

**West Vincent Township
Meeting Minutes
Board of Supervisors
July 15, 2024 7:00 PM**

Attendance: Dana Alan, Chair; Sara Shick, Vice Chair; Bernie Couris, Member; Dave Onorato, Township Solicitor; Kathryn Shillenn, Township Secretary

Mrs. Alan called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

Mrs. Alan noted that there was an Executive Session on June 24, 2024 for Legal Discussion and an Executive Session held before this Board Meeting July 15 for Legal Discussion.

Minutes:

MOTION by Ms. Shick to approve the Minutes of June 17, 2024 and the Workshop Minutes of July 1, 2024; second by Ms. Couris.

There being no comments or questions, Motion carries unanimously.

Police Report:

Sgt. Russell read the report. Report on file and will be posted on the Police website.

Presentation:

Traffic Safety Committee's Proposal Regarding Trees and Site Lines

Ted Otteni, Traffic Safety Committee gave a power point presentation on traffic safety on roads in West Vincent Township. Members of the Traffic Safety Committee were tasked with looking at safety issues in the township and to make recommendations to the township. Mr. Otteni discussed the power point that showed some of the deficiencies on a few roads in the township. Mrs. Alan read Ms. Guenther's comments regarding site lines and trees.

Ken Alan, Traffic Safety Committee also shared some safety concerns.

Announcements:

Mrs. Alan spoke about the E. Coli in the water. Mr. Couris has been working on getting the issue solved. The township has been making progress. Mr. Couris said it should be about two more weeks. The total for the Public Works shed and the township building is about \$150.00.

Mrs. Alan noted that the township is planning to hold the Butterscotch Café Conditional Use hearing at the next scheduled Board Meeting which is August 19th. The Special Event Ordinance will move to the September 16th Board meeting.

Mrs. Alan introduced Bob Wise from the Township Historical Commission who wanted to share some information with the residents from the Chester County Historic Preservation Network. Mr. Wise shared that Sara Shick received the Jane Ellis Davidson Award from the Chester County Historic Preservation Network. Ms. Shick thanked Mr. Wise for his presentation, Harriet Stone, and all the volunteers involved with West Vincent history.

Presentation cont'd:

Kathy Cook, PA Plastics Campaign Lead presented a power point on the Plastic Bag Ordinance. Ms. Cook wanted to give pointers on why the township needs a plastic bag ban.

Public Hearing - Ordinance No. 208:

Mr. Onorato, Township Solicitor opened the Public Hearing and explained the Plastic Ban Ordinance. Residents are welcome to speak for or against the ordinance.

Lucretia Blank, Sara Shick's Cousin who is visiting shared her thoughts on wanting to preserve the beauty of West Vincent Township. Virginia, where she lives, passed a statewide ordinance to ban plastic.

Barry DiLibero stated he has a problem with some facts that were given out. When giving facts out, they should be real facts, such as, it was stated that August is the hottest on record - right now the earth just came out of a little "ice age." Is there a plan for substitutes in place for plastic bags? Mrs. Alan stated that the township has resources to help businesses.

George Dulchinos commented on the mandatory bag charge. Mr. Onorato stated that the Sustainability Committee recommended the bag charge should be in the ordinance. Is the Zoning Officer going to fine people? Mr. Onorato stated it is a Code Enforcement issue. There is a mechanism to allow businesses to be fined. The discussion on the cost of bags and fines continued.

Donna Delany thanked the township, and stated that she was one of the people that encouraged the township to add the cost back in. The goal is not to kill trees, trees are of value. In using paper bags there is a cost to the environment as well.

Chris Taylor, Sustainability Committee, is one of the people who said that this will not make a difference. Other municipalities are enacting the plastic bag ban, and our township is just falling in line. This is the first step, and we are now taking care of the environment and the planet that we live on.

Suzanne Roth stated that we should start with the children and train them about planet earth. Mr. Roth also noted that the industry has a grip on the politicians.

Ms. Shick asked Ms. Cook during the last time Ms. Cook was here if there was a baseline on what is in the water. Ms. Shick is interested in the microplastics that are in her well water. Mrs. Alan stated that Ms. Intoccia, Litter Lifters, has a lot of statistics and information. This discussion continued. Ms. Shick stated that the township should have an ordinance that is clear. Is 90 days enough time to give to businesses to change? Mr. Couris stated that the township should stick with 90 days.

Patty Richards, Litter Lifters asked what the substitute for plastic? Ms. Richards would be interested in what the replacements would be.

Mr. Onorato closed the hearing.

Adopt Ordinance No. 208: MOTION by Mr. Couris to adopt Ordinance No. 208, Promote the Use of Reusable Bags, Prohibit the Use of Single-Use Carry-Out Plastic Bags, Polystyrene Food and Drink Containers by Commercial Establishments, and Establishing a Charge of the Provision of Certain Types of Bags at the Point of Sale with two changes, peach in the first sentence and add fossil fuels that may not readily decompose; second by Mr. Couris.

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

Treasurer's Report: Mrs. Alan read the Summary of Funds in Ms. Guenther's Treasurers Report.

Expenditures/Bills List: MOTION by Mr. Couris to approve the Expenditure/Bills List in the amount of \$298,765.25; second by Ms. Shick.

George Dulchinos spoke regarding the format which has improved. The memo field has some details but legal is pretty opaque. Is there a way that we can have details of the legal invoices? Mr. Onorato noted that matters can be included.

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

Manager's Report: Mrs. Alan read Ms. Guenther's manager report which included:

- The sale of the mower that was not picked up has now gone through.
- There is a plan that the issue at 1420 Hollow Road will be resolved. Two drainage pipes will be installed by the township. Mr. Onorato will put together the easement.
- There are other stormwater issues where there are four residents that were identified with gravel driveways that were paved without permits. This is being addressed and will continue to be addressed.
- The township received a 5-year waiver for the MS4 Program.
- The township has closed the playing fields due to the drought. For earlier obligations that were scheduled, those teams will be able to use the field.

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

Authorize Administration to Advertise the Special Even Ordinance: MOTION by Ms. Shick to authorize administration to advertise the Special Event Ordinance for September 16th; second by Mr. Couris.

There being no comments or questions, Motion carries unanimously.

Approve Dickinson Mowing Agreement: MOTION by Mr. Couris to approve the Dickinson Mowing Agreement; second by Ms. Shick.

This is a revision proposed by Mr. Dickinson's attorney and Mr. Onorato finds the revision acceptable.

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

Approve Resolution No. 11-2024: MOTION by Mr. Couris to approve Resolution No. 11-2024, Destruction of Public Records #2; second by Ms. Shick.

George Dulchinos as what records were being destroyed. The records are from various years; the list of records is on the website. Mr. Onorato gave Mr. Dulchinos the list.

There being no comments or questions, Motion carries unanimously.

Approve Payment #7 in the Amount \$226,437.07 to J&K Excavating for Jaine Lane Drainage Project: MOTION by Mr. Couris to approve payment #7 in the amount of \$226,437.07 to J&K Excavating for Jaine Lane Drainage Project; second by Ms. Shick.

Ms. Shick asked when the project will be complete. The project is complete; the retainage will be for any work that will need to be done if corrections need to be made.

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

Approve 401(a) Bid Award: MOTION by Mr. Couris to approve the 401(a) Bid Award; second by Ms. Shick.

There being no comments or questions, Motion carries unanimously.

Public Comment on Agenda and Non-Agenda Items

Suzanne Roth commented that her road, Schoolhouse Lane, sucks canal water; it is the worst road in the county and is not getting any better. The last time it was paved was sometime in the 90's. Traffic is unbelievably bad. Ms. Roth does not understand why something cannot be done to slow people down. Ms. Roth continued to discuss the issues with the road.

Mr. Onorato stated that the plan is to solve the water problems so the road can be repaired.

The meeting adjourned at 8:50 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Kathryn Shillenn
Township Secretary