

**MEETING MINUTES OF THE PLAINS TOWNSHIP BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING
OF JANUARY 11, 2024**

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CALL TO ORDER TIME: 7:04

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Led by Gerald Yozwiak

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

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 December 14, 2023, Plains Township Sewer Authority Meeting of November, Planning Meeting minutes for December, Wyoming Valley Sanitary Authority Meeting Minutes for November **Monthly Reports:** of the Police Department; Fire Department, DPW and EMA for December Year End Reports for EMA and Fire Department; and Civil Service, Zoning Permits Issued for December and Secretaries Report for December. **Payrolls** of the Administrative, Zoning Office, Department of Public Works and Recreation Departments. **The Treasurers Report for November:** General Fund Receipts in the amount of **\$167,088.71** General Fund Disbursements **\$710,417.94**; Total Ending Balance in the General Fund as of **12/31/2023 \$1,426,936.91**. **BY: Cinti 2ND: Biscontini All for, motion carried**

CORRESPONDENCE – None

COMMITTEE REPORTS

POLICE – Just a general recap of the year 127 theft calls 16 stolen vehicles 109 mental health calls, our officers patrolled 800,000 miles. We will be testing to add to the department in 2024. If anyone has any question our Chief Dale Binker is here tonight.

FIRE – This is my first fire reports (Commissioner Shubilla) 137 total calls 115 fire calls and 22 captains incidents. We would like to thank the department for holding the toys for tots collection it was very successful. As always the department has smoke detectors available for anyone that needs them. The department is now holding a coats for kids collection for the kids at Solomon Elementary School. Thank you all for your hard work this month.

DPW – December 186.11 tons of garbage, 36.98 tons of recycling. This is my first DPW report (Commissioner Sax) The department is busy getting ready for winter, we had our first storm last week and I thought the department did a good job with that. DPW is currently picking up Christmas trees, if you need it picked up let us know. We have 15-month calendars available

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that have all trash and recycling pickup dates in them available at the N. Main Street office. The Recycling center is back to being open on Saturday's from 8:00 – 12:00 for recycling drop off. Please no garbage

RECREATION – Pavilion rental reservations are now being accepted and the dates are going fast. Get your request in as soon as possible. Recreation board is planning on running summer camp again this year. 7 weeks tentative dates are June 10 to July 26.

CHAIRMAN MESSAGE – I always come up with different items to provide to the public. As always be vigilant of hackers. January is Anthracite Mine heritage month, there is a plaque up at 126 north main street that has Ray Slabinski's name on it. He was instrumental in getting black lung for widows and their dependents. He was a go getter in the cause for the disabled miner and he gave a lot to the township. If you can get there the PA Farm show is this week it is the largest indoor expo in the country, its amazing 12,000 exhibit 6,000 animals. Its free \$15 to park. It ends Saturday but if you get a chance go.

OLD BUSINESS -

NEW BUSINESS

Motion to authorize payment of the **General Fund Bills** consisting of the **Utility Bills \$23,528.60; Regular Bills \$163,413.76; Total \$186,942.36. (Cinti abstain for Assured Partners Bill) BY: Biscontini 2ND: Shubilla All for, motion carried**

Motion to adopt a resolution authorizing the filing of the 2023 Recycling Performance Grant by Recycling Coordinator, Jeff Gustinucci for a fee of \$3,000.00. **BY: Sax 2ND: Cinti All for, motion carried**

Motion to authorize the one time abatement of penalties and interest to the Plains Veterinary Services PLLC in the amount of \$698.00 for Business Privilege Tax / Mercantile Taxes. **BY: Shubilla 2nd: Sax All for, motion carried**

Motion to authorize the one time abatement of penalties and interest to the Keystone Blacktopping in the amount of \$42.00 Business Privilege Tax / Mercantile Taxes. **BY: Biscontini 2nd: Cinti All for, motion carried**

Solicitors Report:

Motion to re-appoint Clarence Ozgo to the Plains Township Parks and Recreation Board for a term to expire December 31, 2028. **BY: Cinti 2ND: Sax All for, motion carried**

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Motion to re-appoint John Kelly to the Plains Township Civil Service Commission for a term to expire December 31, 2028. **BY: Sax 2ND: Shubilla All for, motion carried**

Motion to re-appoint Thomas Kobusky to the Plains Township Zoning Hearing Board for a term to expire December 31, 2028. **BY: Shubilla 2ND: Biscontini All for, motion carried**

Motion to re-appoint Mario Ercolani to the Plains Township Sewer Authority Board for a term to expire December 31, 2028. **BY: Cinti 2ND: Roll Call: Shubilla All for, motion carried**

Motion to authorize moving John Sedon to alternate and Dennis Condusta to seated member of the Zoning Hearing Board with a term to expire on December 31, 2028 **BY: Sax 2nd: Cinti All for, motion carried**

Motion to appoint Emilio Aritz to the Plains Township Planning Commission for a term to expire December 31, 2028. **BY: Biscontini 2ND: Sax All for, motion carried**

Motion to adopt a resolution appointing the selected members to the Boards, Commissions and Authorities. **BY: Shubilla 2ND: Roll Call: Biscontini All for, motion carried**

Motion to adopt an amendment to Zoning ordinance regarding solar energy use and solar energy systems for both residential and commercial use. **BY: Shubilla 2nd: Sax All for, motion carried**

Motion to adopt an amendment to the Zoning ordinance regarding electric vehicle charging stations for both residential and commercial use. **BY: Biscontini 2nd: Cinti All for, motion carried**

Motion to approve and execute Direct Energy contract for traffic signal at 1325 state Route 315. **BY: Cinti 2nd: Shubilla All for, motion carried**

Motion to enter into agreement with WVSA for declaration of restrictions and covenants which shall insure operation / maintenance of stormwater systems at proposed park as set forth in deed book 3001, page 63634 et. seq. **BY: Sax 2nd: Biscontini All for, motion carried**

ANNOUNCEMENTS –The next regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners will be held February 8th, 2024 at 7:00 P.M.

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

Patrick McCann – Would like to propose a disc golf course for the park, the wooded area behind the park makes an ideal place for the course.

Commissioner Cinti - requested that he bring this idea to the Recreation Board at their next

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meeting. But to continue with his presentation.

McCann – It is a free sport – you just need to purchase discs to play. They have both 9 and 18 hole courses and the area is big enough for an 18 hole. Course. This would be at no cost to the Township as their group would do the fundraising needed to purchase the baskets and set up the holes. It costs between \$5,000-\$8,000 for 18 baskets. The group would also offer free clinics for the summer camp kids, set up tournament fundraisers and the course would sustain itself as they would set up with the different players to each have a hole that they are responsible for cleaning up and maintaining.

Tom Milewski - St. Mary Street storm drain issues. The drain that was put in is 3-4 inches above the road and when the contractor came back to fix the issue they just drilled holes in the sides to help the water reach the vault. This helped but did not solve the issue. Commissioner Yozwiak stated that the drain is on the agenda to be fixed and we will be getting new bids in the spring to fix the drain, put new piping in from the top of Elizabeth into that storm drain fix the drain and then paving. Engineering, survey will be down there and will get it right.

Bob Angeli – He noticed that the gentlemen have some maps and things of that nature that reference the work being done in his neighborhood and is curious about what is being done so he would like for Jeff Colella from WVSA and Jude Cooney of A&E to talk about the drawings and information that they brought in reference to the new wet pond going in the Park off of Hill Street.

Jeff runs the stormwater division at WVSA and Jude Cooney is the engineer of the project. Jeff stated that it is part of the master plan. They will be putting in a storm water retention pond and other storm water features in the Municipal Park such as pervious pavement, pavilions, trails and additional fields. This will take all of the stormwater from your area and put it in this pond, take the sediment out of the water before it is released back into the drains. WVSA will also be maintaining these areas.

Commissioner Yozwiak showed a map of storm water flow / stream through the park and the area to show the collection plan. There is an access road going in to the pond for maintenance but there is no parking lot planned in that area as was stated by another resident earlier in the week. There will be additional trees and trails added to the area once this is done. Nothing is being done to devalue the properties,

Angeli - stated that he doesn't believe this will devalue the area and any thing being done to make improvements is a good thing. A few of the neighbors were a bit up in arms over a few things in the video but it is not what is in these drawings. Thank you for taking the time to answer my questions.

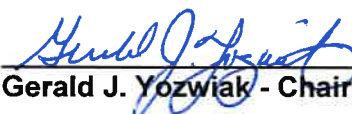
ADJOURNMENT BY: Cinti 2ND: Yozwiak All for, motion carried TIME: 7:42

Respectfully Submitted:

Accepted By:



Lynell Ent - Secretary



Gerald J. Yozwiak - Chairman