

**MINUTES OF THE PLAINS TOWNSHIP BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING OF
MAY 11, 2023**

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CALL TO ORDER TIME: 7:00 P.M.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Led by Gerald Yozwiak

ROLL CALL: 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 April 13th and Special Meeting of April 19th; Plains Township Planning Commission meeting of February 2nd noted that there was no meeting on March 2nd; Plains Township Recreation Board Meeting of May 1st; Wyoming Valley Sanitary Authority Meeting of March 21st and their Operations and Infrastructure Meeting of April 3rd. **Monthly Reports:** Police Department for April; Fire Department for April; EMA Coordinator for April; DPW Report for April; Zoning Permits for April; Contractors Licenses Issued for April; Secretaries Report for April. **Payrolls** of the Administrative, Zoning Office, Department of Public Works and Recreation Departments. **The Treasurers Report for April:** General Fund Receipts **\$1,431,141.69**; General Fund Disbursements **\$875,685.38**; Total Ending Balance in the General Fund as of **4/30/2022 - \$1,152,802.97**. **BY: Sax 2ND: Cinti All For Motion Carried.**

E. CORRESPONDENCE – None

F. COMMITTEE REPORTS

POLICE – Biscontini gave a heartfelt thank you to Officer Brian Baranski who worked for the department for the last 25 years. Had a very positive impact on the department and the community. Thanked the police, fire and ambulance for their great presentation over at the high school last week. It was a pre-prom demonstration about drunk driving. We are trying to find additional officers for the department.

FIRE – Sax thanked the departments for the demonstration at the high school. Reported 135 fire calls for the month and 31 captains calls for a total of 166 calls. The department participated in career day at the Mohegan Sun ballroom sponsored by Junior Achievement. Captain Million headed the project for the department. A demonstration was done of different fire incidents and showed off the equipment that the firefighters use. Also reported that there was a fire today at Mohegan Sun hotel on the fifth floor. Got assistance from mutual aid because we had two fire engines out for servicing. Thanked everyone that were involved.

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DPW – Shubilla reported that for the month of April, we had 91 tons of garbage and 53 tons of Co-Mingled Recycling. DPW also has been blacktopping various areas throughout town. Received information from Senator Flynn that there is a shred fest coming up on May 20th at PNC Field. Thanked Penn Dot and Eddie Day Pashinski's office for repairing the big bump in the road on River Street and are in the process of fixing the drainage on River Road by Rite Aid.

RECREATION – Cinti the summer camp is going to be starting Tuesday, June 13th through Friday July 28th. Still looking for summer help with the parks and DPW on a part time basis. Applications are available at the town hall. Thanked Chief Ritsick and Russell Howell for assistance in moving a fallen tree that was blocking the sidewalk by the old high school. Mentioned that he coached Patrolman Baranski when he was in high school. Amazing that he is retiring and I'm still working. Was a great kid, great football player, great leader and patrolman for the Township. Wishing him and his family the best in his retirement.

CHAIRMAN MESSAGE – Yozwiak thanked Officer Baranski for his years of service. He is a good guy. We are going to miss him. Voting is next Tuesday; the machines are here. Vote early and vote often. Memorial Day Service 8:00 A.M. at the Veterans Park. Eddie Day Pashinski will be the speaker. Lock your cars. Our Chief went to Scranton and Hazleton to the Police Act 120 schools to try to recruit some candidates. This town supports the police and all of our departments.

OLD BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

Motion to authorize payment of the **General Fund Bills** consisting of the **Utility Bills \$23,708.03; Regular Bills \$279,084.77; Total \$302,792.80. BY: Biscontini 2ND: Shubilla For: Biscontini, Cinti, except abstain from Assured Partners bill due to business relations, Sax, Shubilla, Yozwiak. Motion Carried.**

Motion to accept a letter of retirement from Patrolman Brian Baranski from the Plains Township Police Department and approve all retirement benefits entitled to as stated in the Collective Bargaining Agreement. **BY: Cinti with regrets 2ND: Sax and thanked him for his service. All For Motion Carried.**

Motion to request a police traffic study for a possible stop sign at the intersection of School and Stanton Streets . **BY: Shubilla 2ND: Biscontini All For Motion Carried.**

Motion to request a traffic study from Penn Dot for possible Jake Brake Retardant signs for the entire length of West Saylor Avenue from North Main to North River Streets and also on North Main Street from the Jenkins Township line to Courtright Street. **BY: Sax 2ND: Cinti Mr. Kaiser** from the audience questioned about East Saylor Ave. that was never approved. **Yozwiak** clarifying the correct requested areas. **All For Motion Carried.**

Motion to authorize raises to the following non-union employees effective payroll of June 2nd as follows: Part Time Firemen to \$13.00 per hour; Pat Delesandro and Patty Neishel 3%. Aimee Stella to \$14.00 per hour, Justin Reiser and Karl Blight to \$13.00 per hour. **BY: Biscontini 2ND: Shubilla All For Motion Carried.**

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Motion to hire Nathan Matthey as a full-time DPW laborer effective May 15, 2023, subject to successful completion of a physical examination, post-employment offer testing, background check and per the terms of the UFCW Local 1776 Union Contract. **BY: Shubilla 2ND: Cinti Yozwiak** offered congratulations. He has been here for three years and haven't heard anything from him. Probably picked up most of the reported 91 tons of garbage that was reported. **All For Motion Carried.**

Motion to authorize execution of Change Order No. 3 of the 2022 Paving Project to Don E. Bower, Inc. for an increase of \$22, 848.35. **BY: Sax 2ND: Biscontini All For Motion Carried.**

Motion to authorize payment application No. 1 of the 2022 Paving Project to Don E. Bower in the amount of \$130,005.49. **BY: Cinti 2ND: Shubilla All For Motion Carried.**

Motion to authorize payment application No. 2 of the West Stanton Street Stormwater Project to Belles Property Management, LLC in the amount of \$4,610.71. **BY: Biscontini 2ND: Shubilla All For Motion Carried.**

Motion to authorize final payment of the Wilcox Street Stormwater Project to A.R. Popple in the amount of \$15,000.00 **BY: Cinti 2ND: Sax All For Motion Carried.**

Solicitor Menn requests to make an amendment to Motion #4 about the traffic study. Motion to amend # 4 to include East Saylor Avenue. **BY: Shubilla 2ND: Cinti All For Motion Carried.**

SOLICITORS REPORT

Motion to authorize execution of a Memorandum of Agreement by and between Plains Township Police Bargaining Unit and Plains Township. **BY: Shubilla 2ND: Cinti All For Motion Carried.**

Motion to award the bid of the Birchwood Hills Paving Project to Stell Enterprises for the low bid of \$61,313.50. **BY: Biscontini 2ND: Cinti All For Motion Carried.**

Motion to ratify the execution of the contract with the Commonwealth Financing Authority for the Local Share Account Fire Dept. New Fire Truck Pumper Project. **BY: Sax 2ND: Shubilla All For Motion Carried.**

Motion to adopt an ordinance approving penalty, interest and a fee schedule for collection of delinquent real estate taxes in Plains Township. These taxes will then be collected by Elite Revenue and the fees incurred for not paying their taxes on time. It then goes into collection after the penalty period. **BY: Cinti 2ND: Biscontini All For Motion Carried.**

Motion to award a bid for the sale of a Township owned property located at 58 St. James Street Dan Lasiewicki for a high bid of \$10,500.00. We received two bids. **BY: Shubilla 2ND: Sax All For Motion Carried.**

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ANNOUNCEMENTS BY Yozwiak: The next regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners will be held June 8, 2023 at 7:00 P.M. The Administrative, Zoning Office and DPW will be closed Monday, May 29th all in observance of the Memorial Day holiday. Residents with Monday garbage collection will have their garbage picked-up on Tuesday, May 30th. Residents are reminded that there is a six-bag limit after a holiday the collection week of May 30th to June 1st. All other schedules will remain the same.

TAXPAYERS

Steve Grzezdinski – Thanked everyone for the help with the business that was operating at the rear of 22 Martin Street. It made the neighborhood a little quieter. Now we have an occasional visit of a tri-axle in our residential area. **Karen Myers**, his neighbor is also here with the dates and videos of when Charles Dutter's brother comes down Martin Street, uses his compression brakes and washes his vehicle. **Grzezdinski** requested no trucks, local delivery only sign. **Yozwiak** we will put on our next work session agenda to discuss. We just passed an ordinance restricting vehicles for the warehouse that they were proposing on Sunset Drive but the ordinance is generic. **Menn** the person you should be thanking is Karen who did all the work on this.

ADJOURNMENT BY: Cinti 2ND: Yozwiak All For Motion Carried. TIME: 7:26 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,


Patricia Sluhocki
Secretary

Accepted By,


Gerald J. Yozwiak
Chairman