

**West Vincent Township
Meeting Minutes
Board of Supervisors (Draft)
December 27, 2023 7:00 PM**

Attendance: Bernie Couris, Chair; Sara Shick, Vice Chair; Dana Alan, Member; Manager, Jacqui Guenther; David Onorato, Township Solicitor (*via phone*); Christina Casey, Township Asst. Secretary

Mr. Couris called the meeting to order at 7:03 pm.

Mr. Couris announced an Executive Session was held on December 4, 2023, for Legal Discussions.

Minutes:

MOTION by Mrs. Shick to approve the minutes of the November 20, 2023, meeting; second by Mrs. Alan.

George Dulchinos asked about the status of the meetings on December 4th and December 18th. It was explained that newspaper advertisements did not happen in 2023, so all Township business that was conducted in the last 30 days would need to be conducted again. It was noted that the meeting videos and minutes for the December 4th and December 18th meetings will ultimately be available, as well as the video/minutes from tonight's meeting.

There being no further comments or questions, *motion carries 3-0*.

Police Report:

Cpl. Butler read the Police Report. Report on file.

Treasurer's Report:

Ms. Guenther read the Treasurer's Report which listed all the fund balances. **MOTION** was made by Mrs. Shick to accept the Treasurer's Report; second by Mrs. Alan. There being no further comments or questions, *motion carries 3-0*.

Expenditures Report:

Ms. Guenther read the Expenditures List.

MOTION made by Mrs. Alan to approve the Expenditures List for all Township funds in the amount of \$989,938.08; second by Mrs. Shick.

Mrs. Shick asked about the "accrual basis" notation on reports. Ms. Guenther noted that the reports are "memorized" from QuickBooks, and she will change the templates to correctly state "cash basis" on the reports.

There being no further comments or questions, *motion carries 3-0*.

Manager's Report:

Ms. Guenther noted that the Fee Schedule was revised with input from consultants and the office staff primarily to make sure that permit costs going forward are not being paid by residents. The new Fee Schedule will be presented at the reorganization meeting in January.

For Fellowship Trail, Jessica Adams, engineer, wants to bid in early February for this project with a start date in March. The goal is to have the project completed by June 15th which is the expiration date of the trail grant. Township is waiting for a signature on the easement from Mel. As for Opalanie Park, there are questions from Ms. Adams as to where the gazebo should be placed as well as questions surrounding the fishing pier and the dry pond with no water source. Mika Hogga suggested putting in a windmill to pump water from one of two capped wells in order to fill the pond. Ms. Adams will speak with DCED and DCNR, and she will delve further into this option. The cost is currently unknown.

Bob Bezgin began working on the books December 20. Mrs. Shick asked if there was an anticipated end date given by Mr. Bezgin, but there has not been one. Mrs. Shick noted that the contract has a cap on the cost. Mrs. Alan said the preliminary date of completion was thought to be January 15th. Ms. Guenther will confirm status with Mr. Bezgin tomorrow.

OLD BUSINESS:

Approve Contract for Jacqui Guenther, Township Manager:

MOTION made by Mrs. Alan to approve the Contract for Jacqui Guenther as Township Manager; second by Mrs. Shick.

Mr. Dulchinos had questions regarding the lack of an expiration date on the Manager's Contract. Mr. Onorato explained why the contract could stand as written and does not violate any statute. Mr. Dulchinos also asked for clarification on the Board being allowed to amend the contract. It was noted to Mr. Dulchinos that any amendments would need to be publicly done.

Larry Stone (1645 Birchrun) said he feels like the Manager's Contract is being hastily done. Mr. Couris and Mrs. Alan disagree and think Ms. Guenther is doing a great job.

Jeff Goldberg (340 Sundance) gave kudos to the supervisors for picking Ms. Guenther as the manager. He believes advertising for a new manager would be rolling the dice, especially with having a known, good candidate already in place per the three supervisors.

Ms. Shick corrected Mr. Goldberg and said that she has never said that Ms. Guenther is doing a great job.

Tom Helwig (2034 Pottstown Pike) gave his opinion on the previous comments.

Barry DiLibero (1012 Pottstown Pike) mentioned that John Granger dumped 3 years of a mess on Ms. Guenther's lap, and Ms. Guenther has the best working knowledge of these issues. He supports having her here for the next year and then give a review.

Mrs. Shick noted that we hear often about all the problems left for Ms. Guenther by Mr. Granger, but Mrs. Shick believes she and the public would benefit from a list of all the problems, other than the budget and audit, that Mr. Granger created and how those problems are being solved. Mrs.

Alan believes Ms. Guenther has reported other to the public things like not completing grant paperwork, but Mrs. Alan believes we need to look forward and not back.

Julia Braendle (2472 Flowing Springs) believes that when you have an internal candidate that knows the system and can do the work, it's always better to hire from within. However, Ms. Braendle is hoping the Township will look to put policy in place to advertise for these positions. The Township can still hire from within, but it might put some of this issue to rest. Ms. Braendle also noted a six-month probationary period is ridiculous.

There being no further comments or questions, *motion carries 2-1 with Mrs. Shick voting nay.*

Appoint Bob Bezgin to correct 2022 Quickbooks – MOTION by Mrs. Alan to appoint Bob Bezgin to correct 2022 Quickbooks; second by Mrs. Shick.

Mr. Stone NOTED THAT DURING THE December 4th meeting that Mr. Bezgin would be starting immediately. Ms. Guenther said Mr. Bezgin started on December 20th which was when he was scheduled to start.

Mr. Helwig wanted to know why Mr. Bezgin had a New Jersey address and a 610- phone number. He's just curious. Mr. Helwig wanted to know if this position was advertised. Mrs. Alan noted it was advertised through various channels as well as speaking to many different firms.

Mrs. Shick asked when the 2023 QuickBooks records be available for the auditors to begin. Ms. Guenther said the 2023 books are fine and they will be ready after 12/31/23..

There being no further comments or questions, *motion carries 2-1 with Mrs. Shick voting nay.*

Adopt the 2024 Budget – MOTION by Mrs. Shick to adopt the 2024 Budget; second by Mrs. Alan.

John Eldridge noted that he has previously made numerous comments regarding the budget, and his comments stand.

Mr. Dulchinos asked if any changes were made to the budget that has been posted. Ms. Guenther said that some new actual data was entered into the budget. The pages with changes can be determined by the dates on each page: 12/18/23 were not changed; 12/21/23 had changes.

There being no comments or questions, *motion carries 2-1 with Mrs. Shick voting nay.*

NEW BUSINESS:

Approve Resolution No. 19-2023 – Worker's Compensation Coverage for Ludwigs Corner Fire Company's Firefighters and Fire Police – MOTION by Mrs. Shick to approve Resolution No. 19-2023 – Worker's Compensation Coverage for Ludwigs Corner Fire Company's Firefighters and Fire Police; second by Mrs. Alan.

There being no further comments or questions, *motion carries 3-0.*

Approve Resolution No. 20-2023 – 2024 Tax rate of 2.09 mills – MOTION by Mrs. Shick to approve Resolution No. 20-2023 – unchanged 2024 Tax rate at .00209 mills or \$0.29 per hundred; second by Mrs. Alan with correction to rate of \$0.209.

There being no comments or questions, *motion carries 3-0.*

Set date for 2024 Re-Organization Meeting: January 2, 2024 – *Acknowledged.*

Set date for 2024 Auditor’s Meeting: January 3, 2024 – *Acknowledged.*

Approve 2024 Calendar for Board of Supervisors and Committee Meetings – MOTION by Mrs. Shick to advertise 2024 calendar for Board of Supervisors and Committee Meetings; second by Mrs. Alan.

Mr. DiLibero asked if the calendar will have Board Workshops and one (1) official meeting a month. Mr. Couris agreed.

Mrs. Alan noted that the Board is allowed to do business at a workshop with advertisement.

Ken Alan (21 Ivy) said he did not see the Parks & Recreation meeting for January listed on the website. Ms. Guenther said it can’t be listed until the meetings are advertised.

There being no comments or questions, *motion carries 3-0.*

Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items:

Mr. DiLibero thanked the Board for having this meeting to correct the non-advertised previous meetings.

Mr. Onorato reiterated that the Workshops, although labeled as Workshops, are legally advertised meetings. Business can be conducted at advertised workshops provided agendas with the business are published 24 hours in advance.

Donna Delaney(2147 Beaver Hill) thanked the township for their work. She was very grateful.

Mr. Helwig addressed Mrs. Alan over her earlier comment regarding woman being regarded differently than men for the same actions. Mrs. Alan owned her previous statement and clarified that she did not want to imply that any person was sexist. She was only sharing her experiences as a woman.

Mrs. Alan announced that there will be a trailer set up through January 14th at Opalanie by The Edge Farm to collect live trees, garland and wreaths which will be used as food for goats.

There being no further discussion, Mr. Couris asked for all in favor of adjourning.

The meeting adjourned at 7:58 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Christina Casey, Asst. Township Secretary

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