

**West Vincent Township
Meeting Minutes
Board of Supervisors
March 18, 2024 7:00 PM**

Attendance: Dana Alan, Chair; Sara Shick, Vice Chair; Bernie Couris, Member, Jacqui Guenther, Township Manager; David Onorato, Township Solicitor; Kathy Shillenn, Township Secretary;

Mrs. Alan called the meeting to order at 7:09 pm.

Mrs. Alan announced that Executive Sessions were held on March 8, 2024 for Legal Discussions, March 11, 2024 for Personnel Discussion and an Executive Session was held before this evening's meeting to discuss Real Estate and Personnel.

Announcements: Mrs. Alan recognized Sgt. Austin Russell for 20 years of service with the West Vincent Township Police Department. On 4 /3/24 there will be a Clean Energy Seminar at the Henrietta Hankin Library, 4/6/24 the Environmental Advisory Commission will have a seminar on wild tree care at Opalanie Park, 4/24/24 the Historic Resources Committee is having an event with Bob Wise on Camp Meetings in the 19th Century, 5/4/24 Sustainability Committee will be partnering with the Ludwigs Corner Horseshow Assoc. and Kristine Howard's office to offer a shredding and battery recycling event at the Horseshow grounds. Also, the West Vincent Township Bird Town was once again awarded the gold status.

Minutes:

MOTION by Ms. Shick to approve the minutes of February 20, 2024; second by Mr. Couris.

Jamie McVicker asked that the minutes not be approved. Mr. McVicker continued to comment on the minutes not being complete and consistent. A discussion followed on this subject.

Barry DiLibero also spoke about the minutes and not being clear enough.

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

Treasurer's Report:

Ms. Guenther read the Summary of all Funds. The total of all the Summary of Funds at the end of February 2024 is \$845,781.68.

John Eldridge shared his many concerns with the Treasurer's Report. Mr. Eldridge also asked what the status was of the 2022 audit. Mr. Onorato said that the Board hired Mr. Bob Bezgin to adjust the 2022 QuickBooks. Mr. Bezgin completed the adjustments, and the Board is now trying to establish a meeting with the auditor to set up the audit.

Mr. McVicker stated that there is something wrong with the way QuickBooks is set up. Mr. McVicker pointed out some errors that needed to be corrected.

Expenditures Report:

Ms. Guenther read the Expenditures List.

MOTION made by Mr. Couris to approve the Expenditures List for all Township Funds in the amount of \$308,068.37; second by Ms. Shick.

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

Manager's Report: Ms. Guenther said that her manager's report to the Board included items that couldn't be discussed in the public meeting; the other items were the agenda items that are listed.

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

Discuss Exoneration of an Uncollectable Tax Lien - Byers Station Community Association - **MOTION** by Ms. Shick to Authorize the Chester County Tax Lien Bureau to exonerate any tax liens on certain parcels due to the property being 0-value open space per statute; second by Mr. Couris.

Ms. Shick shared that this is part of the Byers Station Community HOA, a small parcel, which was turned over due to taxes not being paid.

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

Authorization to Issue an RFP for Brokerage Services Related to a 401a Deferred Compensation Plan - **MOTION** by Ms. Shick to authorize an RFP to be issued for Brokerage Services related to a 401a Deferred Compensation Plan; second by Mr. Couris.

Ms. Guenther explained that the township has two different accounts, a 457, which employees pay into. Both unions, non-uniformed and uniformed, voted to move the 457 accounts to Vanguard. The 401a plan is township money that is contributed on behalf of the employees it must go out to bid.

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

Discuss Plastic Ban Ordinance - The Board is not ready to advertise this ordinance yet; this will be a discussion on the ordinance that was posted.

Chris Taylor, Chair of the Sustainability, said that the Committee has been trying to get a plastic bag, straws, clamshells, and Styrofoam ban ordinance together that would be enacted throughout the township. They are looking to match what neighboring township do.

Karl Brachwicz asked what it is that the committee wants to ban exactly. Mr. Taylor said plastic bags at point of sale; give the store the opportunity to use paper bags; banning plastic straws and banning styrene products used at point of sale. Mr. Brachwicz continued to discuss his points and doesn't feel it is the township's business to ban these items.

Jim Hanna asked if the township is trying to regulate windy day plastic bags or trying to produce less of that which will go to the handlers of the township waste.

Kirk Reinbold said that they are basically trying to reduce pollution; Mr. Reinbold says that he feels that they are trying to do both above comments from Mr. Hanna.

Julia Braendel asked which townships are banning straws. Mr. Reinbold said Westtown, Treddyfrin, Uwchlan, Upper Uwchlan is working on an ordinance. Mrs. Alan stated that the Board should pick a workshop date to discuss this. May 6th was decided on for the workshop.

Donna Delany commented that she and Mr. Reinbold took a tour of the Mascaro Recycling facility and it's magnificent.

Discuss Animal Waste Ordinance – Ms. Guenther explained that the MS4 Program is sweeping through the state; the township has been getting waivers for many years. To get the waiver the township needs to have an animal waste ordinance in place. This will need to put this ordinance out for advertisement.

Jim Scaperotto asked what falls into the dog and domestic animal category. Mr. Onorato commented that the state requires this, and he modeled this after several of the neighboring township's ordinances.

Julie Braendel asked if horses would be considered livestock. The discussion continued about animals defecating and where and would deal with this issue on public property not private property.

Jim Hanna asked what the MS4 is. Ms. Guenther said that the MS4 is the Municipal Separate Stormwater System, the stormwater runoff. The municipalities are required to have an MS4 plan to make sure all stormwater runoff goes cleanly into the creeks without polluting. This requires a fully engineered MS4 plan. The animal waste ordinance is needed to comply in order to get the waiver.

Mrs. Alan said that if anyone has any comments to let the township know. This ordinance will be tabled and discussed next month.

Discuss Bamboo Ordinance – Ms. Guenther said this was brought up by our Road Master, Mike Hogga. This is becoming a safety issue with the bamboo that is close to the road. Mrs. Alan feels there is more that needs to be discussed and considered regarding this ordinance.

Kirk Reinbold asked if there is a setback for bamboo. Mr. Onorato said that this ordinance suggests 10 feet from the property line and 40 feet from roads. Mr. Reinbold also brought up biking and problems with the roads.

Karl Brachwicz had a discussion with the Road Master, and it was said that the rules had changed; the township used to take the boom mower and remove it.

Julia Braendel asked if the township is taking out trees that are blocking the site lines. Ms. Guenther said yes. The township is taking down dead trees; the township must rent a large crane to take out the trees. Ms. Shick asked if the township has heard from PECO about their trimming schedule. Ms. Guenther has not received anything about that yet.

Discuss Lawn to Meadow Program at Evans Park - Barb Mako discussed the program. The DCNR has funding to convert grass to meadow. They are looking at Evans Park, but there are pipelines that run through the park. Ms. Mako is wanting the Board of Supervisors to approve this program and if the pipeline ok's the meadow, they can move forward.

Donna Delany added that DCNR has money for specific projects, which is what the EAC are applying for. Ms. Guenther said that we need approval from the pipeline company, and we need a plan to move forward.

Chris Moore discussed her property in which 3 ½ acres are converted into a meadow and she stated that it's not as easy as you think.

Ms. Shick asked what the long-term maintenance plan for the meadow is. Ms. Delany said that the DCNR will only give money if the maintenance is done by a professional.

Ms. Mako said that Natural Lands has a lot of meadows, and it is not a money drain on them. It's better than grass.

MOTION by Ms. Shick to accept the Environmental Advisory Council's proposal to convert lawn to meadow in Evans Park contingent upon Pipeline approval; second by Mr. Couris.

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

Authorize Approval of Appraisals for Two Properties - **MOTION** by Mr. Couris to approve appraisals for two properties; second by Ms. Shick.

Mr. Onorato said it is the potential acquisition of open space; Ms. Shick said that one is a potential TDR purchase.

Jim Hanna and Karl Brachwicz shared their concerns with the spending of township funds on the appraisals without knowing where the properties are.

George Dulchinos asked how much the township was spending on the appraisals. Mrs. Alan said \$1,800.

Julia Braendel commented on Mr. Brachwicz's comment about notifying the residents of where the properties are.

MOTION by Mrs. Alan to approve the appraisal for the TDR property; second by Mr. Couris.

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

MOTION by Ms. Shick to approve the appraisal for the purchase of a property; second by Mr. Couris.

Ms. Shick said that she wants to know what the plan is; it is putting the cart before the horse to put out \$1800 before the Board knows what they are going to do with it.

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

Approve Payment Request #3 for J&K Excavating in the Amount of \$45,637.40 for the Jaine Lane Drainage Project – MOTION by Ms. Shick to approve the payment request #3 for J&K Excavating in the amount of \$45,637.40 for the Jaine Lane Drainage Project; second by Mr. Couris.

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

Approve Dickinson Lease for Mowing Field next to Garden on Fellowship Road – MOTION by Ms. Shick to approve the Dickinson Lease for mowing the field next to the Garden on Fellowship Road; second by Mr. Couris.

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

Acknowledge Receipt of Minor Subdivision Application for Pothouse/Kimberton LLC for Lot Line Exchange – Board of Supervisors acknowledged.

Acknowledge Receipt of Minor Subdivision Application for Charles Dickinson, 710 & 800 Fellowship Road Lot Line Change – Board of Supervisors acknowledged.

Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items:

Jamie McVicker pointed out that almost everyone in the room made a comment tonight.

Kirk Reinbold, speaking on behalf of the Clean Energy Transition Team asked if the solar array on the township building has finally been registered. Mr. Couris said he would look into it.

Mr. Reinbold commented that the CETT submitted a grant proposal for the Public Works Building and Opalanie Building.

Barry DiLibero noticed that the white SUV used to park at the charging machine. Now the credit card machine is set up no one uses it.

Chris Moore asked about Buttonwood Bridge at a meeting this past November. Ms. Moore would like to know if these issues have been resolved regarding the bridge and the farm's conditional use. Ms. Guenther did state that the zoning officer investigated this and found no violations to what they are doing.

Jim Scaperotto and Julie Braendel stated their concerns about the issues with the farm and traffic now that horseshow season is starting. Mr. Scaperotto feels that the zoning officer needs to look at the conditional use again. He will summarize everything and send it to all.

Ms. Moore asked the status of the bridge and what is the timeline. Ms. Guenther stated staff was working with FEMA to receive the funds, but Ms. Guenther does not have a timeline yet.

Mr. Couris commented that he walks the bridge, and his observation is that nothing is being undermined on the bridge.

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

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Kathryn Shillenn
Township Secretary