

West Earl Township Board of Supervisors, 157 West Metzler Road, Brownstown, PA 17508

In Attendance:

Chairman:	John Ford	Manager/Secretary:	Jenna Seesholtz
Vice Chairman:	Keith Kauffman	Roadmaster:	Neil Stoltzfus
Member:	Harold Keppley, Jr	Police Chief:	Chief Eric Higgins
Member:	David Thornton	Engineer:	Benjamin Craddock
Member:	Jennifer Prunoske		

Others present: Dale Peachey-136 Cornerstone Way, John Stauffer-151 Pleasant Valley Road, James Martin-275 Pool Road, Austin Rhodes-Trimble Surveyors.

Call to Order

Chairman Ford called the July 10, 2023 regular meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Chairman Ford announced that the Board held an executive session prior to the regular meeting from 6:06 p.m. until 7 p.m. to discuss labor negotiations for the Police Department.

Approval of Minutes

June 26, 2023 Meeting minutes – Moved by Member Thornton, second by Member Keppley to approve the June 26, 2023 regular meeting minutes as presented. Motion approved unanimously.

Public Comment

None

Special Business

None

Subdivision/Land Development

1. **James & Alma Martin Final Subdivision & Lot Add-On Plan** – Road widening. The Engineer for the project briefly reviewed the plan. No construction is proposed as part of the plan.
 - **Waiver of 155-23.C(1) minimum right-of-way width** – Moved by Member Prunoske, second by Member Keppley to grant a waiver of 155-23.C(1) minimum right-of-way width. Motion approved unanimously.
 - **Waiver of 155-32.D(1) sidewalks** – Moved by Member Keppley, second by Vice Chairman Kauffman to grant a waiver of 155-32.D(1) sidewalks. Motion approved unanimously.
 - **Conditional approval** – Moved by Member Prunoske, second by Member Thornton to grant conditional plan approval based on the July 6, 2023 review letter from the Township Engineer. Motion approved unanimously.
2. **Addition to agenda** – Moved by Member Thornton, second by Vice Chairman Kauffman to add the Bobcat stormwater plan extension and the Warren Nolt plan extension to the agenda. Motion approved unanimously.
 - **Bobcat stormwater management plan** – Moved by Vice Chairman Kauffman, second by Member Prunoske to grant a 90-day extension for the Bobcat stormwater management plan provided that the Township receives a letter requesting the extension. Motion approved unanimously.
 - **Warren Nolt Subdivision Plan** – Moved by Member Thornton, second by Vice Chairman Kauffman to grant a 90-day extension for the Warren Nolt Subdivision Plan provided that the Township receives a letter requesting the extension. Motion approved unanimously.
3. **Lauber Road Preliminary/Final Subdivision and Land Development Plan** – There was no one present to present this plan to the Board.

Old Business

None

New Business

1. **Sale of pipe** – Roadmaster Stoltzfus said a company has offered to purchase the pipe for \$41,000. Moved by Member Thornton, second by Vice Chairman Kauffman to sell the pipe for \$41,000. Motion approved unanimously.
2. **Line Painting Approval** – Roadmaster Stoltzfus said the line painting is in the 2023 liquid fuels budget. Moved by Member Thornton, second by Member Keppley to authorize spending 2023 liquid fuels funds for the line painting. Motion approved unanimously.
3. **PennDOT culvert project documents** – Moved by Member Thornton, second by Member Keppley to sign the PennDOT documents for the culvert project on East Main Street. Motion approved unanimously.
4. **Water Department pump starter replacement** – Moved by Vice Chairman Kauffman, second by Member Thornton to authorize the expenditure for a new pump starter for the Water Department. Motion approved unanimously.
5. **2022 Audit Approval** – Moved by Vice Chairman Kauffman, second by Chairman Ford to approve the 2022 Township Audit. Motion approved unanimously.
6. **Nolt's Real Estate Holding Tank Agreement** – Moved by Member Keppley, second by Member Prunoske to sign the holding tank agreement with Nolt's Real Estate. Motion approved unanimously.
7. **Lions' Club shed request** – the Lions' Club contacted Manager Seesholtz. They would like to install a storage shed at the Community Park on South State Street. Discussion followed about the park being within the flood plain. Also discussed was the old brick building at Sylvan Fisher Park on Stone Quarry Road that is not being used. Member Keppley suggested that they could place a shed on the Lions' Club property at Schaum's Corner. The Board was generally not in favor of allowing a shed to be installed at the Community Park.
8. **Water shut off discussion** – Manager Seesholtz said there are some properties in the Township who have had their water shut off, at their request, and they are not being billed the monthly minimum fee for water. Member Keppley said he owns a vacant lot for which he still pays a minimum water bill so he can maintain the water EDU that he paid for. He said he thought this would be the case for any property connected to the water system. There was a consensus among the Board members that property owners should pay a minimum water bill even if the water is shut off. The Board asked the Manager to update the Township fee schedule to reflect this. Manager Seesholtz will update the fee schedule and bring it to the next meeting.
9. **Bridge Maintenance** – Roadmaster Stoltzfus said he's working on getting a quote for the engineering work for bridge maintenance. Moved by Vice Chairman Kauffman, second by Member Keppley to spend up to \$18,000 for the engineering for the required bridge maintenance. Motion approved unanimously.

Financials

1. **Payment of bills** – Moved by Member Keppley, second by Member Thornton to pay the bills as presented. Motion approved unanimously.
2. **Budget vs. Actual** – Provided for the Board's review.
3. **Treasurer's Report** – None

Reports

1. **Zoning Officer's Report** – None.
2. **Manager's Report** – Manager Seesholtz said that Eagle Disposal said they were coming to the meeting tonight. She said she will make sure they come to the next meeting. Discussion followed about extending the contract with Eagle for one year and hope that things get better. Member Thornton said that something should be posted to the Township's website and Facebook page about the challenges of the trash and recycling collection.
3. **Code Enforcement Officer's Report** – None.
4. **Police Chief's Report**
 - A written report will be provided at the next meeting.
 - The accreditation assessment will be on July 12th and 13th.
 - Officer Mertz will be attending a 2-week specialty training at the District Attorney's office.
5. **Roadmaster's Report** – Nothing additional to report.

Public Comment

None

Supervisors' Comments

David Thornton – Member Thornton said he recently found out that Hans Groff, one of the early residents of West Earl Township, is his 8th Great Grandfather.

John Ford – Chairman Ford and Vice Chairman Kauffman attended the Fire Company meeting last week. The Fire Companies provided their financial reports and discussed the new Storz fire hose connectors that are being installed on the fire hydrants. The Fire Companies asked if the Township would be willing to help to install the new fire hose connectors. Chairman Ford and Vice Chairman Kauffman requested that the Fire Companies provide a price for the connectors and get a count of the hydrants.

Manager Seesholtz said Rapho Township has asked if any Municipality with a compost site would be willing to help their residents by allowing them to use the site temporarily while Rapho works to rebuild their facilities after the explosion that occurred. Moved by Chairman Ford, second by Member Prunoske to authorize the Manager to work out an agreement with Rapho Township that would allow their residents to temporarily use the West Earl Township Compost Site. Motion approved unanimously.

Chairman Ford requested that the executive session held prior to the regular meeting be continued at the end of the meeting to discuss Police labor negotiations.

Action Items

- Contact Eagle Disposal and ask them to attend the next Supervisors' meeting.
- Work with Rapho Township on an agreement to allow the use of the compost site.

The Board took a brief recess at 8:15 p.m. and entered executive session at 8:25 p.m. to discuss Police labor negotiations. The Board returned to their regular session at 9:05 p.m.

Adjournment

Moved by Member Thornton, second by Member Prunoske to adjourn the July 10, 2023, regular meeting at 9:05 p.m. Motion approved unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Sara Service
Zoning Officer