

**MINUTES OF THE PLAINS TOWNSHIP BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING OF
AUGUST 10, 2023** **PAGE ONE**

CALL TO ORDER TIME: 7:02

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Led by Gerald Yozwiak

ROLL CALL: PRESENT, Ciro Cinti, Robert Sax, Thomas Shubilla, and Gerald Yozwiak. Attorney Steven Menn, & Lynell Ent. ABSENT: Peter J. Biscontinini, Esq.

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 July 13th Plains Township Planning Commission Meeting of July 6th Plains Township Recreation Board Meeting of July 10th; Plains Township Sewer Authority Meetings of June 15, WVSA Board Meeting May 23, 2023 **Monthly Reports:** Police Department; Fire Department, **DPW** for July; Zoning Permits & Contractors Licenses Issued for July; Secretaries Report for July. Wyoming Valley Sanitary Authority Audit Reports for years ending 2021 and 2022 **Payrolls** of the Administrative, Zoning Office, Department of Public Works and Recreation Departments. The **Treasurers Report for July:** General Fund Receipts **\$278,004.10** General Fund Disbursements **\$1,318,185.71**; Total Ending Balance in the General Fund as of **7/31/2023 - \$2,787,141.40. BY: Sax 2ND: Shubilla (Cinti Abstain from recreation payroll due to relations Michelle Waslasky and Hailey Oliver) All For, motion carried.**

CORRESPONDENCE – None

COMMITTEE REPORTS

POLICE – Shubilla Later tonight hopefully we will be voting to hire 2 new police officers. Plains maybe hiring our first female officer. Earlier this month we held our National Night Out up at the Pavilion in the Park, it was a huge success. It was really one of the biggest that I have every seen. Hopefully it continues to grow and gain in popularity. It was a great day.

FIRE – Sax 120 calls and 54 captains calls for a total of 174 calls. Captain Nocera is continuing to work on the County Covid Grant which has gotten the department \$500,000 in equipment. The department has smoke detectors which they will install for free, if anyone needs them please call the office to set up an appointment. I would also like to thank the police department especially Officer Poulos for doing such a great job, Chief Binker has a great department that runs that. All of the other departments DPW and Fire also participated so we thank them also.

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DPW – Shubilla JULY: 199.20 tons of garbage and 50 tons of Co-Mingled Recycling
The kids from the summer camp did send the commissioners a very nice letter, so I would like to thank them for that.

RECREATION Cinti – I would like to thank all counselors and kids that attended summer camp It was a great success. I hope the board continues to sponsor the camp next year, it is a great program and the kids get a lot out of it. Rec department doesn't get a lot of credit for the National night out but I would like to thank them, they did a good job and kept the park nice and clean. Thank you to all of our departments.

CHAIRMAN MESSAGE Yozwiak – I would also like to thank everyone for National Night Out. It was a nice night and a great job. But just a note on fraud – I'm working at home and I get a Fedex delivery and I thought it was my grill parts but it was parts for a refrigerator. I call GE and they say yes \$151 on your visa and \$1500 more being delivered tomorrow to Bronx NY. I say no stop not mine my card was compromised. So be vigilant and watch your cards.

OLD BUSINESS - NONE

NEW BUSINESS

Motion to authorize payment of the **General Fund Bills** consisting of the **Utility Bills \$41,384.19; Regular Bills \$255,128.52; Total \$296,512,71. Cinti abstain for Assured Partners Bill** **BY: Shubilla 2ND: Sax All for, motion carried.**

Motion to Certify Civil Service Police Entry Level and Promotional Eligibility Lists
BY: Cinti 2ND: Shubilla All for, motion carried

SOLICITORS REPORT

Motion to hire Ana Pena, as an entry level police officer effective September 16, 2023 subject to successful completion of all physical, psychological and background examinations per the terms of the police department union contract and civil service rules and regulations. **BY: Sax 2ND: Cinti All for, motion carried.** Mr. J. Granteed questioned the motion, he is concerned about how the applicants get chosen: it is explained that the Civil Service Board advertises that there will be a test and the process goes forward from there, to get the Civil Service Eligibility list. Mr. Granteed questioned weather the applicants need to be US citizens.

Motion to hire Matthew Melendez, as an entry level police officer effective September 16, 2023 subject to successful completion of all physical, psychological and background examinations per the terms of the police department union contract and civil service rules and regulations. **BY: Cinti 2ND: Shubilla All for, motion carried.** Mr. Granteed questioned the motion with the same question above and informed the answers were the same

Motion to ratify the documents for the letter of credit from FNCB Bank in the amount of \$16,948.80 to PennDOT for West Charles Street project **BY: Shubilla 2ND: Sax All for, motion carried**

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Motion to adopt a Resolution to appoint the Township Secretary as its Authorized representative to make requests and receive any and all tax information from Berkheimer relative to Plains Township. **BY: Cinti 2ND: Sax All for, motion carried.**

Motion to extend the construction completion date of the Fish and Boat Commission Grant to December 31, 2024 **BY: Shubilla 2ND: Sax All for, motion carried.**

Motion to approve solicitor to enter into stipulated settlement on tax appeal filed on behalf of EFN Wyoming Valley Properties LLC for a total assessed value of \$7,600,000. Said stipulation was entered into by all parties including Luzerne County and Wilkes-Barre Area School District. **BY: Cinti 2ND: Shubilla All for, motion carried**

ANNOUNCEMENTS – The next regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners will be held September 14, 2023 at 7:00 P.M. The Administrative, DPW and Zoning offices will be closed on Monday, September 4TH in observance of the Labor Day Holiday. Residents with Monday garbage collection will have their garbage picked up on Tuesday, September 5TH. Residents are also reminded that there will be a 6 bag limit the week after the holiday during the collection week of September 5TH through September 7TH. All other schedules remain the same.

TAXPAYERS (Time limit 5 minutes taxpayers must sign in).

Mr. Kaiser: Jake Brakes on Saylor Ave and N. Main Street. Is the Board still in favor with getting PennDot to prohibit jake brakes? North Main to W. Saylor is prohibited. Mr. Kaiser is going to try and get PennDot to prohibit jake brakes from Main Street to Savoy Drive. So we have them prohibited in both directions.

Officer Pembridge was asked by Chairman Yozwiak if you need to be a US Citizen to apply for a job as a police officer. He responded yes.

Mr. Granteed: Police Candidates are act 120 certified and us citizens but I am still not happy with this.

When did the price of clutter stickers go up and where is that money going. – Board answered that it is going to the landfill, wages, etc. The items are picked up once a month instead of once a year.

He also wants the burn ban to be reconsidered, and the cost of bags has also gone up.

ADJOURNMENT BY: Cinti 2ND: Shubilla Roll Call: B C SA SH Y TIME: 7:42

Respectfully Submitted,

Accepted By,



Assistant Secretary



Chairman