

**West Vincent Township
Meeting Minutes - FINAL
Board of Supervisors
January 21, 2025 7:00 PM**

Attendance: Dana Alan, Chair; Bernie Couris, Vice Chair (by phone); Charlene Briggs, Member; Jim Wendelgass, Interim Manager; Dave Onorato, Township Solicitor; Christina Casey, Township Secretary

Mrs. Alan called the meeting to order at 7:01pm and announced that executive sessions were held on January 13 (legal, real estate and personnel) and January 20, 2025 (personnel).

Minutes:

MOTION by Ms. Briggs to approve the Minutes of December 16, 2024 and January 6, 2025, meetings; second by Mr. Couris. *There being no comments or questions, Motion carries unanimously.*

Presentation:

CO2 Pipeline Ordinance: Local ordinance to protect health and safety (presented by Ginny Marcille-Kerslake of Food & Water Watch); Ms. Marcille-Kerslake spoke about carbon capture and storage and the emergence of pipeline. For the full presentation from Food & Water Watch, please visit the taped BOS meeting that can be found on the Township website.

Announcements:

- Thank you, Public Works, for the plowing that was done during our recent snow storm.
- Thank you Litter Lifters for the cleanup on Saturday, January 18, for MLK Day.
- Butterscotch Café Conditional Use continuation will be Monday, February 24, at 7pm.
- Trail Plan Implementation Committee will hold their first informational meeting on Monday, January 27 at 7pm. Ed Therkauf will explain the Trail Plan.
- We currently have positions open on the following committees: Planning Commission, Parks & Recreation, Zoning Hearing Board, Historical Commission, Trail Implementation Committee, and Sustainability. Those interested can complete a Volunteer Application on our website.
- A workshop discussion on the status of Human Relations Committee will be on 3/3/25.
- Historic Resources will have special presentations at their meetings. They normally meet the first Tuesday of the month but will next meet on Tuesday, 2/11/25. Isabelle Travaglini will be speaking on the Underground Railroad.
- Please stay off the pond. It is not always fully frozen.

Police Report: Chief Swininger read the report. Report on file and will be posted on the Police website.

Ludwigs Corner Fire Company Report: Deputy Chief Jeff Kimes will begin reading LCFC's monthly report at the meetings going forward to inform the residents of their contributions to our community. Deputy Chief Kimes read the December 2024 report and 2024 End-of-Year report which summarized 695 man-hours on calls in WVT and over 1,500 hours of training for

the fully volunteer FC. Reports are on file and will be posted on our Township website on the "Fire & Ambulance" departmental page. LCFC appreciates the Township support.

Treasurer's Report: Mr. Wendelgass read the summary of funds as of December 31, 2024. He addressed a recently identified issue that related to the 2022 bond issuance. The three bond issues for the Township were for the General Fund (\$1.1mm), Open Space Fund (\$3.1mm) and Equipment Fund (\$500k). It was discovered that the General Fund had paying both the General Fund and the Open Space Fund issues while the Open Space Fund was paying for the Equipment Fund borrowing. This has now been corrected. However, to try to balance out these misallocated payments, \$237k from Open Space Fund was moved to the General Fund. This was done near the end of November 2024 which is reflected in the December statement of +\$1mm in the General Fund at year-end.

- **John Eldridge** noted the positive balances in the various funds and said these things are important when setting tax rates. Mr. Eldridge said that taxpayers paid \$1mm for services they did not get. Mr. Wendelgass noted that the Township does need to keep reserves for situations that were unexpected, like the \$3mm bridge repairs that will need to be funded. Mr. Wendelgass said the increase in funds was timing-related, plus Liquid Fuels were not used in 2024 but will be used in 2025. Also, some of the \$12mm are Restricted Funds; only \$6mm in unrestricted. Mr. Eldridge also said the ARPA Funds transferred to the General Fund didn't appear correct to him. Mr. Wendelgass said the ARPA monies were correct and earmarked. The conversation continued.
- **George Dulchinos** likes the layout of this report more than previous reports. He asked if it can be made searchable. Mr. Wendelgass will look into that request.
- **Jamie McVickar** appreciates the Township for the quick plowing of the roads. Mr. McVickar asked if all ARPA funds were used. Mr. Wendelgass said the funds were all spent or earmarked with a governmental report due 3/31/25. Mr. McVickar thanked the Township for identifying the issue with the bond payments. He also gave kudos to Mr. Eldridge who he believes noted a problem in these accounts years ago.

Expenditures/Bills List: Mr. Wendelgass noted the Bills List. There was not a total dollar amount listed for the Bills List. **MOTION** made by Ms. Briggs to approve the Expenditures List for all Township Funds; second by Mr. Couris. *Motion carries unanimously.*

Manager's Report: Mr. Wendelgass passed along a message from the Road Master: do not push snow into the roads or allow your contractors to do so when it snows; this message has also been posted to the website. Mr. Wendelgass also said that WVT has a number of ponds besides the one in front of the Township. That pond had adult footprints on it recently. This pond is fed by groundwater, and many times it can contain thin areas. He also mentioned that Birchrun Road is a state road which PennDOT did not touch during the recent snowfall and became full of snow/ice. Finally, Sheeder Hall Bridge is 175 years old this year. A celebration for this is happening in conjunction with East Vincent on May 18 between 2pm and 3pm.

OLD BUSINESS:

Approve 2025 Employee Handbook – Mrs. Alan said everyone will not be happy forever but it is a living document and things can change. **MOTION** made by Ms. Briggs to approve the 2025

Employee Handbook; second by Mr. Couris. *There being no comments of questions, Motion carries unanimously.*

NEW BUSINESS:

Authorize advertisement of Ordinance No. 211: No Parking and Stop Signs - Mr. Onorato noted this ordinance has two parts. In the first part, the Township will install “Stop” signs at Eagle Farms Road at both Bergamont Way and Augusta Drive. The second part involves placing “No Parking” signs along Hollow Road between Flowing Springs and Schoolhouse roads which would allow the police to enforce those no parking signs which will replace the temporary signs. **MOTION** by Ms. Briggs to advertise Ordinance No. 211: No Parking and Stop Signs; second by Mr. Couris.

- **Mr. Dulchinos** asked how many signs are being placed on Hollow Road, will the signs be able to be mounted on existing sign posts, and will landowners be contacted before signs are placed? Mr. Onorato said that Public Works will need to determine the number of signs, and Public Works will be put in touch with the owners.
- **Donna Delany** expressed hope that the “No Parking” signs won’t impact the neighbor who parks in a parking spot within the right-of-way. The Township will look into that.

Motion carries unanimously.

Authorize advertisement of Ordinance No. 212: No Knock - Mr. Onorato said allows residents to opt in to a “no solicitation” list by signing up on our website. The ordinance exempts political speech and religious groups. Mrs. Alan noted that Chief Swinger would give it to any person(s)/companies that apply for solicitation permits. **MOTION** by Ms. Briggs to advertise Ordinance No. 212: No Knock; second by Mr. Couris.

- **Mr. Dulchinos** asked if an appeal to the supervisors was necessary for campaigning, and Mr. Onorato said no.

Motion carries unanimously.

Authorize escrow releases for Honeybrook Properties (670 Birchrun), Mirabile/Fenton (1352 Shady Lane), and Morgera (2969/2973/2977 Horseshoe Trail) - **MOTION** by Mr. Couris to release escrows for those properties; second by Ms. Briggs. *There being no comments of questions, Motion carries unanimously.*

Accept the 2025 West Vincent Township Emergency Operations Plan - Mrs. Alan said this plan is updated every two years, We still need to update with the 2020 census information. Our population is now 6,600 and we have 14 miles of gravel roads. Jim Gooding is working on updating this plan. **MOTION** by Ms. Briggs to accept the 2025 West Vincent Township Emergency Operations Plan pending 2020 Census information; second by Mr. Couris. *There being no comments of questions, Motion carries unanimously.*

Approve letter and payment to Uwchlan Ambulance Corps (“UAC”) - Mrs. Alan said the \$10,000 check to UAC was being made from remainder of the ARPA funds to get conversations going with UAC again. **MOTION** by Ms. Briggs to approve response letter to Uwchlan Ambulance along with \$10,000 payment; second by Mr. Couris.

- **Julia Braendel** asked if the letter had been sent since it was dated in December. Mrs. Alan said it had not been sent but was written at that time.

- **Mr. Dulchin** read the letter and deemed it informative. He asked if UAC has a sense of what it costs them to serve the people of WVT including insurance reimbursements since he believes most residents are insured. Mr. Wendelgass said UAC supplied some information. We did some of our own research, namely looking at other townships served by UAC and what their contributions are on a per-capita basis, on a per-call basis, and as a percentage of their General Fund. He believes the likely contribution UAC should be seeking from our Township should be \$25k to \$45k which is vastly different than the \$107k UAC was looking for. Mr. Dulchin said another data point to measure should be resident donations. Mr. Wendelgass said that UAC receives over \$30k from WVT residents in donations and subscriptions. Mr. Dulchin would hate to throw money at them without an analysis. Mr. Wendelgass said he is hoping to have discussions with their Board on reasonable numbers, and if WVT will increase their donation, we need to figure out how to fund it.
- **Ms. Braendel** said UAC had not budgeted well the last few years because they need to replace four old ambulances. She stated she was not saying to give them that money but rather explaining this request was more for capital versus annual operating expenses. It was not our problem that UAC did not look ahead to realize these issues. Mrs. Alan said the request was also after our budgeting process.

Motion carries unanimously.

Approve 2025 Fee Schedule for change to Fireworks Permit - Mr. Wendelgass read the addition: “for any fireworks needing a license to purchase or fireworks regulated by the state; this does not include readily available ‘Safe & Sound’ fireworks”. **MOTION** by Ms. Briggs to approve the update to the 2025 Fee Schedule for changes to fireworks Permit; second by Mr. Couris.

- Ms. Braendel asked if the tent fees compound for the number of tents. It does not. She also noted that the U&O permit still has residential resale listed on it. She was told that the website does say that as of January 2025, residential resale U&Os are no longer.

Motion carries unanimously.

Public Comment on Agenda and Non-Agenda Items

- **Barry Dilibero** asked if the BOS would be willing to consider bringing back Road Master Reports to the meetings. Mrs. Alan said it would be considered.
- **Mr. and Mrs. Farrel Carota** (15 Saint Andrews Lane) wanted to follow up on their questions from the previous meeting concerning their gravel road. Discussion was had between the BOS, Mr. Wendelgass and the Carotas.
- **Jahan Sheikholeslami** (18 Saint Andrews Lane) lives across from Mr. Carota. Mr. Sheikholeslami mentioned that an engineered plan was created for Saint Andrews Lane but not done. He wanted to know why the road was not paved. Mr. Wendelgass was unaware of that plan, but he cited the need to bring the road up to state standards with widening, stormwater, a base for the asphalt, and securing the right-of-way, among other items. It is not strictly a money issue because there are residents who do not want the road paved as well as residents who do want the road paved.

There being no further comments or questions , the meeting adjourned at 8:25pm.

Respectfully Submitted, Christina Casey (Township Secretary)