

# BOARD OF SUPERVISORS WARRINGTON TOWNSHIP MINUTES FOR DECEMBER 26, 2023 - 7:00 PM

The written minutes are a summary of Board of Supervisors 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, Fred Gaines; Vice Chair, Ruth Schemm, Member; Michael Diorka, Member; Vanessa Maurer, Member; Andrew Macaulay, Member

<u>Staff present</u>: Barry Luber, Township Manager; Christian Jones, Assistant Township Manager; Terry Clemons, Esquire, Clemons Richter Reiss, Township Solicitor; Tracey Inman, Executive Assistant.

1. CALL TO ORDER Call to Order Mr. Gaines called the meeting to order at 7 pm.

There were a total of 25 people both in person and 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.

# 2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

# **3. PRESENTATION:**

There was no presentation.

# 4. PUBLIC COMMENT:

Brian Kelly, 3400 Pin Oak Lane Mr. Kelly offered comments regarding the adoption of the 2024 Budget.

# 5. PUBLIC HEARING:

There was no public hearing.

### 6. OLD BUSINESS:

Prior to consideration for approval, Mr. Diorka and Ms. Maurer offered commentary regarding passing the proposed 2024 Budget. Ms. Maurer made a statement regarding passing the budget, and the effect it would have on the Township and its residents.

The following residents also offered commentary:

#### Barb DiDominico, 1718 Harness Drive South

Ms. DiDominico had questions pertaining to the solar panels at the police station and also inquired why the monthly reports pertaining to solar panels were not on the website.

#### Jeanine Fielding, 600 Valley Rd

Ms. Fielding offered commentary regarding the proposed 2024 budget and requested that the Board not pass a budget with a zero-percentage increase.

#### Joanne Baer, 2184 Palomino Drive

Ms. Bair voiced her concern regarding the behavior of Board President Fred Gaines regarding the budget process. Mr. Bair questioned whether some projects were necessary given the financial position of the Township.

#### Frank Masciotro, 1097 Adams Court

Mr. Masciotro advised that the Board has not listened and now they are in a hole. Mr. Masciotro also voiced his concern over the spending on the trails and bridges, but advised he is looking forward to new leadership.

#### Lisa Dietz, 876 Rogers Avenue

Ms. Dietz felt that the Democratic Board members have mismanaged the finances of the Township.

Barb DiDomenico, 1718 Harness Drive South Ms. DiDomenico commented on the status of the budget and the new Board who will be required to address it.

#### Brendan McCusker, 242 Snap Dragon Street

Mr. McCusker asked that Mr. Macaulay not vote for the approval of the budget, and also advised Mr. Gaines that the residents of Warrington Township will be burdened with poor decisions made by members of the current Board.

#### Sue Fisher, 1481 Easton Road

Ms. Fisher had questions regarding fire services and why businesses do not contribute to pay taxes for those services.

Wes Pericone, 1502 Ascot Court Mr. Pericone had questions pertaining to earned income taxes and seniors in the Township. a. Consider for approval the adoption of the 2024 Budget.

Mr. Macaulay made a motion to approve the adoption of the 2024 Budget with a 20.12% increase including a 2.5% mill increase for the General Fund, a .5% increase for the Fire Fund and a \$4000 Homestead exemption. Ms. Schemm seconded the motion and the motion passed with a 3-0 vote. Ms. Maurer and Mr. Diorka abstained from the vote.

b. Consider for approval an Ordinance adopting regulations for the planting and growing of bamboo.

Mr. Macaulay made a motion to approve an Ordinance adopting regulations for the planting and growing of bamboo. Ms. Schemm seconded the motion and the motion passed with a 5-0 vote.

# 7. NEW BUSINESS:

There was no new business.

### 8. SUPERVISOR COMMENTS:

Mr. Macaulay- <u>Mr. Macaulay commented on the recent provisional grant approval for the</u> <u>Palomino Watershed Basin from DCNR (Department of Conservation and Natural</u> <u>Resources) and advised that the grant was tentatively approved for \$300,000.00 with a final</u> <u>announcement to be made in mid-January. The grant will reduce capital expense needs for</u> this project from \$730,000.00 to \$430,000.00

Mr. Diorka- There were no comments.

Ms. Schemm- There were no comments.

Ms. Maurer- There were no comments.

Mr. Gaines- Mr. Gaines discussed a Planning Commission survey from 2018 and the results of that survey. Mr. Gaines also advised that as he leaves the Board, he is disappointed that a new police contract has not been implemented.

# 9. MANAGER'S REPORT:

Mr. Luber updated the Board on the basement in the Township building and the flooding that recently occurred there.

### **10. ENGINEER'S REPORT:**

A report was submitted by email.

### **11. SOLICITOR'S REPORT:**

Mr. Clemens updated the Board regarding the settlement agreement with Victory Gardens. Mr. Clemons advised that he has prepared an order for the judge to enter it as an order for the court. Mr. Clemons stated that the Weisel Tract and Laurel Crossing conservation easements were recently settled.

### **12. CONSENT ITEMS:**

- a. Consider approval of minutes from the December 12, 2023 Board of Supervisors meeting.
- b. Consider approval of Bill List from December 13, 2023 to December 26, 2023 in the amount of \$1,571,533.71.

Ms. Schemm made a motion to approve Consent Items "a." and "b." Mr. Macaulay seconded the motion and the motion passed with a 5-0 vote.

# **13. ADJOURNMENT:**

Mr. Diorka made a motion for adjournment. Mr. Macaulay seconded the motion and the motion passed with a 5-0 vote. The meeting was adjourned at 8:06 pm.

Respectfully Submitted

Tracey A. Inman, Board Secretary