

**West Vincent Township
Board of Supervisors
APPROVED MINUTES - SPECIAL MEETING
June 13, 2023 7:00 PM**

Attendance: Bernie Couris (Chair), Dana Alan (Member), Mark Thompson (Township Solicitor), Christina Casey (Township Assistant Secretary). Absent: Sara Shick (Vice Chair). Also attending Jacqui Guenther (Township Treasurer).

Chairman Couris called the Meeting to order at 7:00 PM

Pledge of Allegiance

ACCEPT RESIGNATION OF JOHN GRANGER FROM THE POSITION OF TOWNSHIP MANAGER

MOTION by Mr. Couris to accept the resignation of John Granger as Township Manager effective June 12, 2023; second by Mrs. Alan.

John Eldridge (1634 Hilltop) asked if there is a reason for the resignation. Mr. Couris said Mr. Granger wrote a resignation due to private health issues. Mr. Eldridge asked if it was in any way related to the forensic audit or any other financial issues. Mr. Couris said no. Mr. Eldridge asked if severance was being given and noted that severance is typically not given for resignations. Mr. Eldridge asked if Mr. Granger was asked to resign.

Mr. Thompson said the resignation was accepted, but no questions would be taken tonight regarding the resignation. Public comments were allowed, though. However, the Board could elaborate on the severance. Mr. Thompson said the resignation was not related to the forensic audit or Township finances.

Mr. Couris explained that his contract called for 1 month of salary for each year of employment. Mr. Granger was just shy of 3 years, so the Board opted to give 3 months.

George Dulchinos (1415 Hollow Road) asked if severance was in the contract or was negotiated later. Mr. Couris said it was in the contract which was reiterated by Mr. Thompson. Mr. Dulchinos asked if he was paid the severance immediately and then abruptly resigned. Mr. Couris said yes. Mr. Dulchinos noted that resignations tend to come with a transition plan and some brief period of transition. Mrs. Alan noted that the severance is not being paid in a lump sum but rather bi-weekly.

Barry DiLibero (1012 Pottstown Pike) reiterated that the Board is not answering questions. Mr. DiLibero noted that Mr. Granger had not delivered the forensic audit report that was requested through a Right-to-Know from Mr. Eldridge which said no documents were available even though the report was discussed in public meetings for months. Mr. DiLibero shared that he was surprised that the Board had not gotten rid of Mr. Granger so long ago. Mr. DiLibero noted that Mr. Granger was collecting \$150,000 salary while also

working as a part-time manager at another more populated township. Mr. DiLibero also stated that the internet had much information which noted that Mr. Granger had questionable financial problems at other municipalities where he previously worked. Mr. DiLibero noted that the Township attorney even said that Mr. Granger was the worst candidate for manager, and the Board hired him anyway. Mr. DiLibero said he was relieved that Mr. Granger took the initiative to leave after doing such a bad job for our Township. Mr. DiLibero addressed Mr. Couris saying that the forensic audit was probably in the office. Mr. DiLibero was unsure if this meeting was posted within the required 24 hours. Mr. Thompson said it was posted in the Monday edition of the Daily Local.

There being no further comments or questions, *Motion carries unanimously.*

ACCEPT APPOINTMENT OF JACQUI GUENTHER AS INTERIM TOWNSHIP MANAGER

MOTION by Mr. Couris to appoint Jacqui Guenther as interim Township Manager/Bookkeeper effective June 13, 2023; second by Mrs. Alan.

Mr. Eldridge approached the microphone again. He welcomed Ms. Guenther who said she started in late October as the Treasurer for the Township. He asked if she would be doing both positions (Manager and Treasurer), and Ms. Guenther said she would at least for the near future. Mrs. Alan did feel that residents should be allowed to ask questions of Ms. Guenther, but that Ms. Guenther has a long career in municipal government and the office has been impressed with her work so far. Mr. Eldridge offered his assistance to Ms. Guenther if it is ever needed.

Mr. DiLibero approached the microphone again and confirmed that Ms. Guenther does not hold any other Township Manager positions in other townships. He noted the bar was set low, but that Ms. Guenther should do fine here. Mrs. Alan said Ms. Guenther will be in every day at the office.

There being no further comments or questions, *Motion carries unanimously.*

PUBLIC DISCUSSION

Mr. Dulchinos approached the microphone again. He noted that we have a forensic audit from earlier this year that has been discussed at previous meetings. Mr. Dulchinos noted that the Board said they were unhappy with the way the report was worded and were hoping for the report to be released soon, but it has been three months since that initial request.

Mr. Thompson said that the original audit did not provide for a written report which the Board is requesting. The Board has been diligently working to get a report that can be shared with the public. Mr. Thompson noted it would not be lengthy. Marcum was asked to provide findings. Mr. Dulchinos noted that there must be at least some form of correspondence, but he was willing to take Mr. Thompson's word that there is nothing that can be shared.

Mrs. Alan noted that the delay is in part the Board was trying to get this report without being charged extra money for that report. She said it was a verbal report and not a written report. Mr.

Dulchinos asked if the \$25,000 only resulted in a phone call with the results. Mr. Thompson said there were multiple meetings with Marham regarding the audit.

Julia Braendel, 2472 Flowing Springs Road asked if the contract with Marcum stated that there would be a written report or a verbal report. She asked who signed the contract. Mr. Thompson said the contract did not specifically provide for a written report. Ms. Braendel wanted to know who negotiated that \$25,000 contract. Mr. Thompson said the contract was not negotiated. Ms. Braendel wanted to know who signed the contract. Mr. Couris stated the Board signed the contract.

There being no further discussion, the **MOTION** to adjourn was brought forward by Mrs. Alan; second by Mr. Couris. *Motion carries unanimously.*

Meeting adjourned at 7:15PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Christina Casey
Township Assistant Secretary