

**MINUTES OF THE PLAINS TOWNSHIP BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING OF  
SEPTEMBER 14, 2023**

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**CALL TO ORDER TIME:** 7:00

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Led by Gerald Yozwiak

**ROLL CALL:** Peter J. Biscontini, Esq., Ciro Cinti, Robert Sax, Thomas Shubilla, and Gerald Yozwiak. Lynell Ent

**Swearing in of new Officers Ana Pena and Matthew Melendez by Judge Gartley**

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 August 10, 2023 · Plains Township Planning Commission Meeting of August 3<sup>rd</sup>, Plains Township Recreation Board Meeting of August 7<sup>th</sup>; Plains Township Sewer Authority Meetings of July 2023 **Monthly Reports:** Police Department; Fire Department, **DPW** for August; Zoning Permits & Contractors Licenses Issued for August; Secretaries Report for August. **Payrolls** of the Administrative, Zoning Office, Department of Public Works and Recreation Departments. The **Treasurers Report for August:** General Fund Receipts **\$1,630,885.33** General Fund Disbursements **\$772,430.55**; Total Ending Balance in the General Fund as of **8/31/2023 - \$3,646,091.27. BY: Cinti 2ND: Biscontini All for, Motion Carried.**

**CORRESPONDENCE – None**

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**POLICE –** I would like to thank Judge Gartley for the beautiful ceremony for the new hires. I want to commend the department for completing the PennDot Aggressive Driver Grant Program, in August our department pulled over a total of 137 vehicles. We received a letter from Attorney O'Donnell on behalf of the estate of Eric Vinucchi, in regards to a donation to the department which will be used for new bullet proof vests. I also want to commend everyone involved in a substantial drug raid on Crow St. Finally, I want to wish good luck to Officers Pena and Melendez as they begin their journey here in Plains Twp. We are still looking to add to our department but this is a step in the right direction.

**FIRE –** In the Fire Department we had 114 fire calls and 33 captains calls for a total of 147 calls for August. A committee has been formed to help with the distribution of the Luzerne County Grant monies. The committee includes Captain Nocera, co-chair Captain VanLuvender, firefighters, Redmond, Malvizzi, Gillott, and Jay Nocera. Just a reminder the fire department has smoke detectors available for anyone who needs them, you can make an appointment to have

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them installed by calling the North Main Street Municipal building.

**DPW** – August: 241.59 tons of garbage and 36.15 tons of Co-Mingled Recycling  
I would like to thank the DPW for their participation in NNO last month and for their clean up with a number of rain events we had in August.

**RECREATION** – We have Soccer, Football and Cheerleading are all going on at the Park right now so watch for a lot of children running around. I am very happy with the success of our Summer Camp. I am defiantly going to push to have the program available again next year

**CHAIRMAN MESSAGE** – They say its going to be in the upper 40's tonight, so good sleeping weather and fall is on its way. I want to thank the officers that were sworn in tonight, I was a very good ceremony, Thank you Judge Gartley, as well as our Officers who were able to attend, our department secretaries, DPW and Fire Department. Let's Go Eagles.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**NEW BUSINESS**

Motion to authorize payment of the **General Fund Bills** consisting of the **Utility Bills \$22,393.27; Regular Bills \$235,893.60; Total \$258,286.87. (Cinti abstain for Assured Partners Bill) BY: Shubilla 2ND: Sax All For, Motion Carried**

Motion to accept the 2024 MMO's for the Police, Fire and Non-Uniform Pension Plans as submitted by AFG Pension Administrators **BY: Cinti 2ND: Biscontini All For, Motion Carried**

Motion to accept a letter of retirement from Secretary Patricia Sluhocki as of October 13, 2023 and approve all retirement benefits entitled to as stated in the UFCW Union Contract. **BY: Sax 2ND: Cinti All For, Motion Carried**

Motion to adopt a resolution authorizing application for Local Share Account Funding for a New Costar Chevrolet Tahoe Police PPV in the amount of \$64,750.00. **BY: Biscontini 2ND: Shubilla All For, Motion Carried**

Motion to adopt a resolution authorizing application for Local Share Account Funding for 50 2<sup>nd</sup> Street No. 2 Fire House Improvements Project in the amount of \$986,258.35. **BY: Sax 2ND: Cinti All For, Motion Carried**

Motion to adopt a resolution authorizing application for Local Share Account Funding for a New DPW Salt Shed in the amount of \$298,160.50 **BY: Shubilla 2ND: Biscontini All For, Motion Carried**

Motion to adopt a resolution authorizing application for Local Share Account Funding for North Main Street Storm Sewer Repairs in the amount of \$180,336.20.

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

Motion to adopt a resolution authorizing application for Local Share Account Funding and the Commonwealth Financing Authority with Geisinger Wyoming Valley for funding for a SIM Mannequin in the amount of \$71,175.28. **BY: Biscontini 2ND: Sax All For, Motion Carried**

Motion to allow residents on South & West Beech Road to apply to Plains Township Planning Commission for subdivision of Plains Township property. Said subdivision shall be in accordance with survey maps provided by residents to the township for property recorded in deed book 1790 page 401 located behind their respective properties. The township has determined this portion of wooded property is unusable and not able to be developed for township purposes. **BY: Sax 2ND: Biscontini All For, Motion Carried**

Motion to authorize payment request #2 of the LSA DPW Truck Project in the amount of \$98,488.00. **BY: Shubilla 2ND: Cinti All For, Motion Carried**

Motion to adopt a resolution authorizing application for Local Share Account Funding with Plains American Legion for new roof project. **BY: Biscontini 2ND: Sax All For, Motion Carried**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS** – The next regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners will be held October 12, 2023 at 7:00 P.M.

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

Joe Granteed – I first want to say that the new officers and their families seem very nice, but when I came here last month I had a lot of questions about their hiring and I feel that none of them were answered correctly. I am here to object to their hiring on the basis that I don't believe they are United States Citizens, the Civil Service Commission is not following regulation and these people are not citizens of the United States. None of the questions have been answered. Commissioner Sax- We have a civil service commission that vets these applications and sets rules.

Granteed – I believe the Civil Service does not require them to be US Citizens I will be filing a FOIA (freedom of information act) to get the answers. I have a bunch of people and we are going to get together and draft a FOIA with all of the questions that need to be answered, because just like in California and Indiana you are hiring Illegal Aliens. These can't be the only two people that were qualified to be officers.

Commissioner Biscontini – There were 3 applicants that applied and passed the test and were offered the job, one took a job in a different town, or we would have hired 3.

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Granteed – They are wonderful people but they are out in the parking lot speaking Spanish so I have questions and doubts, I should get to know who is going to be pulling me over especially if they aren't from here. Do they live in Plains Twp.

Commissioner Yozwiak – There is a contract they must follow all conditions of the union contract, they have so long to find a place in Plains Twp.

Chief Binker- In order to get into the Police Academy, you must be a US Citizen so all of their paperwork was checked before they were even sent to us to apply for our test.

Granteed – I'm filing a FOIA because I don't believe they are citizens

Civil Service Secretary – They are US Citizens I verify their paperwork myself. The Chief does their background checks, this is a requirement.

Nancy Stout –

Takes Home School Families to the Park on Fridays from 12-2:30 and would like the restrooms opened up for them because the porta johns are just not a viable option for some of the younger children.

Commissioner Cinti – will get in touch with her and the Recreation department and get that taken care of.

Bill DeAlba –

He is from Clarks Street and there are water problems on the Street. He says after it rains the water runs down the street for days., and in the winter it turns to ice. Can we make sure that there is nothing blocking the drainage trench like last time.

Commissioner Yozwiak – We did the drains and the water project on Skyview We are paving it next year so we will be sending the engineer down to see if we need to put in a bigger pipe.

Audrey Serniak – I would like to congratulate you all for the new hires they are a welcome addition to the township, they were properly vetted and ready to follow the rules. I would also like to say it was no secret that you were hiring and its up to the people to step up and get involved. I want to say you all do a great job, you apply for every grant available and you keep garbage fees low and do every thing you can to keep fees down in the township, a number of roads have been paved and you support other institutions in getting grants.

Kelly Keown –

I would like information on Trunk or Treat – Also I would like to say I applied for the police test and you do need to be a US Citizen.

Commissioner Sax – Saturday October 28<sup>th</sup> 2023. 12-1 If you would like to volunteer.

**K. ADJOURNMENT BY: Cinti 2ND: Shubilla All For, Motion Carried TIME: 7:45**

Respectfully Submitted,

Accepted by,

  
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Assistant Secretary

  
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Chairman