

**WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

112 Municipal Lane  
Prosperity, PA 15329  
November 12, 2024

**MEETING MINUTES**

Walter Stout, Chairman called the November 12, 2024 meeting of the Washington Township Supervisors to order at 6:32 P.M. In attendance were Supervisors Walter Stout, Troy Smith and Charlie Hickman, Secretary Mary Pratt and township residents Tom Ayers, Stacey and Larry Steinhoff.

- I. Requests to Address the Board/Public Comment: there were no requests from the audience.
- II. Correspondence and Reports
  - a. The Washington Township Supervisors were recently notified by the Greene County Conservation District Director Lisa Snider that we have be selected for the 2024 Dirt, Gravel and Low Volume Road Program Municipality of the Year! We will be honored at the Conservation District's Annual Award Ceremony on December 11<sup>th</sup>. We have been awarded three DGLV projects during the last 3 years for road re-profiling on Hickory and Pisgah Ridge Roads, and most recently for a creekbank stabilization project on Pettit Road.
  - b. We have received the most recent (YE 2023) Financial Statements/Annual Audit from the Waynesburg-Franklin Township Volunteer Fire Company. The report may be reviewed in the township office.
  - c. We were notified on October 11, 2024 by the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) that the Township Park Project has been approved for the full requested grant amount of \$86,985 resulting in a forthcoming final payment of \$8,699.
  - d. Pursuant to the action of the Board previously approved, the Impact Fee Fund Certificate of Deposit held at Community Bank which matured on October 10<sup>th</sup>, 2024 was reinvested for the same principal amount (\$1,000,000) in a six-month certificate of deposit at First National Bank paying 4.50% interest at maturity (April 15, 2025) in the amount of \$22,191.12.
  - e. We were advised by Jeff Marshall, Greene County Chief Clerk, that the weight limit on County Bridge #24, which carries traffic over Ruff Creek on Greene Valley Road has some damage, and the weight limit on the bridge is being reduced from 14 tons to ten tons effective immediately until further notice.
  - f. The Planning Board did not meet on November 7th as there were no items on the meeting agenda.
  - g. Zoning Board: No meeting.

- h. Park Board-The Park Board did not meet, however, see Information and Announcements.
- i. Roadmaster's Report: The men completed a culvert change on Pettit Road and completed the winter maintenance on the park restrooms. The park rest rooms are closed for the winter months. Clean-up efforts continue on township roads including tree and limb removal and blowing of leaves out of ditches. We continue maintenance on township equipment. We have all equipment prepared for winter road maintenance.
- j. Solicitor's Remarks-not in attendance
- k. BCO/Zoning Report – McMillen Engineering see Minute Book File

III. Action Items

- 1.a. The Chairman asked the Board for a motion to approve the agenda without an addendum. The motion was made by Troy Smith, seconded by Charles Hickman. All aye-motion carried
- 1.b. The Chairman asked the Board for a motion to approve the Minutes of October 8, 2024 Regular Meeting and November 7, 2024 Budget Meeting. There were no additions or corrections to the minutes brought forth. A motion was made by Charlie Hickman to approve the Minutes as presented, of the October 8, 2024 Regular Meeting and the November 7, 2024 Budget Meeting, seconded by Walter Stout. All aye-motion carried.

2. Personnel

a. Nicholas Eddy – Emergency Management Coordinator

With the relocation of our former Emergency Management Coordinator Richard (Rick) Patton to Georgia, the Chairman asked the Board to consider a motion to appoint Nicholas Eddy as the township’s Emergency Management Coordinator, pursuant to the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Services Code. This is an unpaid position. Mr. Eddy is a resident of Washington Township, and previously served as the Fire Chief and as an EMT with the Perry Township VFD while living in Mt. Morris.

The motion was made by Charlie Hickman, seconded by Troy Smith. Walt Stout abstained as Mr. Eddy is his son-in-law. All aye-motion carried.

3. Business Operations

a. Approval of Treasurer’s Report for period ending October 31, 2024

Mrs. Pratt gave the following Treasurer’s Report:

	<u>General</u>	<u>Liquid Fuels</u>	<u>Machinery</u>	<u>Fire Fund</u>
Beginning Balance	\$ 260,012.68	\$ 41,004.54	\$ 47,962.11	\$ 11,927.79
Revenues	11,148.93	17.41	65.92	28.73

Expenditures	<u>-43,076.63</u>	<u>-0.00</u>	<u>-100.00</u>	<u>-50.00</u>
Ending Balance	\$ 228,084.98	\$ 41,021.95	\$ 47,928.03	\$ 11,906.52

Impact Fee

Beginning Cash Balance	\$ 627,552.11
Revenues – Acct. Interest	1,703.52
CD Interest	26,457.89
Expenditures	<u>-278.17</u>
Available Cash Balance	\$ 655,435.35
Investments Held	<u>2,000,000.00</u>
Total Account Balance	\$ 2,655,435.35

The Chairman asked the Board to consider a motion to approve the Treasurer’s Report for the period ending October 31, 2024 and direct that it be filed for audit.

The motion was made by Charles Hickman, seconded by Troy Smith. All-aye. Motion carried.

b. Bills & Transfers for Approval for All Funds – October, 2024

The Chairman asked the Board to consider a motion to approve the payment of monthly bills, and payroll as listed (see Minute book file).

The motion was made by Charles Hickman, seconded by Troy Smith. All-aye. Motion carried

General Fund	\$ 32,418.77
Liquid Fuels Fund	0.00
Machinery Fund	100.00
Impact Fund	0.00
Fire Fund	<u>50.00</u>
Total Bills & Transfers for Approval	\$ 32,568.77

c. Acceptance of UPMC Group Health Plan – 2025

The Chairman asked the Board to consider a motion to approve and continue with the UPMC Gold PPO employee medical insurance plan for 2025 at the estimated monthly premium of \$3,739.37, which reflects an 3.2% increase over the 2024 plan cost, bringing the annual total cost to \$44,872. As a part of the plan, the township will continue to contribute to an Employee Health Savings Account pursuant to township Resolution 5-2021.

The motion was made by Troy Smith, seconded by Walt Stout. Charles Hickman abstained as he is a participant in the group. All aye-motion carried.

d. Acceptance of United Concordia Dental Insurance Renewal Rates – 2025

The Chairman asked the Board to consider a motion to renew for 2025, the employee dental insurance plan with United Concordia for the estimated monthly premium of \$315.07, which reflects no increase in premium over the current 2024 rates a motion to approve and continue with the UPMC Gold PPO employee medical insurance plan for 2025.

The motion was made by Troy Smith, seconded by Walt Stout. Charles Hickman abstained as he is a participant in the group. All aye-motion carried.

e. Acceptance of UPMC Vision Insurance Renewal Rates – 2025

The Chairman asked the Board to consider a motion to renew the 2025 employee vision insurance plan with UPMC for the monthly premium of \$37.38 which reflects no increase in premium over the 2024 rates.

The motion was made by Troy Smith, seconded by Walt Stout. Charles Hickman abstained as he is a participant in the group. All aye-motion carried

4. Township Supervisors

a. Stout Logging Escrow Status

The Chairman asked the Board to consider a motion to approve the return to Stout Logging, LLC, the full \$3,000 previously placed in escrow by them, as there was no damage done to township property during recent timbering operations.

The motion was made by Charlie Hickman, seconded by Troy Smith. All—aye. Motion carried

b. Excavator Rental for Hemlock/Dividing Ridge Water Line Construction

The Chairman asked the Board to consider motion to approve the rental of an excavator from United Rentals at a quoted base monthly charge of \$4,850, to be used by township personnel to backfill the ditch as the Hemlock Road and West Dividing Ridge water lines are installed pursuant to the agreement with the Southwestern PA Water Authority.

The motion was made by Charles Hickman, seconded by Walter Stout. All aye-motion carried.

c. Heavy Hauling Agreement – CNX

The Chairman asked the Board to consider a motion to approve Heavy Hauling Agreement with CNX, for Pisgah Ridge Road (T-502), with an effective date of October 1, 2024 to September 30, 2025 for a fee of \$300.00, pursuant to the approved Schedule of Fees.

The motion was made by Charlie Hickman, seconded by Troy Smith. All—aye.  
Motion carried

d. Heavy Hauling Agreements – Peoples Natural Gas Co LLC.

The Chairman asked the Board to consider a motion to approve Heavy Hauling Agreements with Peoples Natural Gas Co LLC., for Bailey Hollow Road (T-561), Boyd Road (T-406), Breakneck Road (T-404), Castile Ridge Road (T-546), Cemetery Road (T-553), Craynes Riun Road (T-551), East Dividing Ridge Road (T-657), Edgar Hill Road (T-560), Good Hill Road (T-406), Gray Run Road (T-555), Peach Tree Lane (T-4106), Pettit Road (T-409), Piper Ridge Road (T-623), Pisgah Ridge Road (T-502), and Wilman Hill Road (T-552) with an effective date of November 1, 2024 to October 31, 2025 for a fee of \$300.00 per roadway, pursuant to the approved Schedule of Fees. Peoples is replacing gas lines throughout the township as part of their Goodwin/Tombaugh Replacement Project.

The motion was made by Charlie Hickman, seconded by Troy Smith. All—aye.  
Motion carried

e. Confirming Previous Action – No Burning Restriction

At the request of the Greene County Office of Emergency Management, due to the extremely dry conditions and the lack of any predicted measurable rain, the Washington Township Supervisors on Wednesday, November 6, 2024 enacted a No Burning Regulation in the township until further notice. It is recommended the Board of Supervisors re-affirm this action which was taken prior to the scheduled meeting of the Board.

A motion was made by Charlie Hickman, seconded by Troy Smith to re-affirm the action of the Supervisors, which had been taken prior to the scheduled meeting of the Board. All—aye. Motion carried

IV. New Business:

a. Solar Energy Ordinance Discussion

With the recent interest being shown in neighboring counties, where large plots of vacant land are being purchased for the installation of massive commercial solar arrays, the need has arisen to address the matter for the possible inclusion in the township's existing Zoning Ordinance, which is basically void of any mention of Solar Energy Systems.

A discussion ensued regarding the need to amend the Township Zoning Ordinance to include Solar Energy Systems, after which, the Chairman asked the Board to consider a motion to grant permission to proceed with the preparation of the Washington Township Solar Energy Systems Ordinance and further, to submit it to the Greene County Planning Commission and the Washington Twp Planning Board for comments pursuant to the requirements of the Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code.

A motion was made by Charlie Hickman, seconded by Walter Stout. All—aye.  
Motion carried.

V. Information & Announcements

- The Flex-base paving on Breakneck and Boyd Roads was completed on October 14<sup>th</sup>. Russell Standard did an excellent job.
- The Fall Clean-up Day was held on Saturday, October 19<sup>th</sup> and just under 14 tons of miscellaneous rubbish was deposited in two dumpsters.
- The Park Board again sponsored the annual Trunk or Treat celebration for township children on Saturday, October 26. Even though there were fewer attendees this year, those children and adults alike had an enjoyable afternoon. We sincerely thank our Park Board members Tammy Smith, Terry Meek, Sarah Eddy, Shauna Tretinik, Walker Smith, Debbie Stephenson and Jody Craig for another job “well-done!”
- Upcoming Meetings
  - Supervisor’s Regular Meeting, Tuesday, December 10, 2024, 6:30 p.m.
  - Planning Board, Thursday, December 5, 2024 at 7:30 p.m.
  - Zoning Hearing Board and Park Board meets as needed.

VI. Public Comment/Questions

Mr. Stout noted that the Supervisors have received very positive comments from township residents regarding the new library box at the park. He thanked Stacey and Larry Steinhoff, who were in attendance, for the idea and for constructing the library box. Supervisor Charles Hickman commented on the sturdy construction of the box, noting that it was installed in the small pavilion.

VII. Adjournment

On a motion by Charles Hickman, seconded by Troy Smith, the meeting was adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

\_\_\_\_\_s/Walter S. Stout\_\_\_\_\_Chairman

\_\_\_\_\_s/Mary J. Pratt\_\_\_\_\_Secretary