

**West Vincent Township
Meeting Minutes
Board of Supervisors
December 16, 2024 7:00 PM**

Attendance: Dana Alan, Chair; Charle Briggs, Member; Dave Onorato, Township Solicitor; Jim Wendelgass, Interim Manager; Christina Casey, Township Secretary; **ABSENT:** Bernie Couris, Vice-Chair.

Mrs. Alan called the meeting to order at 7:05pm.

Executive Sessions: None

Minutes:

MOTION by Ms. Briggs to approve the Minutes of November 18, 2024, and the minutes of December 12, 2024; second by Mrs. Alan. *Motion carries unanimously.*

Barry Dilibero asked if Ms. Briggs could vote on the minutes since she was not a supervisor at the time of the meetings. Per Mr. Onorato, yes, she may vote.

Police Report:

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

Public Hearing – Ordinance No. 210: An Ordinance Amending Part II of the West Vincent Township Code by Creating Chapter 125 – Bamboo and Establishing Regulations for the Planting, Cultivating, Growing, Control and/or Removal of Bamboo, and Penalties for Violations of the Same, and Amending Section 390.175.1D and E of the Zoning Code and Repealing All Inconsistent Ordinances or Sections of Township Code Ordinances (“Bamboo Ordinance”)

This ordinance has been advertised twice in the paper. This was a concern brought forth by Public Works. In the township, there are areas where the bamboo is growing adjacent to the highways; snow/ice pushes it down onto the road and can create hazards. This ordinance regulates the growth of bamboo. Current bamboo can stay; it prohibits new growth and requires old growth to be cut back from the roadways and property lines. There are penalty provisions and enforcement can now happen. This ordinance creates Chapter 125. There is a separate code section currently in the Zoning Code. This ordinance deletes bamboo out of the Zoning Code. It will now be a code enforcement issue.

Mrs. Alan asked for more explanation of the penalties. The Township can ask the owner to comply. If they do not comply, the Township can file a citation with the district justice with a fine up to \$1,000. It is considered a summary offense.

George Dulchinos began the open comments by asking if the Township is reaching out to property owners who are impacted since 40 feet from the roadway is a very big distance. Mr. Dulchinos was told that the Road Master had spoken to some individuals but no notices went out by Mr. Onorato.

Julia Braendel wanted to know if 10 feet from a property line is enough given her personal experience with neighboring bamboo. Mr. Onorato noted that the Township can revisit the ordinance later, if needed.

Chris Taylor, head of Sustainability Committee, noted the damage that can be done by using polypropylene to reign in bamboo. While Mr. Onorato agrees with that, he also noted that it is attempting to solve a problem. Mrs. Alan noted that Mike Hogga said the only way to control this is to keep mowing bamboo short which is what we are doing on Township property.

Public hearing is now closed.

MOTION by Mrs. Alan to adopt Ordinance No. 210 – Bamboo Ordinance with changes; second by Ms. Briggs. *There being no comments or questions, Motion carries unanimously.*

Treasurer’s Report: Jim Wendelgass, Interim Manager, read the Treasurer’s Report as of November 30, 2024.

Mr. Dulchinos asked what period the Manager’s Salary of \$9,250 on page 10 and dated 11/6 covered. Mr. Wendelgass said it was for September of 2024. Mr. Dulchinos also asked about the timing of the 2023 audit. Mr. Wendelgass believes it will finish in January. Mrs. Alan asked Mr. Dulchinos his opinion on having QR Codes instead of printed handouts. This would be acceptable to Mr. Dulchinos if the linked data were Excel.

Expenditures/Bills List: Mr. Wendelgass has checks totaling \$737,078.63 from the General Fund; \$63,210.34 from ARPA; and \$64,551.13 from the Road Fund. **MOTION** by Mrs. Alan to approve the Expenditure/Bills List from the December 16, 2024, meeting; second by Ms. Briggs. *Motion carries unanimously.*

Julia Braendel asked about the amount being donated to the fire company. It was noted by the Township that there was a contribution made for 2024 as well as firemans relief which is a pass-through from the state. Ms. Braendel also inquired what Help Now was doing for \$38,000. Mr. Wendelgass explained how they handle the Township’s IT, including for the police department, and this was back billing. Mrs. Alan also noted that the Township was able to find the money in the 2025 Budget to fund LCFC’s operational request as well as the money for their new truck.

Mr. Dulchinos noted that under ARPA funds there is compensation listed. Mr. Wendelgass explained that the COVID money needed to be paid out by the end of the year and could be used as bonuses for those who were here during COVID. Mrs. Alan said the money was being used for small bonuses. Mr. Dulchinos also asked about page 7 of the Bills List which had two \$507 charges: one for Francis Pascal and one for Butterscotch. He was wondering if that was double-counted. Mr. Wendelgass explained that it was for Mr. Onorato’s time on that matter, and one charge was for September and the other charge was for November.

Manager's Report: Mr. Wendelgass noted the Giving Tree in the lobby. Gifts will be picked up tomorrow. Mrs. Alan noted that the Trail Implementation Committee was adopted last year. This year, there will be a workshop on 1/27/24, and monthly meetings on the fourth Monday of each month in 2025.

OLD BUSINESS:

Ratify approval of BOS Meeting Minutes of October 21, 2024 (from 11/18/24 meeting)

MOTION by Ms. Briggs to approve the minutes of October 21, 2024; second by Mrs. Alan. *There being no further comments or questions, Motion carries unanimously.*

Approve summary of paid bills from November 18, 2024, meeting. – **MOTION** by Mrs. Alan to authorize the payment of bills from the November 18, 2024, meeting; second by Ms. Briggs. *There being no further comments or questions, Motion carries unanimously.*

Approve authorization of the advertisement of the Proposed 2025 Budget from November 18, 2024, meeting. **MOTION** by Mrs. Alan to authorize the advertisement of the Proposed 2025 Budget from November 18, 2024, meeting; second by Ms. Briggs. *There being no further comments or questions, Motion carries unanimously.*

Approve the conditional use application for 1414 Birchrun, LLC, on the condition that the comments in LTL's review letter dated September 10, 2024, will be addressed. **MOTION** by Mrs. Alan to approve the conditional use application for 1414 Birchrun, LLC, on the condition that the comments in LTL's review letter dated September 10, 2024, will be addressed; second by Ms. Briggs. *There being no further comments or questions, Motion carries unanimously.*

TABLING EMPLOYEE HANDBOOK UNTIL JANUARY MEETING

NEW BUSINESS:

Approve 2025 Proposed Budget **MOTION** by Mrs. Alan to approve the 2025 advertised budget; second by Ms. Briggs.

Kathy Cozzone of Uwchlan Ambulance read a letter expressing disappointment that West Vincent was budgeting \$5,000 for Uwchlan Ambulance in 2025 versus the \$107,000 that they requested on October 7, 2024. Conveying her “disappointment regarding the lack of meaningful funding”, Mrs. Cozzone was “providing the requisite 90-day notice to terminate [UAC’s] status as a designated Emergency Medical Services provider for West Vincent Township.”

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

Approve bid from James R. Kenney Excavating & Paving, Inc., in the amount of \$604,100.00 for the Fellowship Trail. **MOTION** by Ms. Briggs to approve bid from James R. Kenney Excavating & Paving, Inc., in the amount of \$604,100.00 for the Fellowship Trail; second by Mrs. Alan. *There being no further comments or questions, Motion carries unanimously.*

Approve Resolution No. 13-2024 – 2025 Real Estate Tax Rate MOTION by Mrs. Alan to approve Resolution No. 13-2024 – 2025 Real Estate Tax Rate; second by Ms. Briggs. *There being no further comments or questions, Motion carries unanimously.*

Approve Resolution No. 14-2024 – Worker’s Compensation Coverage for the Ludwigs Corner Fire Department Firemen and Fire Police MOTION by Mrs. Alan to approve Resolution No. 14-2024 – Worker’s Compensation Coverage for the Ludwigs Corner Fire Department Firemen and Fire Police; second by Ms. Briggs. *There being no further comments or questions, Motion carries unanimously.*

Approve Resolution 15-2024 – Credit card approval MOTION by Mrs. Alan to approve Resolution 15-2024 – Credit card approval; second by Ms. Briggs. *There being no further comments or questions, Motion carries unanimously.*

Set date for 2025 Re-organization Meeting for January 6, 2025

Set date for 2025 Elected Auditor’s Re-organization Meeting for January 7, 2025

Approve the 2025 Calendar for BOS and Committee Meetings MOTION by Mrs. Alan to approve the 2025 Calendar for BOS and Committee Meetings; second by Ms. Briggs.

Mrs. Alan suggested the following changes to the calendar:

- BOS meeting: change from 4/21 to 4/22
- EAC meeting: change from 10/2 to 10/9
- Trail Implementation meeting: from 5/26 to 5/27

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

Approve retainage release from J&K Excavating, Inc. for the Jaine Lane Drainage Project in the amount of \$64,551.13 MOTION by Mrs. Alan to approve retainage release from J&K Excavating, Inc. for the Jaine Lane Drainage Project in the amount of \$64,551.13; second by Ms. Briggs. *There being no further comments or questions, Motion carries unanimously.*

Public Comment on Agenda and Non-Agenda Items

- Barry Dilibero: Mr. Dilibero donated an American flag to the Township after noticing the state of the current flag on our pole. Christina Casey told him the new 10’ flag arrived that morning but, due to rain, it was not switched out for the old flag. Mr. Dilibero said to keep his donated flag for future use.
- Mr. & Mrs. Carota (15 Saint Andrews Lane): The dust from Saint Andrews is excessive, and they have been waiting for a while for a solution. Mrs. Alan said that paving of Saint Andrews is still in the design phase. Many options were discussed.
- Julia Braendel: Mrs. Braendel suggested to Mr. and Mrs. Carota that they place their own signs on their own property asking drivers to slow down. She also suggested speaking with IT to see if there is a way to have GPS programs not suggest Saint Andrews in travel routes.
- Barry Dilibero: He noted that brine has been found to be ineffective in lowering dust. Soy is not allowed on state roads, but may be allowed on township roads. Mr. Dilibero feels the previous “double-double coat” of oil-and-chip on Saint Matthews from years ago has held up rather well.

- Jamie McVickar: Mr. McVickar asked who will be replacing Uwchlan Ambulance. Mrs. Alan also noted that UAC is not a volunteer operation. Mr. Wendelgass told Mr. McVickar that the request from UAC went from zero to over \$105k. Mr. McVickar was unaware of that number, and Mrs. Alan said she was surprised by the action taken tonight. She also does not feel that we should give them exactly what they are looking for because they are threatening to stop giving us service, and she does support our first responders.
- Rachel McKay: Ms. McKay asked if COVID money could be used for the ambulance situation. The answer was no.
- Julia Braendel: Ms. Braendel asked if 25% of annual Open Space funds could be used for Public Works/Maintenance on the parks and then use the other funds for the ambulance. She was told that the money is already being used for the Fellowship Trail project, and money will also be needed for Buttonwood Bridge. Ms. Braendel asked if there was any forewarning from the ambulance regarding repercussions if the donation request was not accommodated. Mrs. Alan said no. Mrs. Alan also said that Mrs. Cozzone did not mention that the residents of West Vincent do give quite a substantial amount of money in donations, which is larger than what other townships do. Ms. Braendel asked where the increase in calls from 2017 until now are coming from in the Township. Mr. Wendelgass said no, that information is not broken down. Mr. Onorato does not believe they can refuse service in our township if they are the closest ambulance, but they may not be the designated ambulance. Ms. Alan said we were able to find the monies requested by the fire department who are volunteer, and Mr. Wendelgass said the fire company is not able to bill for their services.
- Joe Stofick: Mr. Stofick asked if any thought has gone into adding an extra fee into building developers? Mrs. Alan said a fire hydrant tax has been considered for first responders. Mr. Onorato said that we are limited by state law to what fees we can charge developers, and some items that Mr. Stofick was suggesting were unconstitutional.

No additional comments.

There being no further comments or questions, the meeting adjourned at 8:21pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Christina Casey
Township Secretary