



**VACANCY BOARD
WARRINGTON TOWNSHIP
MINUTES FOR APRIL 4, 2023 - 6:00 PM**

The written minutes are a summary of Vacancy Board meeting. For a complete video visit the Township's website, www.warringtontownship.org.

This meeting was held hybrid both in person at the Township building and via Zoom link. The recorded meeting can be viewed the day after through the Township's website, www.warringtontownship.org

Supervisors: Chair Vacancy Board, Thomas Mangan; Chair Board of Supervisors, Fred Gaines; Vice Chair Board of Supervisors, Ruth Schemm, Member; Michael Diorka, Member; Vanessa Maurer, Member

Staff present: Barry Luber, Township Manager; Christian Jones, Assistant Township Manager; Vicki Kushto, Esquire, Clemons Richter Reiss, Township Solicitor; Jeannine Fielding, Executive Assistant to Township Manager/Board Secretary

1. CALL TO ORDER Mr. Mangan called the meeting to order at 6:00pm.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

There were a total of 18 people who attended both in person and via Zoom. The meeting is also "streamed" on the Warrington Township TV channel, so other interested parties are always welcome to watch the meeting using this option.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT *(The Board will hear from any interested resident or taxpayer who would like to comment. Respondents are asked to keep their comments to 3 minutes. Please sign in.)*

Michael Werner, 1238 Live Oak Lane, Chalfont – Support Michael Thom

Ilka Werner, 1238 Live Oak Lane, Chalfont - Township employee active in politics, irregular paperwork, not to happen again

Thomas Baer, 2184 Palomino Drive - Fairness of elections

Lisa Macaulay, 2727 Harvard Drive - Support Andrew Macaulay

Scott Vogin, 2150 Lisa Drive – Ask for decorum by supervisors

Lisa Dietz, 876 Rogers Ave - Support Michael Thom

4. NOMINATIONS FOR VACANCY ON BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Mr. Diorka nominated Michael Thom for vacancy on the Board of Supervisors; Ms. Maurer seconded.

Ms. Schemm nominated Andrew Macaulay for vacancy on the Board of Supervisors; Mr. Gaines seconded.

Discussion:

Mr. Macaulay was invited to speak.

Mr. Mangan asked about putting Warrington first over party affiliation. Mr. Diorka asked about leadership with youth and families. Mr. Macaulay responded.

Mr. Thom was invited to speak. Not being present, Ms. Maurer and Mr. Diorka shared some of Mr. Thom's qualifications. Ms. Maurer asked for the record to show that the signing of the petition of Fred Gaines and Andrew Macaulay by the Township Secretary is not illegal – however, it does raise the question about ethical issues. The township secretary serves at the pleasure of the Board, and the vacancy board nominee in which the secretary signed the petition demonstrates bias and a clear conflict of interest. This board weighs in directly on the performance of the appointed personnel including the township Secretary. ***PA State Ethics Commission Ethics Act section 1103 entitled Restricted Activities states in section b regarding seeking improper influence...no person shall offer to give to a public official, or public employee of a reward or promise of future employment of favor based on the offer's or donors understanding that the vote, official action or judgement of the public office would be influenced whereby...***

She also indicated that the pattern of Democratic candidates resigning early and not finishing their term so that the replacement Supervisor could run as the incumbent was not the right thing to do as it is essentially subverting the will of the residents that vote in their candidate of choice.

Mr. Diorka thanked both candidates and indicated that he had asked a former Supervisor for his interest in the vacancy. He stated that the state code that dictates the way this process of filing vacancies needed revamping.

Mr. Gaines added for the record that he was appointed by a divided Board and the opposite Vacancy Board Chair as his political party, indicating that it was a bipartisan nomination.

5. ELECT ONE OF THE CANDIDATES TO SERVE AS SUPERVISOR THOROUGH THE END OF THE TERM

Mr. Mangan made a Motion for the election of the new Supervisor; Mr. Gaines and Ms. Schemm voted in favor of Mr. Macaulay; Mr. Diorka and Ms. Maurer voted in favor of Mr. Thom; Mr. Mangan indicated that he feels it is appropriate at this time to replace the vacancy with the candidate from the same party whom was elected and should remain through the remainder of the term and voted in favor of Mr. Macaulay. The motion passed for Mr. Macaulay 3-2.

There will be a ceremonial swearing in at the April 11, 2023 Board of Supervisors meeting. Mr. Macaulay will be sworn in this evening by Ms. Fielding, Notary Public.

Mr. Diorka would like a letter of thanks sent to both candidates. Action: Mr. Luber will prepare a letter for the Supervisors to sign at the next meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 6:30pm.

Respectfully Submitted



Jeannine Fielding, Board Secretary