

**MINUTES OF THE PLAINS TOWNSHIP BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING OF  
DECEMBER 8, 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 November 10<sup>th</sup>; Noted there was no Plains Township Planning Commission Meeting on December 1<sup>st</sup>; Plains Township Recreation Board Meeting of November 7<sup>th</sup>; Wyoming Valley Sanitary Authority Meeting of October 18<sup>th</sup>. **Monthly Reports:** Police Department for November; Fire Department for November; EMA Coordinator for November; DPW Report for November; Zoning Permits Issued for November; Contractor Licenses Issued for November; Secretaries Report for November. **Payrolls** of the Administrative, Zoning Office, Department of Public Works and Recreation Departments. The **Treasurers Report for November:** General Fund Receipts **\$952,742.53**; General Fund Disbursements **\$747,381.03**; Total Ending Balance in the General Fund as of **11/30/2022 \$2,094,419.32**. **BY: Cinti 2ND: Shubilla All For Motion Carried.**

**CORRESPONDENCE – None**

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**POLICE – Biscontini** reported that we are going to be resurrecting the Crime Watch. Shooting for the third Monday in February and do it quarterly. We will have an announcement on Facebook and in the newspaper. Commended Detective Minnick who assisted the Department of Homeland Security in apprehending a child predator.

**FIRE – Sax** reported 147 fire calls last month. The Department is collecting Toys for Tots. Box is located at the Municipal Building. The Fire Department still has smoke detectors available. Supply and install to any Township resident. So far they have installed 152 detectors. Contact the department if you're interested.

**DPW – Shubilla** reported for November, we had 37 tons of Co-Mingled Recyclables, 224 tons of garbage. The leaf and yard waste pick up is over. Starting January 7<sup>th</sup>, 2023, you can drop off your co-mingled recycling on Saturday's from 9 A.M. to Noon. The DPW continues to do patrols with the leaf vac and getting ready for the winter season.

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**RECREATION** – Cinti thanked the DPW department for assistance in knocking down a faulty swing set. We will be looking for some new equipment for the park. Accepting pavilion applications in January for next year. We will also be looking for summer help for the summer camp and recreation seasonal employment. Usually take high school seniors now or college students. Also available is the Park Master Plan which we will be passing later in the meeting if anyone wants to see the plan for the Municipal Park, it is available.

**CHAIRMAN MESSAGE** – Told the audience to be aware of scams for the holiday season. Watch your accounts and credit cards. Watched last night where they put a card reader on the register at the Walmart in Pittston and they got people's credit card information. Thanked the Plains Lions Club for the decorations in town, the Santa parade and those that showed up for our November 11<sup>th</sup> Veterans Day ceremony.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**NEW BUSINESS**

Motion to authorize payment of the **General Fund Bills** consisting of the **Utility Bills \$23,894.70; Regular Bills \$402,878.49 Total \$426,773.19. BY: Sax 2ND: Biscontini For: Biscontini, Cinti for except abstain from Assured Partners Bill due to business relations, Sax, Shubilla, Yozwiak. Motion Carried.**

Motion to authorize refund of paid taxes for the year 2021 to James and Christine Hannigan of 158 South Main Street in the amount of \$15.50. **BY: Shubilla 2<sup>ND</sup> Cinti All For Motion Carried**

Motion to request a police traffic study for No parking at the intersection with Spruce Avenue and the North Beech Road. **BY: Biscontini 2ND: Sax All For Motion Carried.**

Motion to authorize the handicapped parking application of Jaclyn Jones of 2 E. Stanton Street as recommended by a police traffic study. **BY: Cinti 2<sup>ND</sup> Shubilla All For Motion Carried.**

**SOLICITORS REPORT**

Motion to approve the purchase of a 2019 Ford F550 truck from the Wyoming Valley Sanitary Authority at a bid price of \$47,500.00. **BY: Sax 2ND: Biscontini All For Motion Carried.**

Motion to accept the financing bid of 5.99% from FNCB Bank for the purchase of the 2019 Ford F-550 and authorize execution of any paperwork necessary subject to review and approval of the solicitor. **BY: Shubilla 2ND: Cinti All For Motion Carried.**

Motion to adopt a resolution accepting the Municipal Park Master Plan. **BY: Cinti 2ND: Sax All For Motion Carried.**

Motion to authorize the execution of the Wyoming Valley Regional Stormwater Program Partnership Agreement. **BY: Shubilla 2ND: Biscontini All For Motion Carried.**

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Motion to scrap the 2005 Chevy Silverado recreation department pick-up truck to Harry's U Buy-It for \$700 and authorize secretary to sign over the title. **BY: Cinti 2<sup>ND</sup> Sax All For Motion Carried.**

Motion to adopt a resolution to authorize the H2O grant application through the Commonwealth Financing Authority for the Delaware Street and Hudson Gardens Stormwater Improvements Projects **BY: Biscontini 2ND: Shubilla All For Motion Carried.**

Motion to adopt a resolution requesting to become a member of the North East Land Bank Authority. **BY: Sax 2<sup>ND</sup> Biscontini All For Motion Carried.**

Motion to read and accept the second and final reading of the **2023 Budget.**

<b>INCOME</b>	<b>2023 FINAL OPERATING BUDGET</b>
Real Estate Taxes	\$ 1,685,500.00
Taxes, Enabling Act	3,118,500.00
Licenses & Permits	728,600.00
Fines, Forfeits & Costs	45,200.00
Interest & Rents	11,000.00
Grants & Gifts	6,280,773.44
Department Earnings	405,000.00
Non-Revenue Receipts	601,000.00
Misc Revenue Receipts	163,000.00
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b>\$ 13,038,573.44</b>

<b>EXPENDITURES</b>	
General Government	\$ 356,700.00
Mun Bldgs/Offices	995,500.00
Tax Collection	7,275.00
Bldg, Regulations, Plan/Zone	318,850.00
Police Protection	2,062,647.94
Fire Protection	1,696,602.85
Health Services	6,925.00
Sanitation	437,449.44
General Services/Highways	1,435,640.29
General Services Main.	1,591,417.10
Parks & Recreation	253,016.00
Library Contributions	22,000.00
Principal/Interest -Unpaid Bills	1,212,711.13
Benefits, Payroll Taxes, Insurances	2,641,838.69
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>\$ 13,038,573.44</b>

**BY: Sax 2ND: Cinti All For Motion Carried.**

Motion to adopt the Annual Budget of the Township of Plains for Fiscal Year 2023 Tax Levy and Appropriation Ordinance. **BY: Shubilla 2ND: Biscontini Sax** thanked everyone in the office involved. **Yozwiak** commented that there are no tax increases. **All For Motion Carried.**

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**ANNOUNCEMENTS** By Yozwiak: The next regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners will be held January 12, 2023 7:00 P.M. The Administrative, Zoning Offices and DPW be closed on Mondays, December 26 and January 2<sup>nd</sup> in observance of the Christmas and New Year's Holidays. Residents with Monday garbage collections, will have their garbage pick-up on Tuesday, December 27<sup>th</sup> and January 3<sup>rd</sup>. Residents are reminded that there will be a six-bag limit after the Christmas holiday, collection week of December 27<sup>th</sup> through December 29<sup>th</sup>. All other schedules remain the same. Wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

**TAXPAYERS**

**Mary Ann Pistack** – Complaints about pot holes on Penrose to Seminole Ave. Also the road narrows on Penrose to Iroquois with trees growing over. Jeff Gustinucci was there and said he would put some cold patch in until the hot patch is available in the spring and take a look at the trees, but could only cut in the right a way.

**Mary Frances Bobeck** – Complaint about the installation of water line in her development of Mill Creek Acres that has been going on since August. **Yozwiak** did reach out to the water company and they said they hit rock is why it's taking so long which will set any contractor back. **Bobek** they hit her cable line and she hasn't had it since September 28<sup>th</sup>. They did a temporary fix. Wants to know if they gave you any plans as to how they are going to restore everything back to normal. **Biscontini** when they put a main line in they have to restore the whole street back, curb to curb. **Bobek** would also like the entrance of the development fixed as well. We have piles of 20" pipes stacked in our neighborhood. Complained about the big pile of dirt and the trucks traveling up and down creating dust issues in the neighborhood. **Yozwiak** will reach out again. **Sax** was there today. The entrance is terrible. **Bobek** also asked about the sale of the land below our development and the detention pond as well. Discussion about land sale. **Karen Rubasky** reported that Dream Home LLC which is what was listed on the GIS Site. **Bobek** shared pictures with the Board.

**Adelle Rosworth** – Complained that the contractor is using the development as a resting place for the heavy equipment. Concerned that emergency vehicles cannot get through to the residents and to make sure we have the support from our Township. **Yozwiak** we will send the police up there tomorrow morning to have them move them.

**Lou Mangino** - His concern is what does the contract with the water company call for them to return the road back properly. Would like someone from the water company and the contractor to attend your next meeting so they can answer questions. What protection do we have? **Yozwiak** said we will send an email to our engineer to have him go up there and he can talk to them as well and review their plans and get some answers. **Mangino** asked if we can get a water truck up there to alleviate some of the dust. **Yozwiak** we should be able to and will ask. **Mangino** how do we handle our damages to report to them. **Cinti** suggested to itemize their damages.

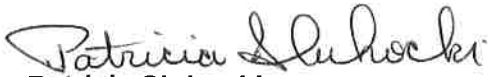
**Jody Gunardi** - Complained about the entrance way of Mill Creek Acres within the last two days developed 2 pot holes by the sign. Asked if we can get that filled in. **Board** said the police will be there tomorrow. **Yozwiak** maybe Jeff can get some cold patch up there.

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**Steve Grzeznzinski** - Returning about his complaint on the business in his neighborhood. Handed out information about what is going on. I appreciate the efforts of the Township. But he is now expanding to another triaxle and is not stopping. The trucks idle for 1 ½ hours starting at 5:30 in the morning on Saturday's. Also expanding to snow management part of his business.

**ADJOURNMENT BY: Cinti 2ND: Yozwiak All For Motion Carried. TIME: 7:47 P.M.**

**Respectfully Submitted,**

  
**Patricia Sluhocki**  
**Secretary**

**Accepted By,**

  
**Gerald J. Yozwiak**  
**Chairman**