

**West Vincent Township  
Meeting Minutes  
Board of Supervisors  
April 15, 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 7:05 pm.

Mrs. Alan noted that there was an Executive Session held on April 9, 2024 for Real Estate and Legal Discussion and an Executive Session was held before this evenings meeting to discuss personnel.

**Minutes:**

**MOTION** by Ms. Shick to approve the minutes of March 18, 2024; second by Mr. Couris.

Ms. Shick asked about the minutes being posted. Ms. Guenther stated that our township solicitor, Dave Onorato, stated that he does not feel that is appropriate to post draft minutes; we shall wait until they are approved to be posted.

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

**Announcements:**

Mrs. Alan recognized Larry Liss, a long-time township resident who received a Silver Star for his heroic actions during the Vietnam War.

Mrs. Alan also mentioned that on April 24<sup>th</sup>, Bob Wise will be giving a historic talk on 19<sup>th</sup> Century Camps. This will be at 7:00pm. On May 4<sup>th</sup> there will be a Shredding Event that will be held at Ludwig's Corner Horseshow Grounds.

**Police Report:**

Cpl. Butler read the report. Report on file and will be posted on the Police website.

**Treasurer's Report:**

Ms. Guenther read the Summary of all Funds. The total of all the Summary of Funds at the end of March 2024 is \$990,280.60. The breakdown of all the funds is on the March Summary Sheet.

John Eldridge noted that there are funds for this year and for last year. Mr. Guenther noted that Mr. McVickar asked her to do that. Mr. Eldridge had some other comments that he shared that concerned him to which Ms. Guenther answered.

Julia Braendel pointed out that Ms. Guenther stated the wrong amount for the total of township funds. Ms. Guenther agreed. Ms. Braendel wanted to point out that the township had more than \$990,280.60.

**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 \$458,006.04; second by Ms. Shick.

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

**Manager's Report:** Ms. Guenther read her manager's report which included the Reicherts water issues are still under investigation. The Liss's contacted Ms. Guenther about the basin that was constructed on their property that they were not happy about; a compromise was made to move the basin to another part of the property. The township's Park and Rec Ordinance contains a portion about picking up animal waste which will satisfy the DEP. The township will be getting the waiver. Ms. Guenther's bond was renewed in the amount of \$3,000,000. There were problems with some solicitors, which caused the township to revoke the permit. There could be some changes made to the Solicitation Ordinance which would benefit the township. A discussion continued regarding solicitations. Mold Remediation - the Supervisors requested mold testing. A company came out to test and will give a report soon. Byers Station Basin Repairs - Lennar will start working on these basins soon, Arro is monitoring this. Cell Tower - the company is waiting for the permit approvals. Buttonwood Bridge - The cost to repair the bridge will be almost \$2 million. Ms. Guenther continued the discussion regarding the Buttonwood Bridge.

Julia Braendel asked if the township released escrows to Lennar regarding Byers Station, to which Ms. Guenther stated no.

Chris Sarasoli shared some research that she did on the Buttonwood Bridge.

Ms. Guenther also noted that 401A is out for bid.

**OLD BUSINESS: None**

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**Opalanie Park Presentation:**

Mrs. Alan presented and discussed the Opalanie Park Plan.

Julia Braendel shared her concerns about the dog park being next to the horse trail. Dogs will spook the horses. Also, the equestrian trail should go around the parking lot not through it. Mrs. Alan commented that she would get more details to share with Ms. Braendel.

Charlene Briggs stated that she would like to support two concepts; the nature playscape and the outdoor classroom.

**Traffic Safety Discussion on Potholes:**

Ken Alan spoke on behalf of the Traffic Safety Committee. Mr. Alan wanted to give a public service announcement on potholes. Mr. Alan spoke with PennDOT 6 about what the township could do. Matthew Anderson from PennDOT suggested that residents reach out to PennDOT.

**Authorize Advertisement for Plastic Ban Ordinance:**

Julia Braendel commented that she doesn't care about plastic bags, but she will not drink from paper straws. Do you have to go all in? What is the issue? Why are we doing it?

Mr. Onorato stated that if there is going to be a workshop, then we should wait until we've had a workshop to discuss the ordinance.

Jeff Goldberg spoke about dolphins and porpoises were being killed in tuna catches. The government did nothing and companies started changing their processes. The market worked. It doesn't work when the government mandates what people can and cannot do.

Jamie McVickar stated that the market has shown they prefer plastic to glass and paper. Mr. McVickar is in favor of this ordinance.

Frank Frederick concurs that plastics are killing us.

**MOTION** by Ms. Shick to have a workshop to discuss the plastic ban ordinance on May 6<sup>th</sup>; second by Mr. Couris.

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

**Approve Payment #4 for J&K Excavating in the Amount of \$88,412.40 for the Jaine Lane Drainage Project:** **MOTION** by Ms. Shick to approve payment #4 for J&K Excavating in the amount of \$88,412.40 for the Jaine Lane Drainage Project; second by Mr. Couris.

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

**Appoint Joesph Pugh to Complete the 2022 Bank Reconciliation in Preparation for 2022 Audit:** **MOTION** by Mr. Couris to appoint Joseph Pugh to complete the 2022 Bank Reconciliations in Preparation for the 2022 Audit; second by Ms. Shick.

John Eldridge asked how much the township is going to pay this guy. Mr. Onorato stated that he will be paid \$60.00 an hour. Mr. Eldridge asked if this has anything to do with balancing the books. Mr. Pugh will be hired to complete the reconciliations.

Julia Braendel asked if Mr. Bezgin was not able or capable of finishing the project, how much did he do and how much was he paid? Mr. Onerato stated that Mr. Bezgin was not able to do what he thought he could do and what he did was of no use to the township. Mr. Bezgin was not paid. The timeline to have this completed is now the end of April or early May.

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

**Appoint Maille, LLP to Complete the 2022 Audit:** **MOTION** by Ms. Shick to Appoint Maille, LLP to Complete the 2022 Audit; second by Mr. Couris.

John Eldridge stated that he thinks Barbacane should finish the audit. Mr. Onorato stated that Barbacane agreed not to finish the audit. Has Maille given any kind of schedule? Looking forward to completion of the 2022 audit in May if Maille gets everything they need.

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

**Authorization to Advertise Bid for Fellowship Road Trail:** MOTION by Ms. Shick to authorize the advertisement of the bid for Fellowship Road Trail; second by Mr. Couris.

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

**Appoint Volunteers to Committees:** MOTION by Ms. Shick to appoint the following volunteers to Committees; Sustainability Committee – Rhonda Ellis, Ned Foley, Agricultural Security Board – Sue Miller, Zoning Hearing Board – Dave Weber, Parks and Recreation Commission – Jim Scaperotto, Planning Commission – Frank Frederick; second by Mr. Couris.

Julia Braendel asked what the Agricultural Security Board. Is it a countywide board or a new committee? Ms. Shick stated they meet on an as needed basis.

Charlene Briggs expanded on the Agricultural Security Board. It does protect farmers and their right to farm.

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

**Acknowledge Zoning Hearing Board Application for Sunoco Station, 1105 Pottstown Pike for Replacement of Signage:** Acknowledged by the Board of Supervisors.

#### **Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items**

Debbie Reichert stated that she was at a previous board meeting about the stormwater problems on her property and her concerns and wanted to update the Board.

Tom Helwig commented and shared his thoughts about the previous residents' comments.

Julia Braendel commented about how stormwater is talked about a lot in this township. Ms. Braendel feels that it is outrageous to have the Reicherts pay to have this problem fixed.

Tom Helwig shared his comments about plastic. Mr. Helwig commented that people lack perspective about what's dangerous. Mr. Helwig stated that he wanted to be clear that he made no threats to anyone in the room.

Debbie Reichert stated that Mrs. Alan made a statement that the township does do stormwater inspections in the township. Mrs. Reichert did a Right to Know and no inspections exist for the property that she requested information on.

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Kathryn Shillenn  
Township Secretary