

**MEETING MINUTES OF THE PLAINS TOWNSHIP BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING
OF AUGUST 14, 2025**

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A. CALL TO ORDER TIME: 7:03

B. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Led by Robert Sax

Wyoming Valley Motorcycle Club Plaque presentation
Pictures - Lepore

C. ROLL CALL: Peter J. Biscontinini, Ciro Cinti, Robert Sax, and Patricia Sluhocki

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 Commissioners Regular Meeting of July, Plains Twp. Sewer Authority Meeting Minutes for May and June, Recreation Board Meeting Minutes for July and August, Wyoming Valley Sanitary Board Meeting Minutes for May and the Wyoming Valley Sanitary Operation and Infrastructure Meeting Minutes for June **Monthly Reports:** of the Police Department; Fire Department, EMA and DPW for July, Zoning Permits and Contractor licenses Issued and Secretaries Report for July. **Payrolls** of the Administrative and Zoning Office, Department of Public Works, and Recreation Departments. The **Treasurers Report for July:** General Fund Receipts in the amount of **\$290,738.45** General Fund Disbursements **\$843,711.40**; Total Ending Balance in the General Fund as of **07/31/2025 \$3,101,879.63**. **BY: Cinti 2ND: Biscontinini All for, motion carried**

E. CORRESPONDENCE – None

F. COMMITTEE REPORTS

POLICE – Thank all of our departments for assisting with National Night Out, it was a great event as always. The fireworks were spectacular. Specifically want to thank Officer Poulos, Lt. Lussi, Sgt. Smith, Det Lepore & Officer Remus for their help with setting up. The Department has been actively engaged in the aggressive driving program with the state, it's a state funded grant program that targets aggressive driving.

FIRE – Want to thank the department for participating in National Night Out. Our new fire pumper is just about finished after a 2 ½ year wait it should be here in mid-October. The fire department would like to remind residents that we have smoke detectors that can be installed free of charge by the department, just call the office and a member of the department will contact you to set up an appointment.

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DPW – Cleaning buildings, debris, catch basins. I would like to thank not only the DPW but all of the departments for their participation in National Night Out, it was a great event. There have been a lot of truck break downs that will need to be addressed before winter.

RECREATION – We had our Kids Summer Camp again this year, which was very popular again, we honored our late Commissioner Bridgit O'Conner with the Summer Camp this year as she was a driving force behind the camp. There are several programs going on up at the park so please be aware when driving up at the park.

G. OLD BUSINESS – None

H. NEW BUSINESS

1. Motion to authorize payment of the **General Fund Bills** consisting of the **Utility Bills \$26,360.99; Regular Bills \$207,390.45; Total \$233,751.44. BY: Biscontini 2ND: Cinti Cinti Abstains for Assured Partners Bill, Sluhocki Abstains for Tom Giebus clothing Allowance: All for, motion carried**
2. Motion to forward the handicapped parking application of David Albert of 131 Merritt Street to the police department for a traffic study **BY: Biscontini 2ND: Sluhocki All for, motion carried**
3. Motion to authorize Kathy O'Boyle to submit grant applications on behalf of Plains Township **BY: Cinti 2nd: Biscontini All for, Motion Carried**

I. SOLICITORS REPORT

4. Motion to accept the lease financing bid of 6.2% from Fidelity Bank for the purchase of police vehicle laptops and software and authorize the execution of any paperwork necessary subject to review and approval of the solicitor **BY: Biscontini 2nd : Sluhocki All for, motion carried**
5. Motion to award the bid for the Hudson Road Streetscape Project to Mulitscape, Inc. for the low bid of \$388,316.50 **BY: Cinti 2nd : Biscontini All for, motion carried**
6. Motion to accept the lease financing bid of 4.472% from M&T Bank for the balance of the Pierce Fire Truck and authorize execution of any paperwork necessary subject to review and approval of the solicitor. **BY: Sluhocki 2nd: Cinti All for, motion carried**
7. Motion to enter into an additional agreement with BHW for inspection services, and authorize execution of any paperwork necessary subject to review and approval of the solicitor. **BY: Biscontini 2nd: Sluhocki All for, motion carried**
8. Motion to authorize Solicitor to review condemned and uninhabitable properties Zoning Ordinance for possible amendment **BY: Sluhocki 2nd: Biscontini All for, motion carried**

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ANNOUNCEMENTS – The next regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners will be held on September 11, 2025 at 7:00 P.M. The Administrative, DPW and Zoning offices will be closed on Monday, September 1st in observance of the Labor Day Holiday. Residents with Monday garbage collection will have their garbage picked up on Tuesday, September 2nd. Residents are also reminded that there will be a 6 bag limit the week after the holiday during the collection week of September 2nd through September 4th. All other schedules remain the same

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

Tom Lynch – Scott Street Water Problem

The reason I am here is I live on Scott Street and I have a problem with a discontinued drain line that was put in years ago. Someone has tapped into this pipe and now I get all of the water. It forms in front of my home and it is there for 2 or 3 days. I would like this addressed. You might want to look at 40 Scott Street. They tapped into it.

Biscontinini – Have we had Nick look at this? We will speak to the Twp. engineer

Sax – Didn't we look at this last year?

Lynch – Yes DPW put a pipe but now it's coming again.

Cinti – we will have the Sewer authority and the DPW look at it

Scott Stefanski – Crescent Dr.

Noise ordinance

I reside at 20 Crescent Drive and I am here to file a complaint against residents of 16 Crescent drive for garbage, noise pollution, karaoke, dogs barking. We have been dealing with this for over a year. We have made several attempts to discuss this with the owners to no avail. I believe this can be solved with a noise ordinance and decibel level.

I have brought for you to review noise ordinances / decibel levels from other communities.

Thank you-

Menn – we have quality of life ordinances. We have been looking at them.

Fran Drozda – Crescent Dr.

I have a flash drive of videos and pictures so you can see what we deal with mostly every weekend, with the singing and music and everything.

Biscontinini – I am looking at this ordinance and it says – noise from appliances, vehicles, machinery equipment, power tools, electronics, loud speakers, persons or animals. What does that mean?

Mr. Drozda – Karaoke, she goes out there with a microphone and sings karaoke, and not well

Fran – They need to clean up the garbage too. Nothing has changed and the garbage is accumulating.

Menn- One of the motions we made tonight is to employ additional people to enforce those things.

Mr. Drozda – I have tried to help them a few times but they just don't want it

Walt Moore – Riverview

It doesn't take much to figure out when someone is being spiteful. Are there any homes in that development that are zoned for more than one family?

Sax – It should be an R1 or R2 we will have to check

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Jim Dankovitch - Riverview

My daughter had an incident there too where they were outside cursing and yelling and she was unaware if they were cursing at her.

Moore – Its been good for this past month I get home at 11 at night and sometime the young ones are out playing basketball so I drive by there to see what is going on.

Biscontini – Sgt. Smith what is a reasonable time?

Sgt. Smith – A reasonable time for noise? 10 pm. I would recommend you call while it is going on. Call 911. I am aware of a couple of calls not an overwhelming amount.

Drozda- there is evidence on that flash drive – so you can see it and hear it. She needs to be tamed.

Mr. Drozda – there is a car there from Indiana that has been there for months. It hasn't moved.

Sax – We will get some answers for you.

Shari Turner – Bailey Street

Animal Control

I am here to talk about animal control issues – this started in 2024. There has been cat food placed behind the Sheehan's property, and I asked them to ask the people who were putting it there not to do it anymore. But they said they gave them permission and they were not going to take that back. The problem is these animals come into my yard and are destroying our property. I have had to repair my fence and shed, there are animal feces all over the yard. I went to the Twp. Zoning Officer, they told me to catch the cats. But there is an ordinance that says we cant catch the cats. But its not just cats.

Sax – what other animals?

Turner – I can show you – I have pictures, groundhogs, skunks, opossums, cats. Also pictures of the woman and the others feeding them. And now they also have food at the Dr.'s Office.

Menn – In our ordinance they are allowed to trap neuter and release. Allowed to feed under the conditions in the ordinance.

Turner – They are not trapping them.

Menn – When they do trap them they return them to the place they got them.

Turner – it's a health hazard though.

Biscontini – Have Karen go and talk to them make sure they are following the ordinance.

Turner – They are not trapping them they are feeding them and bringing more.

Menn – The people who feed them are bringing more cats there?

Turner – Yes

Menn – you have seen them bring cats?

Turner – I can not verify that. But the food is drawing them there.

Menn – If they are not following the ordinance then we need to have a conversation with them. Food and water must be removed at the end of each day.

Turner – They don't. they refill it at night.

Menn – well then we will have to have a conversation with them, because that is a violation. Not removing the food, will bring the other animals

Biscontini – We will have Karen go out and make them aware of the ordinance.

Tiffany Allabaugh - Bailey St

Animal Control

When my neighbors moved and left there three cats Whiskers World was given a donation to take these cats. They came the cats were gone and then after a few months they were back.

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I called Whiskers World and she said if we trap them they will take them, but I don't have any way to do that. The people that come out to feed leave the food all day and night. The skunks eat at 2:00am and wake us up. Chuck at Sheehan's says they did not give permission but they don't want to get involved. Because they don't want any kind of negative press.

Here are pictures of the food at the Dr.'s office. The other day someone dropped a whole bag of food in the middle of the road and just left it there.

Menn – It's their property they have a say

Allabaugh – But they don't want to say anything because of the controversy with the program

Here are pictures of the food plates, cat houses the spilled food.

Turner – I would go and collect the food when they would put it out and in 24 hours I gathered a gallon jug of cat food so they started moving the plates further back.

Menn – this must be addressed with Brenda because they are violating the ordinance. We could also notify the property owners that they are in violation. I'm not telling you they can't put food out but there are conditions for doing it. It must be removed and spilling it on the street is defiantly a no no.

Allabaugh – I appreciate that. Thank you.

Harry Yanoshak – Powell St.

Thanks

I just want to thank the board, chairman and zoning. Thanks for putting eyes on 17 Powell St.

Thanks to Karen. Getting the property manager to do something.

Sax – There hasn't been anyone in there right?

Yanoshak – My blink camera has been capturing opossums, skunks and groundhogs, that is it. Thank you very much.

Ava Peterson -

Cemetery

I first became concerned with the conditions of Good Shephard Memorial Cemetery 5 years ago after hearing about its condition. After speaking with many family members and people in the community I decided I wanted to do something to help. A lot of my free weekends are spent at the cemetery replacing veterans' flags, cleaning up, cutting grass and weeds. Over the past few years the grass has been cut buy good Samaritans. However, the mausoleum has deteriorated significantly, the foundation is crumbling, plaques are falling off, there are holes in the walls. I know that no one has a good answer to this problem, so I don't expect a resolution tonight. I just wanted to bring this to your attention.

Sax – the one problem with this is there are no records on this cemetery.

Peterson – I know, I have been researching this for 5 years. On July 26th I found a casket on the outside exposed. I think this is very concerning. I know it's a privately-owned building but this should be rebrick or covered somehow.

I don't want to come to you with just problems but I can't find a solution. I understand the owners refuse to take responsibility. Lee is going to be 90 years old you can't exactly put him in jail. I don't know if maybe there are some kind of grants that can be gotten.

Menn – Yes but its private property, we can't exactly go in there and do anything.

Sluhocki – what if we had their permission?

Menn – and spend Twp. funds then?

Sluhocki – No but maybe board it up?

Menn – maybe do a fundraiser and get the owners permission to go in there and fix it.

Peterson – The owners won't acknowledge it.

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Menn – its kind of late for that, the court has deemed them responsible.

Sax – We know there is a serious problem there and we have been dealing with it for years but we have no good answers.

Menn – Funeral directors need to get a court order to remove the bodies for reinternment

Peterson – As far as I can tell there are about 25 bodies left in the mausoleum.

Biscontini – So are the taxes paid or is it in repository?

Menn – its in repository, but no one is going to buy it

Peterson – The amount of money it would take someone to just tear the mausoleum down is great.

Menn – The problem is its not an everyday structure that we can just take over and knock down because there are people left in there. And most of them don't have family around anymore or they would have removed them already.

Peterson – I spoke with one woman who has family there but she can't afford to have them removed. I just want to thank you for your attention and for listening.

Cinti – Thank you.

K. ADJOURNMENT BY: Cinti 2ND: Sax All for, motion carried TIME: 8:16

Respectfully Submitted By:



Lynell Ent, Secretary

Accepted By:



Robert Sax, Chairman