

**MEETING MINUTES OF THE PLAINS TOWNSHIP BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING
OF MAY 9, 2024**

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CALL TO ORDER TIME: 7:10

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 April, Plains Township Sewer Authority Meeting of March, Wyoming Valley Sanitary Authority Meeting Minutes for March, Plains Township Planning Commission Meeting Minutes March & April. **Monthly Reports:** of the Police Department; Fire Department, EMA and DPW for April, Zoning Permits and Contractor licenses Issued and Secretaries Report for April. **Payrolls** of the Administrative and Zoning Office, Department of Public Works and Recreation Departments. The **Treasurers Report for April:** General Fund Receipts in the amount of **\$1,621,312.19** General Fund Disbursements **\$1,529,670.60**; Total Ending Balance in the General Fund as of **04/30/2024 \$922,946.68**. **BY: Cinti 2ND: Sax All for, motion carried**

CORRESPONDENCE – None

F. COMMITTEE REPORTS

POLICE – I guess it is a good thing but I don't have anything major to report this month, But I would like to remind anyone walking around that sees anything please report it. I know otherwise I have depressing news to report or something but nothing this month, so end of report. We are also looking for additional officers and will be holding another test in June, please encourage people to contact our office for details.

FIRE – 86 fire calls and 57 captains incidents for a total of 143 calls. Also, with the Boards approval a little bit later we will be hiring 2 new part time firefighters. The fire department purchased a new rescue truck. The department does have smoke detector that they will install free of charge for any Plains Twp. resident. One other sad news that Chief Binker asked me to commend two of our firemen, Chief Ritsick, Captain Van Luvender, I don't know if you saw on the news there was an incident at one of the Hotels in the Twp. there was a Baby that died they did their best to save, but unfortunately, they arrived a little too late. But Chief Binker aske me to commend Chief Mark Ritsick and Captain Mike VanLuvender on that. End of report.

DPW – We are out patching Pot, yard waste pick up and Saturday hours to November 21st. Please do not put your garbage out no earlier than 6 pm the day before your scheduled pickup., we don't want the critters to get in it

RECREATION – I am happy to make the announcement again, and very happy to see the Boy Scouts here and thank you for coming today, again day camp will be starting its 10th year starting Thursday June 13 – and ending Wednesday July 31. 9:00 to 1:00 pm Please take advantage of it we have a lot of people come and do exhibits and talk to the kids. All of the department go and talk to the kids. They do arts and crafts and its good to keep them active instead of them always being on the video games and texting each other. I would also like to mimic what Commissioner Shubilla said about the Fireman, they worked on this young baby in that situation and they worked hard and unfortunately it wasn't a good turnout but we have some very good workers here in the township and I know it was also Scott Martin too, that was there, so I want to make sure we recognize him too for the record. Anyway our parks are open and are busy with sports, baseball, soccer, kids at the playground and adults playing softball so please obey the speed limits. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN MESSAGE – On behalf of the Board of Commissioners of Plains Township we welcome the Scouts and I just want to say I was a cub scout, I was a member of Pack 100 I started as a Bob Cat. I made it to a Bear or something. But my nephew was a Scout in Brodheadsville and made it to an Eagle Scout and I think you shake hands with your left hand, is that still a thing? Right? And he's a doctor now, so Scouting is good, we appreciate you guys being here. On your bucket list, Go on the train ride from Pittston to Jim Thorpe, good time. The Tubs are open, put a lot of money into that. My son actually caught a rainbow trout in the tubs there is native trout in the tubs, you have to put it back you cant keep them out. The tubs are a beautiful, beautiful park. Finally, mothers day, this weekend Happy Mother's Day to all of the mothers, we appreciate you guys. Without the mothers we wouldn't get any kids

Commissioner Sax: One other thing Commissioner Yozwiak, since Scouts 100 I remember a couple of these guys here a few years ago having a mock commissioner meeting and now they are here again. And you are all welcome to come to the Memorial Day ceremony at our Vet's park on May 27th at 8:00 am.

OLD BUSINESS – None

NEW BUSINESS

Motion to authorize payment of the **General Fund Bills** consisting of the **Utility Bills \$24,725.83; Regular Bills \$597,326.25; Total \$622,052.08. BY: Shubilla 2ND: Biscontini All for, motion carried**

Motion to re-hire Gwyneth Lupas, Matthew Monaghan and Jacob Khalife, as Summer Camp Counselors at a rate of \$11.00 per hour effective June 10, 2024 and Nino Cinti as Summer DPW Worker at \$ 11.00 per hour, effective Monday May 13, 2024 **BY: Sax 2nd: Shubilla Cinti Abstain for relation, all for, motion carried**

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Motion to authorize a tax refund in the amount of \$98.26 due to an overpayment to Robert Ramiza as a result of a Veteran's Exemption. **BY: Biscontini 2nd: Cinti All for, motion carried**

Motion to hire Candice Hartman and Jeremy Cook as Part Time Firefighter's at \$14.00 per hour subject to successful completion of a background check, physical and post-offer employment testing **BY: Shubilla 2nd: Sax All for, motion carried**

Motion to authorize raises and benefits to the following non-union employees effective payroll of May 27th as follows: Part Time Firefighters \$14.00 per hour; Justin Reiser, Karl Blight and Ryan Viteritti \$14.00 per hour, Richard Binker and Louis Luchetti to 13.00 per hour. **BY: Cinti 2nd: Shubilla All for, motion carried**

Motion to ratify a 3% raise for Patrick Delasandro as of April 26, 2024. **BY: Biscontini 2nd: Cinti All for, motion carried**

Solicitors Report:

Motion to authorize payment application No. 5 of the Plains Twp. Firehouse #2 Renovation Project to Spotts Brothers Inc. in the amount of \$77,247.00. **BY: Sax 2nd: Biscontini All for, motion carried**

Motion to authorize payment application No. 2 of the Plains Twp. Haines Street Drainage Improvement Project from Stell Enterprises Inc. in the amount of \$113,568.50 **BY: Shubilla 2nd: Cinti All for, motion carried**

Motion to adopt changes to the Township Civil Service Rules and Regulations **BY: Biscontini 2nd: Shubilla All for, motion carried**

Motion to appoint Clarence Ozgo to the Plains Township Sewer Authority for a term to expire December 31, 2026. **BY: Cinti 2nd: Biscontini All for, motion carried**

Motion to enter into an agreement with FNCB Bank for a Letter of Credit in the amount of \$20,685.50 to PennDOT for the Hudson Road Streetscape Project. **BY: Sax 2nd: Shubilla All for, motion carried**

Motion to adopt a resolution for intermunicipal transfer of license R-1744 to the premises located at 1492 Highway 315 Plains Township. **BY: Shubilla 2nd: Sax All for, motion carried**

ANNOUNCEMENTS –The next regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners will be held June 13, 2024 at 7:00 pm. The Administrative, Zoning Offices and DPW will be closed on Monday May 27th 2024, in observance of the Memorial Day holiday. Monday garbage will be picked up on Tuesday May 28th. Residents are reminded that there is a six-bag limit after the holiday for the collection week of May 28th to May 30th. All other schedules will remain the same.

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

Theresa 56 Wyoming St. – I am having an issue with parking on my street with little league games. When cars come up they park and then there is nowhere to go there is no flow of traffic. I am stuck. I have pictures if you want to see them. I live on dead end street.

Commissioner Shubilla – Ok so they are blocking you in when they go up.

Theresa – yes. Usually 3 days a week., and they pull in the yard to turn around or get out of the way.

Commissioner Yozwiak – Commissioner Biscontini is a coach – so show him the pictures

Theresa – A neighbor put a bug in my ear and I was told Wyoming St. is no parking so I looked on it up on American Legal Publishing

Commissioner Yozwiak – We would have to look into the ordinance .

Theresa – 15-303 15-401 I don't know if they are still current but they say no parking all up and down the street, both sides. The 2nd issue when the police are called they conveniently don't show up until after the game is over. I have a bad heart I had two heart attacks, there is no way an ambulance or fire truck can get down that street. The Little league had a delivery yesterday a big rig was parked in front of my neighbor's house, my ring went off and that poor lady next door uses a walker, her gentleman friend uses a walker and I don't know how he gets around but there would be no way he would be able to get into her driveway.

Commissioner Biscontini- I will speak to the Chief to see what ordinances

Theresa- One other thing too – I told you I'm the mean lady when I first inherited the house, they broke a window I was told they had a net and it was blown away and no one replaced it. My brother offered to pay for a new net if the little league installed it and we waited about 2 3 weeks before we got an answer, the little league said no, who is crazy enough to turn down a free net? So, my attorney wrote them a nasty letter and they still said they would not replace the net. Those balls go in my house, they hit my siding, my roof, my side yard, they go right past my ear.

Commissioner Biscontini – What is your phone number? I understand this is inconvenient and if this is the case we will need to check the ordinance and see what we can do.

Bernard Prevunak – Gentlemen how are you this evening? I am not here to prolong the speech about blasting even though it is still going on, it's getting worse, the last one was about a week ago it was very bad we had DEP there, same stuff, they are within their rights , it is mosquito heaven because they don't have to fill in the big holes that they make. And eventually it will probably come to you when we are long in our graves to make it a landfill or a warehouse there. We have calls in to Rep. Pashinski, but House is in session so we are waiting for his call back. They are moving closer to the houses. Its still on going.
Has anyone considered where School St. and Hudson Rd. where Dominick's Garage is where

he stores his cars at the stop sign at Miner on right on Hudson Rd. has no stop sign. Is there any consideration of putting a 3 way stop in there, is there any way we can get a stop sign there?

Commissioner Yozwiak – Hudson Rd. is a state road, it would have to go to PennDOT to get them to do a study to get a stop sign, so that is probably not going to happen.

Bernard Prevunak – It's a state road? So, we have to go to PennDOT, I figured I would get that. The major thing I want to bring to your attention is the ATV Epidemic with kids riding in the middle of the streets. It's not adults who are respectful and who are riding slow by the houses. These are young people they have no licenses, they are disrespectful and are not following laws. I am on the edge of Cemetery Road, it does not belong to the Twp, but is policed by the Twp. correct? I almost got hit on Cemetery Road trying to get someone to slow down. They are making a mess of the woods. They are going in there, and I know you have plans for the park, I respect what you are doing there, but they are making a mess there. We are trying to get them to slow down. Here is the other thing. Does the Twp. own anything that can chase them down? There is gun fire up there too It is starting to get OK corral up there. I will open a space in my driveway for someone to park and watch for them to come through and then pull them over and site them. Is there any ordinance that prohibits the use after 9:00 -10:00? Its party city up there all weekend long. 1:00 2:00 in the morning. They are reckless

Commissioner Biscontini –, a lot of times they site the kids, the kids go to the magistrate and then the parents pay the fines for the kids and the kids don't learn anything and just do it again. One of the problems is by the time the police arrive they are gone. The other is we can't chase because of the liability. We have been trying to get some ideas about maybe getting the DPW to put some barriers up to keep them out.

Bernard Prevunak – I think it's not even the use of the ATV, It's the reckless abandonment of these young people.

Commissioner Yozwiak - Do you recognize any of them

Bernard - Some I do but they drive slowly these I don't, my suggestion is come up about 6:30 - 7:30 send someone to sit there and watch what goes on. Or consider a curfew, 10:00 not 1:00 in the morning.

Commissioner Yozwiak – We were looking at posting the entire park area no atv, no motorcycles, no hunting.

Bernard - Your focused on the Park, I'm saying for all of Plains Twp.

Commissioner Yozwiak – Well I think there is an ordinance with a curfew.

Bernard - That area is well utilized by citizens for walking and it's getting dangerous. They are making trails for you guys already. I thank you for your time and it's the most pressing problem right now.

Donna Johnson – Can I have my mailbox back? Joe took my mailbox an didn't tell me. How do I get my mailbox back please? My mailbox for 12 is gone. Where do I put it now. Is there a place for it to be.

Commissioner Yozwiak – The boxes go out on the street? And now its gone? Karen, you

Karen R – Was the box on your property? Or was it on his property?

D Johnson – I don't know. I don't care that they are there, but I had an altercation with a driver. It's fine, I told him they are coming on my property, their people are on my property and in front of my house and he said I was crazy. And we got into an altercation, I called the cops but he was gone. Its spiteful, I don't care, I really don't. I get it they have to deliver. Are there signs coming?

Commissioners- Yes they are

D. Johnson – I just want the signs these trucks, they aren't going to do anything, they are coming on my property, Are they gonna get a fence. I want a fence, their people are coming on my property on my driveway, a temporary fence until they are finished.

Karen – They have to do what the conservation district needs them to do first. They have conditions to meet with the conservation district first before they can do anything else. They have until May 16th to meet all of the conditions from the conservation district before they can go any further and do anything else.

D. Johnson – I have people in my driveway. They need to just stop and go.

Karen – You can always put up your own fence, even a temporary fence until they are finished.

D. Johnson – I don't know I don't care. It's good, I don't get mail there anyway.

Jerry Sidelka 3 Sandra – **Thank you to the commissioner** I have a 16-year-old daughter and an 18-year-old son just starting to driver and this ATV rider does 60 miles and hour up the road, flying over the hill. Cars come up and no one can see. 2- you are putting in a rain garden maybe you could put in a camera, 3 thank you for what you do. 4 – to the boy scouts you got short changed here for everything your doing – a round of applause

Commissioner Yozwiak – Speaking of cameras we had one on south main and they stole it. Is it the same kid?

Jerry - It's the same kid. We believe he lives in Heavenlee Acres, but he doesn't belong on the road like that. When something happens, just be mindful of what I'm saying here

K. ADJOURNMENT BY: Cinti 2ND: Yozwiak All for, motion carried TIME: 7:50

Respectfully Submitted By,

Accepted By,



Lynell Ent
Secretary



Gerald J. Yozwiak
Chairman