

**MEETING MINUTES OF THE PLAINS TOWNSHIP BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING
OF FEBRUARY 8, 2024**

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A. CALL TO ORDER TIME: 7:05

B. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Led by Gerald Yozwiak

C. 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.

D. GENERAL ORDER OF BUSINESS

Motion to accept: **Minutes:** Board of Commissioner Regular Meeting of January 11, 2024, and Reorganization Meeting of January 2, Plains Township Sewer Authority Meeting of December, Planning Meeting minutes for January, Wyoming Valley Sanitary Authority Meeting Minutes for December, Recreation Board meeting minutes for January **Monthly Reports:** of the Police Department; Fire Department, EMA and DPW for January, Zoning Permits and Contactor licenses Issued and Secretaries Report for January. **Payrolls** of the Administrative, Zoning Office, Department of Public Works and Recreation Departments. The **Treasurers Report for January:** General Fund Receipts in the amount of **\$329,962.50** General Fund Disbursements **\$831,157.59**; Total Ending Balance in the General Fund as of **01/31/2024 \$925,741.82. BY: Sax 2ND: Cinti All for, Motion Carried**

E. CORRESPONDENCE – None

F. COMMITTEE REPORTS

POLICE – POLICE – We have had pretty busy year so far 90 thefts, 38 disorderly conducts, 22 domestics, 12 PFA's, 12 harassments, 308 miscellaneous calls. We will be testing again in April for Officers, so if anyone knows anyone who would be interested tell them to start watching. We need to fill some retirement spots. Watch out for scams – there is a real estate scam in the area If there is a home for sale an agent shows someone the home and these people are unlocking a door or a window and then they are going back later and stealing appliances.

FIRE – 119 fire calls 31 Captains incidents for a total of 150 calls. The Department ran a successful Operation Warm campaign let by Captain Van Luvender they gave 72 coats and hats to Solomon School special thanks to the PAV Ladies Aux and the Henry Club for their donations. Reminder smoke detectors can be installed free of charge call or see me or someone at the fire department to set up an appointment. Non fire related Audrey Serniak who comes to every meeting is no longer on the election board of Luzerne County she was there for 4 years we thank you for your service.

DPW – DPW – We had a couple of nuisance storms that we were out their plowing and salting for. Now we are out their cold patching so if you see any pothole give us a call 570-829-3430.

RECREATION – I apologies for the appearance of the room, we are finally making some headway with the roof and HVAC projects they should be done shortly. Pavilion rentals are being taken dates are going fast – June and July weekends are pretty full but we do have some other dates available. We will be looking for summer help for Rec and the DPW, High school seniors and College students.

CHAIRMAN MESSAGE – I always come up with some goofy statistics to brighten your day. Out of the 10,000 people living here, for everybody that is here. April 6th is the first day of trout and they are looking for...Fred, Dave they want stock help. You go out and follow the truck and take the buckets of fish and dump them in the, DON'T put them in your car you put them in the creek. Today it is beautiful out I actually have a short sleeve shirt on under here, the winter of 1904 was over 30 days of below -32 degrees temp. Now someone said up in Red Rock it was -52 so there was 5 foot of ice on the lakes and ponds. They were having trouble getting ice. Another thing was the river froze in Bloomsburg. If you compare it to today its just some things to think about.

G. OLD BUSINESS -

H. NEW BUSINESS

1. Motion to authorize payment of the **General Fund Bills** consisting of the **Utility Bills \$28,982.73; Regular Bills \$228,163.91; Total \$257,146.64. (Cinti abstain for Assured Partners Bill) BY: Shubilla 2ND: Biscontini All for, Motion Carried.**
2. Motion to authorize Solicitor to prepare and advertise truck traffic restrictions for Gail, and Jay Drive and Stocker Street in Plains Township. **BY: Cinti 2ND: Shubilla All for, Motion Carried.**

I. Solicitors Report:

3. Motion to solicit bids for the back-up salt bid for the 2024-2025 Winter Season. **BY: Biscontini 2ND: Cinti All for, Motion Carried.**
4. Motion to authorize payment application No. 2 of the Plains Twp. Firehouse #2 Renovations Project from Spott's Brothers in the amount of \$96,435.00 **BY: Sax 2ND: Shubilla All for, Motion Carried.**

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5. Motion to authorize payment application No. 3 of the Plains Twp. Firehouse #2 Renovations Project from Spott's Brothers in the amount of \$80,577.00. **BY: Cinti 2ND: Sax All for, Motion Carried.**
6. Motion to authorize payment application No. 4 of the Plains Twp. Firehouse #2 Renovations Project from Spott's Brothers in the amount of \$31,333.50. **BY: Biscontini 2ND: Shubilla All for, Motion Carried.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS –The next regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners will be held March 14, 2024 at 7:00 P.M.

The Administrative, Zoning Offices and DPW will be closed on Monday February 19th, in observance of the Presidents day holiday. Residents with Monday garbage collection will be collected on Tuesday February 20th. All other schedules remain the same.

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

Fred Silveri 28 Abbott Street – Brought pictures of dead trees from Mitchell Street, they are on the Box Factory property. One actually fell over onto the road and the DPW moved it off the road back onto their property. Commissioners gave pictures to Karen to have her do something about the dead trees. She will go down and see them about them.

When the tractor trailers back into the box factory they leave the trucks run for hours and I don't think they should do that.

Commissioner Shubilla – It is a no idle there so they should not be someone needs to report it and catch them.

Chief Binker - suggested calling 911 when the trucks are idling so someone could respond and go and talk to the driver, being that they are on private property do we have the authority to tell them to stop idling. They also have to leave the truck run because of the fuel in the cold.

Menn- I will talk with Karen about this and when we send the letter about the trees maybe we can include something about the idling. It may be a fuel issue it may not be, we have to look into it.

Karel Zubris – Hello Ladies and Gentlemen I here on behalf of some residents of Sandra Street in Plains and the Shimshock family behind me. We just want to know who what when and why is going on at the bottom of Hill Street. There were videos and graphics that were sent thru social media nothing was sent to the residents. Can someone send us what is being done their, who is doing it and why they are doing it to the Plains residents. Just so we have something to show. Everyone is concerned about the acid mine drainage that will be happening to our pools and our drinking water and we need some transparency to this issue. Maybe we missed something because we are all hard working people, tax payers and we all voted for you to be here, so come down and take a walk around and see what is going on, investigate it. I don't want to see something terrible happen here. With cancer in the area and that cell phone tower we have no idea what is going to happen. Come and meet with the neighborhood knock on their doors, tell them what is going to be happening. We have a ton of people who are just there to see what is going on – all hours of the night disrupting the wildlife and walking through the woods.

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Commissioner Yozwiak – There was flooding in 2011 and the state addressed stormwater management. There was a lot of water from the Burgio property that we didn't own then and we purchased. I have a map of how the stormwater funnels into Bergh Street down at the bottom and then goes underground to a pipe that takes it through Hudson to the creek. We put in a Park plan to get grants WVSA asked us to put in a stormwater pond which will address the drainage issue of the stormwater. The engineers from A&E Group did a plan and we all signed off on it. This would be part of the park plan of trails and such so that we could get grant funding to make improvements. This is a wet pond not an AMD pond there is no acid mine drainage going into this pond other than stormwater. So I don't know where that came from. Lisa I did answer your email I don't know if you got it?

Lisa Shimshock – No I did not.

Commissioner Yozwiak – I did sent an email to you everyone on the board is copied on it. We have a copy of it here, to give you a copy tonight. So we had WVSA here with A&E group last month. Mr. Angeli was here and asked a ton of questions and he left here saying he was fine with the plan. Back in 1939 there was a pond there very close to where Sandra and Mill intersect. So we are putting this in. WVSA wanted to get a jump on the project because of the good weather. You are welcome to stop and see the drawings. It really is a good project for stormwater management.

Commissioner Cinti – I was up there and the opening is a bit large, but WVSA will be adding more trees and plants to the road opening, there are so many things that the park can have. Trails, pavilions. There won't be a parking lot here.

Commissioner Yozwiak – There is a gravel access road from Hill St. to the pond. This is specifically for the maintenance of the wet pond. WVSA is handling all maintenance and upkeep of the pond. The wet pond focuses on a natural process of slowing down the water allowing sediment to settle and then facilitating the drainage of the water. They will be adding additional trees and such to beautify the area.

Commissioner Cinti - There is a rain garden in the Municipal park that is along the same lines as this one will be.


Karel Zubris – Thank you for explaining. Bottom of Hill St. there is a drain and it gets very icy. I hope this will alleviate that. Right now there is an orange cone there. Because there is a large hole. Is there something that we can do about that.

Commissioners- Ok we will have them look at it. Commissioner Sax will take care of it.

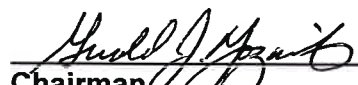
K. ADJOURNMENT BY: Cinti 2ND: Yozwiak All for, Motion Carried TIME: 7:35

Respectfully Submitted,

Accepted By,



Secretary



Chairman