

**WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

112 Municipal Lane
Prosperity, PA 15329
December 10, 2024

MEETING MINUTES

Walter Stout, Chairman called the December 10, 2024 meeting of the Washington Township Supervisors to order at 6:30 p.m. In attendance were Supervisors Walter Stout, Charles Hickman and Troy Smith, Secretary Mary Pratt and township residents Tom Ayers, Stacy and Larry Steinhoff, Deborah Stephenson and employee Jason Rosa.

I. Requests to Address the Board/Public Comment

Mr. Ayers asked about the proposed Solar Ordinance being considered for adoption. Chairman Walter Stout explained the process of how ordinances are made/modified and adopted per the Township Code and the Pennsylvania Municipal Planning Code. The proposed Solar Ordinance would be, in fact, an amendment to the existing Zoning Ordinance. Before the existing Zoning Ordinance can be amended however, as is the case in this instance, there must be a Public Hearing held for public comments on the proposed modifications to the current ordinance. Debbie Stephenson asked if a resident can still put solar panels on their property and the reason for the change? Mr. Stout said the Ordinance doesn't affect residential home solar panels. He said that after seeing what has happened in neighboring counties when township supervisors were forced to deal with companies wanting to erect solar equipment, the Supervisors became concerned because the current Zoning Ordinance does not address large arrays of solar energy equipment in the Use Controls which specifies where the equipment can be located in the township. The proposed amendment identifies large ground mounted solar systems as a Special Exception in a District I-1 areas (zoned Industrial). Tom Ayers commented on the total cost of removal and damage to the homeowner's property. He was concerned about what might happen if the homeowner and/or company involved should default. Mr. Stout said the public hearing is on January 6 and to please address the concerns at that meeting.

II. Correspondence and Reports

- a. Received the 2025 Certified Summary Tax Assessment roll from the County Assessment Office showing a total taxable assessment of \$48,911,053 in the township. This is an overall decrease of \$96,466 in tax assessment from 2024 due mainly to coal depletion, however, new construction in the township helped to offset the decrease in coal valuation. The change equates to a total decrease in tax revenue in the General, Machinery and Fire funds of approximately \$354 collectively at face.
- b. Planning Board: The Board did not meet on December 5th due to the lack of any items needing attention or action.
- c. There was no action needed by the Zoning Hearing Board in November. As such, there was no meeting.
- d. Park Board - no meeting.

Meeting Minutes

- e. Roadmaster's Report-Continued clean up on township roads including tree and limb removal, removing leaves from drainage ditches, and power raked several graveled roads. They replaced the stone in the berms along Breakneck and Boyd Roads after those roads were paved. A new security light was installed in pavilion at park. Winter vehicle maintenance was performed and spreaders and plows were place on the truck in anticipation of winter weather.
- f. Solicitor's Remarks-Mr. Makel was not in attendance.
- g. CEO/Zoning Report – McMillan Engineering-see Minute File Book

III. Action Items

- 1. The Chairman asked the Board for a motion to approve the agenda without an addendum. The as made by Charles Hickman, seconded by Troy Smith. All aye—motion carried.
- 2. The Chairman asked the Board for a motion to approve the Minutes of November 12, 2024 Regular Meeting. There were no additions or corrections to the minutes brought forth. A motion was made by Charles Hickman, seconded by Walter Stout to approve the minutes as presented. All aye—motion carried.
- 3. Specific

1. Business Operations

a. Approval of Treasurer's Report for period ending November 30, 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	\$ 228,084.98	\$ 41,021.95	\$ 47,928.03	\$ 11,906.52
Revenues	24,352.05	15.94	142.10	68.73
Expenditures	<u>-36,356.15</u>	<u>-2,172.04</u>	<u>-100.00</u>	<u>-50.00</u>
Ending Balance	\$ 216,080.88	\$ 38,865.85	\$ 47,970.13	\$ 11,925.25

Impact Fee

Beginning Cash Balance	\$ 655,435.35
Revenues – Acct. Interest	1,594.77
Other	0.00
Expenditures	<u>-59,037.71</u>
Available Cash Balance	\$ 597,992.41
Investments Held	<u>2,000,000.00</u>
Total Account Balance	\$ 2,597,992.41

The Chairman asked the Board to consider a motion to approve the Treasurer's report for the period ending November 30, 2024 and direct that it be filed for audit.

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

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

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

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

General Fund	\$ 34,837.15
Liquid Fuels Fund	2,100.36
Machinery Fund	100.00
Impact Fund	59,037.71
Fire Fund	<u>50.00</u>
Total Bills & Transfers for Approval	\$ 96,125.22

2. Township Supervisors

a. Ordinances, Resolutions

1. Resolution #4 of 2024 - Transfer of Funds – Impact to General

The Chairman asked the Board to consider a motion to adopt the following resolution (#4 of 2024):

BE IT RESOLVED that \$50,000 be transferred to the General Fund from the Impact Fee Fund pursuant to the 2024 General Fund Budget as adopted on December 12, 2023.

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

2. Resolution #5 of 2024 - Transfer of Funds – Fire Companies

The Chairman asked the Board to consider a motion to adopt the following resolution (#5 of 2024):

BE IT RESOLVED that the 2024 contribution of \$11,350 be paid to the Waynesburg-Franklin Township Fire Company and to the Amwell Township Fire Company in the appropriate percentages (79% and 21% respectively) from the Fire Fund, pursuant to the agreements with those fire companies.

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

3. Resolution #6 of 2024 - Approval of 2025 Final Budgets

The Chairman asked the Board to consider a motion to adopt the following resolution (#5 of 2024):

BE IT RESOLVED that the 2025 Final Budgets be approved for the various township accounts, with minor changes to the proposed budgets which were approved at the budget workshop meeting on November 7, 2024. A copy of the full budget package is available from the Secretary/Treasurer and in the township office.

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

<u>Fund</u>	<u>Revenues</u>	<u>Expenditures</u>
General Fund	\$ 722,600	\$ 506,825
Machinery Fund	70,325	34,700
Fire Fund	12,280	11,800
Liquid Fuels Fund	166,660	125,000

4. Resolution #7 of 2024 – Tax Levies for 2025

The Chairman asked the Board to consider a motion to adopt the following resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED that the following tax rates for the General, Machinery and Fire Funds be established for the year of 2025, with said rates for 2025 remaining the same as they were for 2024. In accordance with Sections 3205 and 3208 of the Second-Class Township Code, the millage on each \$1,000 of assessed value, and the cents on each \$100 of assessed value are as follows:

<u>Fund</u>	<u>Millage/\$1000</u>	<u>Cents/\$100</u>
General	2.91	29.10
Machinery	0.50	5.00
Fire	<u>0.26</u>	<u>2.60</u>
Total	3.67 mills	36.70 cents

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

5. Review of Draft Solar Energy Systems Ordinance (as an Amendment to the Zoning Ordinance) and Approve Advertisement of Same

The Solicitor, along with the Planning Board’s Solicitor, prepared a proposed Ordinance titled the Washington Township Solar Energy Systems Ordinance of 2025, as an amendment to the Washington Township Zoning Ordinance of 2007. The proposed Solar Energy Ordinance has been submitted to the Washington Township Planning Board and the Greene County Planning Commission for comment, in accordance with the Pennsylvania

Municipalities Planning Code Act. Consider a motion to approve the required advertising of the proposed Ordinance, and to schedule a public hearing on the matter for 7:00 pm., Tuesday, January 6, 2025.

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

IV. New Business. There was no new business brought forth.

V. Information & Announcements

- Upcoming Meetings
 - Supervisor's Reorganization, Monday, January 6, 2025 at 6:30 pm
 - Public Hearing on Proposed Solar Energy Ordinance, Jan. 6, 2025 at 7:00 pm
 - Township Auditors' Reorganization, Tuesday, January 7, 2025 at 7:00 pm
 - Supervisor's Regular Meeting, Tuesday, January 14, 2025 at 6:30 pm
 - Planning Board, Thursday, January 2, 2025 at 7:30 p.m.
 - Zoning Hearing Board and Park Board meets as needed.
- The shared Hemlock Road waterline project with SPWA is expected to begin on Monday, December 15, 2024, with an anticipated duration of approximately 2 months, depending on weather conditions.

VI. Public Comment/Questions

The question was asked where they can view the proposed Solar Energy Ordinance before the public hearing. Mr. Stout said if anyone would like a copy of the proposed ordinance, he would gladly send them a copy of it or it is available for viewing in the township office. Also, he stated the proposed ordinance was sent to the Township Planning Board and the Greene County Planning Board for comment, as required.

VII. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:01 p.m. on a motion by Charlie Hickman, seconded by Troy Smith, with all voting "aye"

s/Walter S. Stout Chairman

s/Mary J. Pratt Secretary/Treasurer