY: Cinti 2ND: Yozwiak All For Motion Carried. TIME: 7:53 P.M.**

Respectfully Submitted,

**Patricia Sluhocki**  
Secretary

Accepted By,

  
**Gerald J. Yozwiak**  
Chairman