

**West Vincent Township  
Workshop Minutes  
Board of Supervisors  
May 6, 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 7:00 pm.

**Presentation:** None

**Trail Bid:**

**Construction of Fellowship Trail:** This will be addressed at the Board of Supervisors meeting on May 20<sup>th</sup>.

**Discussion of the Plastic Ban Ordinance:**

**Chris Taylor, Sustainability Committee** started the discussion on the Plastic Ban Ordinance. He reviewed some of the items listed in the ordinance. The reason for this ban is that this will not make much of a difference in the impact on the environment, but about educating people about being aware of the plastic they use and start to think about ways of reducing it.

Kirk Reinbold would like to hear from the Litter Lifters and how much trash they pick up in the township. He went on to discuss some of the issues.

Chris Taylor stated that they are here tonight to listen to concerns, take them into account and answer questions.

Many residents commented on their concerns regarding this ordinance. Julia Braendel – way to control people with the ordinance; most trash on roads comes from trash trucks and trash cans overflowing or not picked up, give people options to do the right thing, considers the bag fee a fine; Karl Brachwicz – ordinance is created to dictate what people can do, suggests no price for bags be mandated, the ordinance is way to verbose and needs a lot of work. Jack Planchak – feels strongly that littering is a behavior, against plastic ban, should enforce a litter ordinance, inconvenience to businesses in townships. George Dulchinos – what is the purpose of mandating fee for paper bags. Chris Taylor – the purpose of the fee is to have the consumer realize there is cost to any bag that they use and to think more responsibly, paper bags damage the environment also. Bill Beible, Fairmont – should stop pretending to have the township tell businesses how to do business – health risks, it is quite easy to say what the chemicals are in the plastic, question is are they at hazardous levels, what is the benefit vs. the cost of putting people through this. Barry DiLibero – it is common terminology that is used to talk about plastics, the leaching out of chemicals is very minimal, people are always littering, this is a waste of time. Karl Brachwicz – this ordinance is not very definable, it is not enforceable, do not need to charge for bags.

Kathy Cook of Chester County Environmental Alliance Pollution Taskforce discussed why the ordinance is needed, such as plastic leaching chemicals, which contains carcinogens, she had a few suggestions but felt the ordinance was particularly good, the fee will create a habit to bring

bags. Beyond Plastics has a "Skip the Straw" campaign and stated that 26 municipalities and 12 states have enacted bans. Beth Intoccia, Litter Lifters - shared how much litter, which is a lot of single use plastic bags, that the Litter Lifters has picked up in the past four years, feels there should be a plastic bag ban, feels it will be an example to other municipalities. Dorothy Lynn, also of the Litter Lifters - spoke to the many plastics that have been picked up, there is microplastics in the water, people need to be educated to leave reusable bags in their cars. Kip Archinal - voted against the ban due to plastic cups being omitted in the ordinance, should talk to state reps and state senators to adopt a state ban. Julie Foster - giving a business owners perspective, businesses across the country are seeing a wave of plastics bans. Karen Planchak - is the ultimate goal to get litter off the streets of the township or is it to change the world, thought the ordinance was to clean up streets, now she is seeing that it is escalating, does not think the residents are throwing trash out the window.

Mrs. Alan asked which way we go from here. Mr. Onorato stated that in order to adopt it, he will have to convert it to codify it, the length of the ordinance should be changed. It might be helpful to have Sustainability rethink the ordinance and come back with a different proposal. The Sustainability Committee could make recommendations for changes.

Mr. Reinbold asked if the Solicitor and Supervisors could come back with some comments for the Sustainability to work on.

The meeting adjourned at 8:15 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Kathryn Shillenn  
Township Secretary