

PLAINFIELD TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING

Thursday April 27, 2023

A meeting of the Plainfield Township Board of Supervisors was held on Thursday, April 27, 2023, at 7:00 PM, at the Plainfield Township Municipal Building located at 6292 Sullivan Trail, Nazareth, PA 18064.

Chairman Borger called the meeting to order. The Pledge of Allegiance was performed.

ROLL CALL: The following board members answered roll call; Glenn Borger, Don Moore, Ken Fairchild, Paul Levits, & Jane Mellert. Also present was Jeff Bartlett, Interim Township Manager. Supervisor Moor made a motion to add the Zoning Ordinance Amendment for Warehouses to the Agenda. Supervisor Fairchild seconded the motion. Vote 5-0

ASST. SECRETARY: Interim Township Manager Jeff Bartlett

Approval of November 28, 2022, BOS Draft Meeting Minutes; **A motion was made by Supervisor Mellert and seconded by Supervisor Moore.**

Approval of January 11, 2023, BOS Draft Meeting Minutes; **A motion was made by Supervisor Mellert and seconded by Supervisor Moore.**

Chairman Borger made the announcement that the Board of Supervisors held an Executive Session earlier that evening, April 27, 2023, from 6:00 to 7:00 PM. The topics discussed were personnel and real estate.

PREVIOUS BUSINESS:

SBRPC Lease Discussion: Supervisor Mellert noted several of the SBRPC members reviewed information obtained by Wind Gap through a RTK request in order to review the Township's utility usage and payments. Copies of Supervisor Moore's detailed report on the township's utility usage were provided to the SBRPC. Supervisor Fairchild stated that per Wind Gap's Mayor, the SBRPD should not be paying anything for utility usage at the current location. Wind Gap requested a provision be included in the lease to allow for an opt-out option if the SBRPC municipalities determine another location should be considered. The Board decided to allow a 90 day opt out option. **A motion was made by Supervisor Moore and seconded by Supervisor Mellert with the added proposal that the letter be reviewed by Solicitor Backenstoe. Chairman Borger gave the board and audience the opportunity to comment. No comments or questions. Vote 5-0**

NBMA Hower Road Farm: Interim Township Manager Jeff Bartlett informed the board and audience that there have been no new meetings or applications submitted regarding this project. Mr. Bartlett stated that the board has previously authorized \$10,000 to be allocated to water testing to be done on this property back in February 2022. With a significant rain event forecasted soon, the Township Environmental Engineer has suggested that testing be done this

weekend. He reassured Mr. Bartlett that testing this weekend will not go over the approved \$10,000 and gave an estimate of \$2,300 to \$2,400 to perform a rain episode testing which evaluates the water flow on and from a property during a rain event. **A motion was made by Supervisor Moore and seconded by Supervisor Mellert to approve this testing be done this upcoming weekend if the forecasted rain event takes place. There were no comments or questions from the board or audience. Vote 5-0.**

Warehouse Zoning Ordinance Amendment: Interim Township Manager Bartlett stated that the LVPC and Plainfield Township PC have both reviewed and provided their input on the amendment. The amendment must now go to a public hearing. A motion was made by Supervisor Moore and seconded by Chairman Borger permitting Mr. Bartlett to advertise for the public hearing being held to present the amendment of the Warehouse Zoning Ordinance. Chairman Borger gave the board and audience the opportunity to comment. Supervisor Moore presented a question on behalf of an absent audience member asking what is in the Warehouse Ordinance Amendment. Mr. Moore stated that there have not been any additional changes to the ordinance amendment since January of 2023. Amendments the township is making would affect the size of the berms required, giving the applicant the option to choose between trees and shrubs, and regarding setbacks depending upon the size of the warehouse. It was noted that the hearing would be on the June Board Meeting Agenda. No further questions or comments were presented. Vote 5-0

TOWNSHIP MANAGER: Interim Township Manager Jeff Bartlett

MS4 Storm Water Program – Discussion and possible authorization for Ott Engineering to develop and submit plan to the township for this program.

Mr. Bartlett gave a brief description of what the program now requires. The federal government requires all municipalities to participate in this program. There are large fines if a municipality refuses to do so. This project would be extensive, extending into 2024. Mr. Bartlett gave a total project cost of \$37,800.00. Mr. Bartlett expressed the urgency to act on this project so the township can meet the DEP requirements for reports by a deadline of September 30, 2023, and the requirements of the township's pollution control report with a deadline of December 31, 2023. Supervisor Mellert asked if it was possible for the township to obtain another quote for this project to be done. She feels the \$37,800 estimate given by Ott Engineering is high. Supervisor Moore asked if this would be a 3 or 5-year program. Mr. Bartlett stated that this is currently a 3-year program with reporting on certain topics required annually. Mr. Bartlett stated the program includes annual public education by the township, samplings of discharge locations into waterways, and ensuring that the Public Works Dept. is educated on proper spreading of salt in the winter to not pollute waterways, to name a few. Supervisor Moore asked if the proposed estimate from Ott Engineering included these annual requirements for the first 3 years of the program. Mr. Bartlett stated, not necessarily. There are going to be ongoing expenses as the Federal Government is constantly adding more requirements each year for municipalities to remain compliant. Mr. Bartlett stated that a large sum of the funds in the

estimate given by Ott Engineering includes the compilation of the township's pollution reduction plan. Mr. Bartlett stated that the MS4 Program will count toward the township's pollution reduction plan. Supervisor Mellert stated that from what she is aware, the report that was submitted in September of 2022 by Tom Petrucci and Sharon Pletcher was detailed and brought things up to date. Supervisor Mellert suggested that if that documentation can be located, perhaps Ott would not have as much work to do toward this project. Supervisor Moore requested the board wait until Engineer Ott is present at the next BOS Meeting in May. In the meantime, Interim Township Manager Bartlett will discuss if there is anything that can be done to decrease the estimate of \$37,800.00. Supervisor Mellert requested that additional estimates be collected from other engineers. Mr. Bartlett stated that this order of business can be tabled until the next BOS meeting. **No formal motion was made.**

Long Road Culvert – Discussion and authorization to advertise for bids for this project. Mr. Bartlett provided information on the bidding process and requested authorization to advertise that bidding is being accepted via the Penn Bid website. Supervisor Moore asked Mr. Bartlett to explain why this culvert needs to be made larger than regular culverts. Mr. Bartlett explained that this is due to the volume of stormwater runoff that passes through this area. The size of the culvert is also determined by the fact that even though this is a minor stream, it is connected to a tributary that has native trout. The PA Fish & Game Commission requires berms and riffles be created for the trout. Plainfield Township is working together with the Fish Commission and Penn State to coordinate this project. **A motion was made by Supervisor Moore and seconded by Supervisor Mellert to approve advertising making the announcement that Plainfield Township is accepting bids for this project. The project will be advertised on May 4th and 10th 2023. No comments or questions from the board or audience. Vote 5-0**

Plainfield Farmers Association – Letter was received by the Farmer's Association with their requests for this year's Farmers Fair. They have requested that the buildings at Farmer's Grove be emptied of any items that may have been stored there by the township, cleaning of the area, removal of damaged trees on premises, and work done to the tractor pull area. Mr. Bartlett stated that the trees have already been taken care of. Mr. Bartlett stated that the F.A. has contacted our Public Works Dept. regarding some changes to the tractor pull area. Mr. Bartlett spoke with Public Works Foreman, Larry Sapone, they don't foresee having enough time and manpower to make the changes to the tractor pull area in time for this year's fair. The F.A. is looking to add Jersey barriers, have the bleachers moved back further, and do some paving. While the Farmer's Association stated that they would pay for the supplies required for these changes to be done, Mr. Bartlett stated that it would be our manpower performing them. Mr. Bartlett stated that Larry will see if these tasks are possible to be done before this year's fair, but the Public Works Dept. schedule is very full for this Summer already. Supervisor Mellert stated that in years past the township manager, Chairman Borger, and herself, would have an annual meeting with board members of the Farmer's Fair to discuss that year's needs by the F.A. Mr. Bartlett stated that this would be helpful because had the Public Works Dept been given more

notice, they could have added this project to their schedule. Mr. Bartlett stated he would reach out to the Farmer's Fair Board to suggest this resume for the 2024 Farmer's Fair.

Mr. Bartlett stated that the board's approval is needed for the PTVFC Fire Police to provide traffic control in a non-emergency setting for the fair. A motion was made by Supervisor Moore and seconded by Supervisor Fairchild. There were no comments or questions from the board or audience. Vote 5-0

CITIZEN'S AGENDA/NON-AGENDA ITEMS:

Jeff Stoudt – A gentleman from the audience spoke and requested an update on the stormwater runoff on Engler Road. Chairman Borger and Mr. Bartlett stated that this project is being addressed by the township engineer. Mr. Bartlett stated that Engineer Ott will be present at the next BOS Meeting in May and would be the best person to address any questions regarding this project.

Nolan Kemmerer – Asked Supervisor Moore if he submitted a Right-to-Know request in to Wind Gap Borough. Supervisor Moore stated he put in a RTK request to Wind Gap Borough for their budget a few months ago.

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS REPORTS:

Ken Fairchild – Travel Inn—A citizen contacted Northampton County to see if they can get involved in assisting the township to take action on this property. The citizen gave Supervisor Fairchild the name and contact information of the person at the county he or she spoke with. Supervisor Fairchild asked the board's permission to reach out to this contact and discuss how the county and township can work together to rectify the poor condition of this property. Chairman Borger stated as a reminder that all the citizens that are going on this property to take photos and passing them on to board members, are trespassing. He stated as bad as the property is, it is still private property and he reminded everyone that the property owner can have trespassers arrested. The board consented to Supervisor Fairchild reaching out to Northampton County to see how they may be able to assist Plainfield Township in dealing with the Travel Inn property.

Don Moore – Chicken Ordinance—Millie Beahn requested to know the current ordinance. Supervisor Moore stated that there are currently only chickens/fowl allowed in the Farm & Forest District. No other districts, & no other requirements. Millie suggested that the township utilize the current ordinances for noise, nuisance, and odor to regulate this ordinance. Supervisor Levits stated that this would be a great idea, but then the ordinances would also be able to be used for other animals such as dogs.

Jane Mellert—PSATS---Jane attended the 2023 PSATS Conference. On April 25, 2023, the resolution was put forward requesting regulations be put in place restricting the spread of biosolids on preserved farmland and giving townships more authority in the process of approving ordinances, etc. This goes before all townships at the conference to be voted upon.

The resolution was voted against. Supervisor Mellert stated that she is still going to pursue getting this accomplished. She feels the state legislature needs to consider how allowing the spread of biosolids on preserved farmland restricts what is then allowed to be harvested on the farmland. Supervisor Mellert requested the revision of the EAC Ordinance be placed on the next EAC Meeting agenda. The EAC Ordinance Amendment was initially discussed in January of 2022 therefore she feels it should be relatively brief to discuss in the future. Chairman Borger agreed to this.

Paul Levits—He attended the Wind Gap Municipal Authority meeting on April 26, 2023, because CRG was listed on the agenda. The comment was made that they need to get the sewer issue resolved before coming back to the township. WGMA's engineer made a statement that the DEP is closely watching them because their I & I (Infiltration/Inflow) is high. Supervisor Levits suggested that the township make sure that the WGMA has the capacity to service potential future residents of Plainfield Township since the township has undeveloped land in the sewage service area of WGMA. He feels this should be rectified before the BOS approves any extension. Can the municipal authority provide sewage treatment services to the customers they currently have before the township approves a project that will add to their volume?

Supervisor Levits requested a change be made to our ordinance that requires applicants submit plans to a specific scale. He stated that this seems to cause every applicant to submit a waiver request that the P.C. and B.O.S. permit the applicant to submit plans smaller than the required scale. There is a lot of time, effort and steps put into this process and if the township would agree to make a change to the ordinance, this would no longer be required. Supervisor Levits stated he spoke to Engineer Ott to see if he could compile language that would be sufficient to change the SALDO to allow for the engineer reviewing submitted plans to make the decision to accept reduced scaled plans. The board agreed. Interim Township Manager Jeff Bartlett stated he would place this on the next B.O.S. Meeting agenda.

Glenn Borger – No report.

Having no further business, Chairman Borger requested a motion to adjourn the meeting. **A motion was made by Supervisor Mellert and seconded by Supervisor Moore. Vote 5-0.**

April 27, 2023, Plainfield Township Board of Supervisors Meeting was adjourned at 8:23 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kelly Roth Unangst, Township Secretary

