

**WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

112 Municipal Lane
Prosperity, PA 15329
November 9, 2021

MEETING MINUTES

Walter Stout, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

In attendance were Supervisors Walter Stout, Charles Hickman and Troy Smith, Solicitor Dennis Makel, Secretary Diane Headlee and several township residents.

I. Requests to Address the Board/Public Comment

There were no requests to address the Board.

II. Correspondence and Reports

1. Received Correspondence:

- We have been advised by Crystal Simmons, the Director of the Greene County Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program, that the CDBG grant request for the water line construction on WW Railroad Road between Rt. 18 and Pettit Road was not funded again this year. We will continue to pursue other available funding opportunities.
- The application for the Dirt, Gravel and Low Road Volume grant to be used for elevating a portion of Hickory Lane to minimize flooding of the roadway was completed and submitted to the Greene County Conservation District on October 18. If we are successful in obtaining the grant, the work will begin in the spring of 2022. The engineering calls for raising Hickory Lane approximately one to three feet over a distance of 630 feet to get the roadway out of the flood plain.

2. Planning Board: The Board did not meet in November due to the lack of any items needing attention or action; however, there are three Lot Split plans being reviewed at this time by the township Engineer and Zoning Officer for future approval.

3. There was no action needed by the Zoning Hearing Board in October. As such there was no meeting.

4. Park Board: A very successful "Trunk or Treat" party was held on Saturday, October 30. It was moved to the township garage due to the threat of rain and muddy fields at the park. Over 80 candy bags were handed out to the participants as they enjoyed visiting each of the nine decorated trunks. Our Park Board members did an outstanding job planning and organizing this event, and the Supervisors wish to wholeheartedly thank them for a great time.

5. Roadmaster's Report

- The road crew continued removing trees and limbs from the township roads. Mowing along the road banks on various township roads has been completed for the year. They repaired a sunken culvert and a slip on Arrowhead Road. The crew assisted SPWA employees on the waterline on Porter Street Extension which was started on November 3, 2021. Also, spot cleaning ditches on Craynes Run,

Minutes

Greene Valley, and several roads in the Waynesburg Lakes plan has been completed. Russell Standard Corp. completed the Flex Base Project on Pettit Road and it appears to be an excellent job.

6. Solicitor's Remarks

- The solicitor requested an Executive Session at the end of the meeting to discuss the Y&B Logging-Lumber issue.

III. Discussion & Action Items

A. Routine

1. The Chairman asked the Board for a motion to approve the agenda without an addendum. The motion was made by Charles Hickman and seconded by Troy Smith. Motion carried.
2. The Chairman asked the Board for a motion to approve the Minutes of the October 12, 2021 regular meeting as presented with no additions or corrections made. The motion was made by Charles Hickman and seconded by Walter Stout. Motion carried.

B. Specific

1. Business Operations

a. Approval of Treasurer's Report for period ending October 31, 2021

	<u>General</u>	<u>Liquid Fuels</u>	<u>Machinery</u>	<u>ARPA</u>
Beginning Balance	\$ 342,880.80	\$ 53,238.37	\$ 8,971.10	\$ 52,340.80
Revenues	6,067.07	5.50	26.61	5.41
Expenditures	<u>-39,738.74</u>	<u>-0.00</u>	<u>-100.00</u>	<u>-0.00</u>
Ending Balance	\$ 309,209.13	\$ 53,243.87	\$ 8,897.71	\$ 52,346.21

	<u>Fire Fund</u>		<u>Impact Fee</u>
Beginning Balance	\$ 11,994.20	Beginning Balance	\$ 2,034,348.17
Revenues	14.60	Revenues - Interest	209.96
Expenditures	<u>-50.00</u>	Other	0.00
Ending Balance	\$ 11,958.80	Expenditures	<u>-3,105.22</u>
		Ending Balance	\$ 2,031,452.91

The Chairman asked the Board to consider a motion to approve the Treasurer's report for the period ending October 31, 2021, and direct that it be filed for audit. The motion was made by Troy Smith and seconded by Charles Hickman. Motion carried.

b. Bills & Transfers for Approval for All Funds – October, 2021

The Chairman asked the Board to consider a motion to approve the payment of the monthly bills, payroll, and intra-fund transfers, as listed (see Minute Book file), from the following accounts:

Minutes

General Fund	\$ 32,306.35
Liquid Fuels Fund	1,671.89
Machinery Fund	100.00
Impact Fund	3,674.65
Fire Fund	<u>50.00</u>
Total Bills & Wages for Approval	\$ 37,802.89

The motion was made by Charles Hickman and seconded by Walter Stout. Motion carried.

c. Acceptance of United Concordia Dental Insurance Renewal Rates – 2022

The Chairman asked the Board to consider a motion to renew the 2022 employee dental insurance plan with United Concordia for the estimated monthly premium of \$338.75, which reflects no increase in premium over the current 2021 rates. The motion was made by Troy Smith and seconded by Walter Stout; Charles Hickman abstained as he is provided with by this insurance. Motion carried.

d. Excavator Rental for Porter Street/Greene Valley Water Line Construction

In accordance with the agreement with SPWA to construct the water line on Porter Street and Greene Valley Roads, the township is required to backfill the excavated ditch. Quotes were solicited for a large excavator, as the one owned by township is too small to adequately perform the necessary work. Two quotes were received for monthly rental as follows:

United Rentals	\$5,069.47/month
Black Diamond Equipment Rental	\$4,973.50/month

The Chairman asked the Board to consider a motion to approve the rental of an excavator from Black Diamond Equipment Rental at a quoted monthly charge of \$4,973.50, to be used by township personnel to backfill the ditch as the Porter Street Extension and Greene Valley waterline is installed, pursuant to the agreement with the Southwestern PA Water Authority. The motion was made by Charles Hickman and seconded by Walter Stout. Motion carried.

2. Township Supervisors

a. Ordinances, Resolutions

Prior to asking for approval of the Tax Abatement ordinances, Mr. Stout explained that he had been involved with tax abatement in the county since it was first enacted in 1989, having served as Chairman of the Greene County Tax Abatement Board from 1989 through 2007. He believes that the tax abatement program has worked to entice homeowners and commercial developers to build and improve properties in an attempt to increase the tax base in the county. The latest Ordinances, however, are different from those previously adopted wherein beginning in 2022 tax abatement will be granted on a decreasing graduated scale (100% to 20%) over a 5-year period, rather than at 100% for three years for residential and five years for commercial.

1. Enactment of Ordinance #3 of 2021 – Real Estate Tax Exemption for Certain New Residential Construction

The Chairman asked the Board to consider a motion to approve the following Ordinance (#3-2021):

An Ordinance of Washington Township, Greene County, Pennsylvania, authorizing the participation in a tax exemption program for Certain New Residential Construction, as authorized by the Improvement of Deteriorating Real Property or Areas Tax Exemption Act, as amended, subject to certain terms, conditions and procedures. (See Ordinance Book for full text of the Ordinance).

The motion to approve Ordinance (#3-2021) was made by Charles Hickman and seconded by Troy Smith. Motion carried.

2. Enactment of Ordinance #4 of 2021 – Real Estate Tax Exemption for Certain Business, Commercial, Agricultural and Industrial Properties

The Chairman asked the Board to consider a motion to approve the following Ordinance (#4-2021):

An Ordinance of Washington Township, Greene County, Pennsylvania, authorizing the participation in a tax exemption program for Certain Business, Commercial, Agricultural and Industrial Properties, as authorized by the Local Economic Revitalization Act (Act 76 of 1977), as amended, subject to certain terms, conditions and procedures. (See Ordinance Book for full text of the Ordinance).

The motion to approve Ordinance (#4-2021) was made by Charles Hickman and seconded by Troy Smith. Motion carried.

3. Enactment of Ordinance #5 of 2021 – Real Estate Tax Exemption for Improvement to Certain Dwelling Units

The Chairman asked the Board to consider a motion to approve the following Ordinance (#5-2021):

An Ordinance of Washington Township, Greene County, Pennsylvania, authorizing the participation in a tax exemption program for Improvements to Certain Deteriorated Residential Properties (Dwelling Units), as authorized by the Improvement of Deteriorating Real Property or Areas Tax Exemption Act, as amended, subject to certain terms, conditions and procedures. (See Ordinance Book for full text of the Ordinance).

Minutes

The motion to approve Ordinance (#5-2021) was made by Charles Hickman and seconded by Troy Smith. Motion carried.

IV. New Business

There was no new business brought before the Board.

V. Information & Announcements

- Despite the rainy day, a successful clean-up day was held on Saturday, October 23, with a steady stream of township residents bringing in approximately 9 tons of materials for proper disposal.
- The construction of the water line on Porter Street Extension started on Tuesday, November 3rd. The work is progressing slowly due to the encounter with hard rock. To-date they have laid approximately 1,600'.

Upcoming Meetings

- Supervisor's Regular Meeting, Tuesday, December 14, at 7:00 p.m.
- Planning Board, Thursday, December 2, at 7:30 p.m.
- Zoning Hearing Board, as needed.
- Park Board, as needed.

VI. Public Comment/Questions

There was no public comment or questions.

VII. Executive Session

Pursuant to Solicitor Makel's request to meet in Executive Session, Mr. Stout announced the Board would move into an Executive Session to discuss a legal issue, and there would be no further action taken by the Supervisors following said Executive Session.

A motion to go into Executive Session at 7:24 p.m. to discuss legal matters with the Solicitor was made by Charles Hickman and seconded by Troy Smith. Motion carried.

A motion to come out of Executive Session at 7:45 p.m. was made by Troy Smith and seconded by Charles Hickman. Motion carried.

VIII. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m. on a motion by Troy Smith, seconded by Walter Stout, with all voting 'aye'.

s/Walter S. Stout _____ Chairman

s/P. Diane Headlee _____ Secretary/Treasurer