

**MEETING MINUTES OF THE PLAINS TOWNSHIP BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING
OF NOVEMBER 14, 2024**

PAGE ONE

CALL TO ORDER TIME:

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Led by Gerald Yozwiak

ROLL CALL: Peter J. Biscontini, Esq., Ciro Cinti, Thomas Shubilla, Gerald Yozwiak.
Commissioner Robert Sax – unable to attend.

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 minutes of October, Plains Twp. Recreation Board minutes for October, Plains Township Sewer Authority meeting minutes of September, Wyoming Valley Sanitary Authority meeting minutes for September, Land Bank meeting minutes for September **Monthly Reports:** Police Department; Fire Department, DPW and EMA for October; Zoning Permits & Contractors Licenses Issued for October; Secretaries Report for October. **Payrolls** of the Administrative, Zoning Office, Department of Public Works and Recreation Departments. **The Treasurers Report for October:** General Fund Receipts in the amount of **\$346,409.43** General Fund Disbursements **\$986,615.21**; Total Ending Balance in the General Fund as of **10/31/2024 \$2,576,685.76**. **BY: Shubilla 2ND: Cinti All for, motion carried.**

CORRESPONDENCE – None

COMMITTEE REPORTS -

POLICE – Just briefly I want to commend our new Officers, Keen, Callahan and Remus for their work in the department and I want to thank all of the other Officers for providing them help. Our department obtained a new Pick up truck to keep our fleet updated. We are also in the process of applying for County and State grants to build a new station. Our police will be assisting the Plains Lions Club with the annual Santa parade and closing the streets for our annual tree lighting, the night before Thanksgiving.

FIRE – 121 fire calls and 79 captains' incidents for a total of 200 fire calls. As always if you need a smoke detector contact the department to get those installed free of charge.

DPW – 68 tons of comingle and 72 tons of yard waste. Speaking of yard waste the last week for pickup of yard waste is the 18th through the 22nd and the last day for drop off is **MEETING**

Saturday the 23rd.

RECREATION – All sports for the fall are over, so we are just basically winterizing everything in the parks. We also have the new rates for the pavilion for 2025. As of January 1 you can fill out your application, they will be at the office probably in December I would like to thank the DPW department for helping out the Rec Department they recently assisted us with putting topsoil down at the playground, they helped with taking down a fence at the pit that divided 2 soccer fields. This was done at the request of the Soccer Association.

CHAIRMAN MESSAGE – We appreciate anyone who showed up at the Veteran's Day Ceremony it was nice, short and sweet. Thank you. Electronics Recycling – this was our 7th year we do it every year around the 1st of November, in the beginning we filled 2 trucks and this year we were down to 1 truck. It's a lot of stuff that won't end up in the woods or being dumped on the roads. It was a very good event. Along with the paper shredding. There is a drought going on, please try to conserve water and open fires are banned right now. Just a reminder – garbage and recycling will get picked up after the roads get plowed, but we will get to it.

OLD BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

Motion to authorize payment of the **General Fund Bills** consisting of the **Utility Bills \$25,514.31; Regular Bills \$198,471.43; Total \$223,985.74. (Cinti abstain for Assured Partners Bill) BY: Biscontini 2ND: Shubilla All for, motion carried**

Motion to allow Verdantas to hold a public meeting on Monday November 25 at 50 Second St in reference to the Valley Crest SR 6309 Mundy Street Crossroads improvement Project.
BY: Cinti 2ND: Biscontini All for, motion carried

Motion to authorize reimbursement to Sheryl O'Malia for overpayment of taxes, as per Luzerne County Tax Assessment Appeals in the amount of \$198.66
BY: Shubilla 2nd: Cinti All for, motion carried

Solicitors Report:

Motion to sign over the title for the 1997 GMC Truck to Red's Towing for disposal **BY: Biscontini 2nd: Cinti All for, motion carried**

Motion to adopt a resolution authorizing application for Local Share Account Funding for North Main Street Police Station Project in the amount of \$1,296,993.00. **BY: Biscontini 2nd: Shubilla All for, motion carried**

Motion to adopt a resolution authorizing application for Local Share Account Funding for 126 North Main Street Municipal Building Renovation Project in the amount of \$231,826.78. **BY: Cinti 2nd: Biscontini All for, motion carried**

**MEETING MINUTES OF THE PLAINS TOWNSHIP BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING
OF NOVEMBER 14, 2024** **PAGE THREE**

Motion to adopt a resolution authorizing application for Local Share Account Funding for DPW Dump Truck Project in the amount of \$108,951.00. **BY: Shubilla 2nd: Cinti All for, motion carried**

Motion to authorize sale of unused fire equipment to fire department employees and list remaining fire equipment for sale on Municibid **BY: Biscontini 2nd: Shubilla All for, motion carried**

Motion to accept the proposal from Fidelity Discount Bank for the 2025 Tax Anticipation Note in the amount of \$500,000.00 at an interest rate of 5.55% **BY: Cinti 2nd Shubilla All for, motion carried**

Motion for Solicitor to execute documents to dismiss Value Drug Company from the National Opioid Lawsuit. **BY: Biscontini 2nd: Cinti All for, motion carried**

Motion to read and accept the first reading of the **2025 Budget.**

INCOME	2025 TENTATIVE OPERATING BUDGET
Real Estate Taxes	\$ 1,675,000.00
Taxes, Enabling Act	3,364,500.00
Licenses & Permits	753,800.00
Fines, Forfeits & Costs	34,200.00
Interest & Rents	26,000.00
Grants & Gifts	6,191,665.07
Department Earnings	404,550.00
Non-Revenue Receipts	578,069.61
Misc Revenue Receipts	159,000.00
TOTAL REVENUE	\$ 13,186,784.68

EXPENDITURES	
General Government	\$ 385,259.60
Mun Bldgs/Offices	162,000.00
Tax Collection	12,275.00
Bldg, Regulations, Plan/Zone	340,420.00
Police Protection	2,107,025.44
Fire Protection	1,961,493.62
Health Services	9,000.00
Sanitation	467,460.54
General Services/Highways	1,193,841.16
General Services Main.	2,163,226.02
Parks & Recreation	281,912.00
Library Contributions	22,000.00
Principal/Interest -Unpaid Bills	1,173,211.00
Benefits, Payroll Taxes, Insurances	2,907,660.30
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$ 13,186,784.68

BY: Shubilla 2ND: Biscontini All for, motion carried

**MEETING MINUTES OF THE PLAINS TOWNSHIP BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING
OF NOVEMBER 14, 2024** **PAGE FOUR**

ANNOUNCEMENTS – The next regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners will be held December 12, 2024 7:00 P.M. The Administrative and Zoning Offices be closed Thursday and Friday November 28th and 29th in observance of the Thanksgiving Holiday. The DPW will be closed on Thursday, November 28th and Monday December 2nd. In observance of the holiday. Residents with Thursday garbage collection will have their garbage collected on Wednesday, November 27th. Residents with Monday garbage collection, will have their garbage pick-up on Tuesday, December 3rd. Residents are reminded that there will be a six-bag limit after the holiday, collection week of December 2nd through December 5th. All other schedules remain the same. Wednesday November 27th Tree Lighting at the Brick at 7:00 pm Santa Parada is Saturday November 30th 11am

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

Ken Stephens – I have asked several people to get some trees cut down that are on Twp. property. They are going to come down on my property. Also down on Courtright Street when you come out of the street by the ally there are hedges and you cant see to pull out of the Street.

Commissioner Biscontini – Who did you ask?

Stephens – I don't know, I talked to zoning, I did paperwork with zoning I asked a couple of people driving around down there in Twp. trucks.

Commissioner Yozwiak – Where are the trees?

Stephens – the Corner of Courtright and Reese. It's Twp. property I had my property surveyed.

Commissioner Yozwiak – Are they marked? With and X or some kind of mark?

Stephens – No there are 4 trees total 1 is white birch. They are massive.

Yozwiak – ok what is your address Ken?

Stephens – 181

Yozwiak- Ok if we send someone down there can you show them.

Stephens – yes

Yozwiak – Ok they will go down and try to mark them to get someone to give us a quote.

Stephens – ok another thing is the Cats. The SPCA told us that they aren't affiliated and if you feed them you own them. It's a big problem and health problem.

Yozwiak – We don't have an answer, we have people coming from all over town about cats.

Stephens – We were told by the SPCA you can't put a cat house on private property, you have to put it on your own property.

Chief – There is an active investigation into a male and female vandalizing these cat houses, which is a crime in and of itself.

Yozwiak – the cat houses are in the right away. What do you suggest we do? Get rid of them? I am not telling people to get rid of them. I don't have an answer for you.

Stephens – people drop them off down there.

Yozwiak – people drop them off everywhere. I don't have an answer for the cats.

Carmen Pitarra – I am the Commander at the Plains American Legion. I am here to let you know that as a community member we have made a lot of great advances. We sponsored the Plains Baseball league so that registration for the year was free for the kids. We support some of the boy scout groups and the football team. We are making progress. The most important reason I am here is to thank Plains Twp., the board and the citizens, and the staff for

**MEETING MINUTES OF THE PLAINS TOWNSHIP BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING
OF NOVEMBER 14, 2024**

PAGE FIVE

your support for our recent State LSA approval on the grant to help us repair the building. We open our building to community groups and we encourage you to join the Legion. I just wanted to personally thank everyone.

Commissioner Cinti – Carmen I just want to say the Legion has always been a center point of the Twp. It has fallen under disrepair, but I'm glad that your there to show some life to the program. I would like to see it come back again. Thank you for your hard work.

Michael Bucknavage – Parking along Stadium Lane along the guard rail, has been an issue, the problem is people are getting worse. When they park along the guard rail we can't go in an out of our driveways. We are stuck there. We would like to have no parking signs put in along the guard rail. Its worse when there is a school activity because they could be there for hours.

Yozwiak – We will have to motion for a police study for no parking along stadium lane.

Chief – I will call the school and ask them to put out a notice about parking along the guard rail. I have no problems putting up the signs along the guide rail.


Bucknavage – Just along the guard rail would be fine. It doesn't need to be the whole road.

Yozwiak – we will put a traffic study on the agenda for December and see what comes back. And then if we need to we will get it on the agenda for January.

ADJOURNMENT BY: Cinti 2ND: Yozwiak All for, motion carried TIME: 7:40

Respectfully Submitted by:

Accepted by:



Lynell Ent – Secretary



Gerald J. Yozwiak - Chairman