

**West Vincent Township  
Board of Supervisors Meeting**

**December 16, 2019                      7:00 p.m.**

Attendance: Chairman, Mike Schneider; Vice Chairman, Bernie Couris; Member George Dulchinos; Erica Batdorf, Township Manager, Kathryn Shillenn, Township Secretary

Chairman Schneider called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Chairman Schneider announced that an Executive Session was held on December 9, 2019 at 11:00 a.m. regarding Personnel.

**MOTION** by Mr. Couris to approve the minutes, of November 16, 2019, as submitted; second by Mr. Dulchinos.

There being no comments or questions, *MOTION carries unanimously.*

**REPORTS:**

**Police Report:**

Ms. Batdorf presented Chief Swinger's report. Report acknowledged as received.

**Manager's Report:**

Ms. Batdorf presented her Manager's Report. The Phoenixville Regional Planning Committee met on December 11, 2019; Chester County approved the Vision Partnership Grant Award to the PRPC for planning assistance incorporating West Pikeland Township into the Regional Comprehensive Plan. The Township Emergency Management conducted their biannual Limerick Generating Station emergency drill on November 19, 2019 and received high marks by the PA Emergency Management Agency. The Township's Fall Intern, Maria Morresi completed her internship with the Township on December 3, 2019. She assisted the Township with the record retention project helping to organize the subdivision files. The Township is also seeking volunteers for a number of committee openings in 2020. The Township Office will be closed on December 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> and January 1<sup>st</sup> in observance of the Christmas and New Year's Day holidays. The Township's Reorganization and Regular Meeting will be held on Monday, January 6<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. and the Auditor's Meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 7, 2019 at 7:00 p.m.

The Building and Zoning Department processed 29 permit applications processed in the month of November and the Grand Opening of the Wawa took place on November 14, 2019. In the Finance Department, the Year to Date vs. Actual October 2019 reports are complete. The 2020 Budget is slated for Board adoption December 16, 2019 and the Township's Auditor will begin field work in preparing for the 2019 Audit in January. The Public Works Department completed the installation of the water service for the community garden; the service will be operational for the 2020 garden season. In addition to regular road maintenance, the department met with Berg Construction to conduct a final inspection of paving and drainage improvements for the 2019 Road Program. New speed limit signs have been installed on Rt. 401 from Chester Springs Road to Fairview Road and St. Matthews Road from Rt. 401 to Pughtown Road reducing the speed

from 40 mph to 35 mph. Also, the Bryn Coed demolition project pre-construction meeting was held on December 10, 2019 with Reclaim, Inc. The project will start on January 6, 2020 through spring 2020.

**Bills List:**

**MOTION** by Mr. Couris to approve the Bills List, dated December 16, 2019 in the amount of \$122,852.91; second by Mr. Dulchinos.

**Sara Shick, 1201 Davis Lane** stated that an email she received from Brian said that some bills needed to be confirmed rather than approved. Mr. Schneider stated that the ratified bills are a total of \$20,656.49.

**Brian Curry, 512 Blackhorse Road** stated that there was a bill listed for Melanie Faddis. She is one of our new part time police officers.

Mr. Dulchinos asked if all of the items related to the Bryn Coed demolition are kept separately. Ms. Batdorf stated that they are not part of the Open Space demolition maintenance fund set aside; they are being expensed to the Bryan Coed Improvement line item in the general fund. Mr. Dulchinos asked if the historic survey is included as well.

There being no further comments or questions, *MOTION carries unanimously.*

**Treasurer's Report:** Ms. Batdorf presented the Treasurer's Report for the month of October. The Township is on track for a lot of the planned projects. Collections are doing well. Some of the larger expenses i.e. the road program has begun implementation so the liquid fuels fund in the October report shows the entire allocation has been used. In the November and December reports they will reflect the invoices of about \$400,000.00. The township is still on track with open space revenues and complete on liquid fuels. The township is still working through the dedication of the Courts of Chester Springs. The balance of all of the Township funds is \$11,165,213.15. The fund balance is still on track. The budget to actual summary by fund. Year to date revenue is on target. Expenditures are still a bit behind. Ms. Batdorf reviewed the different funds.

**Announcements:**

**Township Volunteer Positions Available** – Mr. Schneider stated that there are still positions available. Ms. Batdorf stated that she mentioned this in her manager's report.

**Correspondence:**

**Letter of Introduction of Meghan Lynch, new Manager of Henrietta Hankin Branch Library** - Ms. Batdorf explained that this is an introductory letter in which the new library manager wanted to introduce herself.

**Thank You Letter from Ludwig's Corner Fire Company to West Vincent Police Department for Participation in Annual Fire Prevention Open House** – Mr. Schneider stated that this is a thank you letter to the West Vincent Police Department for participation in the Fire Company's Annual Open House.

**Presentation:** None.

**Subdivision/Land Development:**

**Resolution No. 19-2019 - Final Plan Approval for Land Development, Scott Risbon, 670 Birchrun Road** - MOTION by Mr. Couris to approve Resolution No. 19-2019, Approval of Land Development of Scott Risbon, 670 Birchrun Road; second by Mr. Dulchinos.

There being no questions or comments, *MOTION carries unanimously.*

**2969 Horseshoe Trail, Patricia Morgera - Request for Subdivision Extension** - MOTION by Mr. Couris to approve the Subdivision Extension Request for Patricia Morgera, 2969 Horseshoe Trail until March 17, 2020.

There being no questions or comments, *MOTION carries unanimously.*

**Old Business:**

**Authorize Adoption of the 2020 Budget** - MOTION by Mr. Couris to authorize the adoption of the 2020 Township Budget as presented; second by Mr. Dulchinos.

There being no comments or questions, *MOTION carries unanimously.*

**New Business:**

**Resolution No. 20-2019, Establishing the Real Estate Tax Rate for the Calendar Year 2020** - MOTION by Mr. Couris to approve Resolution No. 20-2019, Establishing the Real Estate Tax Rate for the Calendar Year 2020; second by Mr. Dulchinos.

**Brian Curry, 512 Blackhorse Road** asked whether the tax rate changed up or down.

There being no further comments or questions, *MOTION carries unanimously.*

**Review Cost Estimates for Backhoe Repair** - Ms. Batdorf stated that there is an issue with the backhoe. Options have been reviewed for the 2007 Case Backhoe. There is an option to do a rebuild of the rear casing or an option to replace the rear casing. The replacement of the rear casing is the better option. There are two quotes; Option #1 is Groff and this comes in at \$13,390.40 and Option #2 is Eagle Power Equipment at \$14,265. Mr. Couris questions the amount of hours on this backhoe, which is 4,176. That's a lot of work. Mr. Roy stated that it has a lot of miles, which is the difference.

**Brian Curry, 512 Blackhorse Road** asked about the factory rebuilds. They tend to be very fast to get in and get out. Do you tend to find that the rebuilds are in good condition? Are the rebuilds done by Case? Mr. Curry stated that it was mentioned that public works drives the backhoe rather than getting it moved. Mr. Schneider stated that there is 4100 hours, how many miles is it. Mr. Roy stated that there is not an odometer on a backhoe. Mr. Schneider asked that by driving the backhoe like the township does, is this wearing down the axle more than if it was trailered.

MOTION by Mr. Couris to purchase the original equipment manufacturer rear casing in the amount of \$13,390.40; second by Mr. Dulchinos.

There being no further comments or questions, *MOTION carries unanimously.*

**Bryn Coed Change Demolition Project Change Order #1** - MOTION to authorize the Reclaim Company, LLC Change Order in the about of \$1,670.00; second by Mr. Dulchinos.

Ms. Batdorf said there was an asbestos inspection done on the main cow palace but not on the two homes on St. Matthews Road. The contractors requested this to sample for asbestos to do the demo properly.

**Brian Curry, 512 Blackhorse Road** stated that asbestos was mentioned. How about lead too?

There being no further questions or comments, *MOTION carries unanimously.*

**Authorize the Advertisement of Meeting Schedule for 2020** – MOTION by Mr. Couris to authorize the advertisement of the 2020 Township Meeting Schedule; second by Mr. Dulchinos.

**Sara Shick, 1201 Davis Lane** asked if this is completely ready to go. The Sustainability Committee was looking at whether being on the third Tuesday, that maybe Sustainability should look at a different date. What did you decide to do for the PSATS meeting at the end of May?

**Brian Curry, 512 Blackhorse Road** stated that at the end of the year there were problems with the Open Space Review Board with holidays in both November and December. Have we looked at which ones change and consider this for the next year?

There being no further comments or questions, *MOTION carries unanimously.*

**Authorize Township Management Staff 2019 Bonus Payments** – MOTION by Mr. Couris to authorize the Township Management Staff Bonus Payments for 2019 to include the Township Manager \$2000, Township Secretary \$1500, Township Treasurer \$2500 and Township Building Inspector \$1000; second by Mr. Dulchinos.

**Brian Curry, 512 Blackhorse Road** asked if the requirements for getting a bonus published somewhere earlier in the year; is there some criteria that they need? Mr. Couris stated that it's very difficult and can be subjective. If someone performs above and beyond it should be recognized.

There being no further comments or questions, *MOTION carries unanimously.*

**Public Comment:**

**Sara Shick, 1201 Davis Lane** asked what the estimated cost of the police arbitration would be. Ms. Batdorf stated that it could be about \$20,000. Ms. Shick would like to postpone arbitration and go back and talk with the police association. Ms. Batdorf said that they are working through the contract negotiations. Mr. Schneider stated that there have been many discussions to try to avoid arbitration. Ms. Shick is asking for the board to sit down with police before arbitration. The two lawyers, police and township, have been working on getting this settled before going to arbitration. Mr. Schneider said there is one issue on the table and that is healthcare. Ms. Shick asked if there is a cap on this contract as proposed for the duration of the contract. Do the police understand this? Also, regarding volunteer applications, Ray Wenger submitted a volunteer application and it went into a black hole. He will be submitting an email with his request.

**Jim Bergey, 1433 Birchrun Road** wanted to review what the status of Jaine Lane is and what the plans for next year. Ms. Batdorf said that they were tasked with looking at potential for drainage improvements that would not include complete paving of Jaine Lane. The township received feedback from residents at the top of the hill and were trying to take that into account. The cost for any stone is still going to be an expensive issue. We are getting close to what the Board will be comfortable with. The project is on track and will be moving forward. Mr. Bergey asked about

the crossover to Birchrun. Ms. Batdorf said that will really be the second phase. The township is hoping that we are designing something that will meet the primary condition of the water rushing down making that terrible roadside condition into Birchrun and control that as a first step and evaluate that intersection.

**Sara Shick, 1201 Davis Lane** stated that it was Mr. Hall's property that brought her back to the microphone. You are talking about putting the water off over the hillside. That is an approved subdivision building lot that you're talking about sending water down on. That is why she asked the engineer to do a stormwater analysis on this.

**Brian Curry, 512 Davis Lane** said that he remembers that conversation with the engineer. He was talking about sheath flow.

**Ray Wenger, 2130 Conestoga Road** asked about lowering the speed limit between Chester Springs Road and St. Matthews Road. Have you thought about lowering the speed limit on Rt. 401 going the other way? He is starting to see more accidents there.

**Davey Waters, 2434 Malehorn** stated that in the bills list there were lots of bills for the community garden. The tank is gone, did we realize any money coming in from that. Ms. Batdorf stated that the township has the tank and we might be able to reuse the tank or sell it.

**Jim Bergey, 1433 Birchrun Road** commented on one more thing about Birchrun Road crossover; there is lots of sediment coming down into his overflow. Also the underpass doesn't work anymore, maybe you can send the backhoe to clean it out again.

Mr. Couris thanked Mr. Dulchinos for coming on board and working with the Supervisors. Mr. Schneider agreed.

There being no further discussion, the **MOTION** to adjourn was brought forward by Mr. Couris; second by Mr. Dulchinos. **MOTION carries unanimously.**

Meeting adjourned at 7:50 PM

Respectfully Submitted,

Kathy Shillenn  
Township Secretary