



**West Pottsgrove Township  
980 Grosstown Road  
Stowe, PA 19464**

**Board of Commissioners Meeting  
August 2, 2023  
7:00pm**

The regular monthly Board Meeting for the Board of Commissioners was called to order by Board President, Steve Miller.

**ROLL CALL**

Board members present were Commissioners; Palladino, Valentine, Miller, Green, and Shawell. Also present was Township Manager; Debi Roesener, Township Secretary; Courtney Harris, filling in as Township Solicitor; Rich Almquist, and Police Chief; Joseph Sokolofski. Absent tonight was Fire Chief, Frank Hand.

President Miller thanked everyone who attended and contributed to our first National Night Out Event that was held at the Municipal Complex on August 1, 2023. It was a huge success. We couldn't have done it without everyone's support, contributions, and of course, the community for coming out to enjoy it. Due to our gracious sponsors, this event required no tax dollars to be spent.

**MINUTES**

A motion was made by Commissioner Green to approve the minutes from July 5th, Commissioner Shawell seconded the motion. All were in favor of approving the July 5th meeting minutes.

**FINANCIAL REPORT**

A motion was made by Commissioner Green to approve the Financial Report, Commissioner Valentine seconded the motion. All were in favor of approving the Financial Report.

**PAYMENT OF BILLS**

Commissioner Green made a motion to pay the list of bills as presented, in the total amount of \$198,280.22. Commissioner Shawell seconded the motion. All were in favor of paying the bills as presented.

**CITIZEN COMMENTS**

Edward Lewis 310 W Race St. – Inquired about a crosswalk over the railroad tracks across from 7-11. Ms. Roesener stated we have inquired with the County on it however they have not been responsive on the subject.

Jodi Viselli 630 Grosstown Road - Mrs. Viselli asked when the rest of Grosstown Rd was going to be re-paved down by the school to High St. due to its poor condition. Ms. Roesener stated she contacted PennDOT, and they stated that Grosstown was on their 5–10-year paving plan, and she will continue to follow up.

Gail Johns 1046 Manatawny St. – Mrs. Johns asked if anything could be done regarding the speeding on Manatawny St. Chief Sokolofski stated that it is such a short strip of road that they cover it is difficult to monitor the speeds on and it is curved. Mrs. Johns suggested flashing signs. We could look into these types of signs, however they are expensive, so grant funding would need to be obtained for both Berks St. and Manatawny St. Furthermore, Manatawny St. is a state road so we would also need approval from PennDOT to install the signs.

Breanna Himes 124 Berks St. – Mrs. Himes expressed concern regarding the traffic speeds and safety on Berks St. due to a recent accident. She also requested that a crosswalk be placed shortly before the crest of the hill out of concern for the children crossing the street for school. Mrs. Himes stated she witnessed too many close calls with children crossing anywhere, and the way people are driving on Berks St.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS –**

Mr. Valentine – Recreation, Town Watch & Regional Recreation

PARCC is going to be doing another clean up day, one of two days, September 23<sup>rd</sup> or October 7<sup>th</sup>. We can reach out to the residents and ask for volunteers and select a park, possibly Murgia Park and clean it up and make it look nicer.

Mr. Palladino – Public Works & Code Enforcement – Code Enforcement Report as follows:

CODE CALL	4	PERMITS ISSUED	19
CODE INSPECTION	4	HEARINGS	0
USE & OCCUPANCY	3	COMPLAINTS RESOLVED	1
RENTAL INSPECTIONS	5 UNITS	RENTAL PERMITS	5
RENTAL REGISTRATIONS	5	NOTICE OF VIOLATION	0
CODE NOTICES	0	PROPERTIES POSTED	0
PERMIT INSPECTIONS	24	CITATIONS	9
SITE INSPECTIONS	0	COMPLETED PERMITS	33

U&O Fees: \$225.00 Rental Registration Fees: \$ - Building Permit Fees: \$5,294.75 - Construction Costs: \$185,923.50

Mr. Green – Emergency Management, Finance, Recycling

Recycling report for June 2023 was 27.60 tons, and July 2023 was 20.66 tons.

Mr. Shawell – Regional Planning, Zoning, & Planning Commission

To be discussed under new business

Mr. Miller – Police, Civil Service & Fire

Fire

Mr. Miller read the fire report. For the month of July there was a total of 8 calls, which included 7 fires and 1 EMS call.

Police

Chief Joe Sokolofski of the West Pottsgrove Police Department reported 358 calls for the month of July. There were three significant events this month. On July 2<sup>nd</sup> a pedestrian was struck by a vehicle on Berks St. On July 17<sup>th</sup> the department did a radar detail with PA State Police and issued 19 traffic citations. On July 19<sup>th</sup> Officer Zieske had a foot chase and arrest on High St after the individual threw a brick through a window.

TOTAL ARRESTS – ADULT/ JUVENILES	10/3
TRAFFIC CITATIONS	53
TRAFFIC WRITTEN WARNINGS	38
UPLAND SQUARE CALLS	70
CODE ENFORCEMENTS	4
NON-TRAFFIC CITATIONS	8
UPLAND SQUARE MINUTES	2100

**OLD BUISNESS**

203 E Race St. – This property went to District Court on 8/1/2023 but the property owner did not show, the next hearing is set for County Court on 8/3. Ms. Roesener mentioned this because we are getting calls from residents asking what is being done to address the property. We want the public to know we are doing everything we can to address the public’s concerns, however our hands are tied as we must go through the process which takes time.

1040 Manatawny St. – This property has been in Court several times and has another District hearing set for 8/22/2023 and a County hearing set for 8/31/2023. Ms. Roesener brought this up because we are getting calls from residents wondering what we are doing to address the property. We want the public to know we are doing everything we can to address the public’s concerns, however our hands are tied as we must go through the process which takes time.

A note regarding codes – Our codes enforcement officer and codes writer have been actively reaching out to residents throughout the Township. Property owners need to be aware that they are responsible for their property maintenance. This includes shrubs, trees, and hedges being cut back alongside walks and curbs. Also maintaining your curbs, sidewalks, and gutter lines which must be clear of debris, grass, weeds, trash, etc.

**NEW BUISNESS**

2024 Budget Calendar – All of the Commissioners were fine with the dates Ms. Roesener presented to the Board.

PBA Regional Sewer Update – The recent treatment capacity report which was issued July 14<sup>th</sup> stated we are still at 47% of our requested capacity, which equals 2,844 EDUs of unused requested capacity that is available to the Township. In addition, the Borough completed its 2022 audit of the maintenance and operation of the WWTP. Costs did come in above where estimated and resulted in an additional Township contribution of \$33,577.15 for 2022, which we did have in our budget.

Provco- Wawa ZHB Settlement Agreement – Consider for approval – Wawa was in to request several variances several months ago. The one for the front yard setback was denied and the applicant appealed. Discussions between the Applicant, Township and Zoning Hearing Board (ZHB) resulted in a settlement agreement which would grant the variance but placed conditions for improvements related to the County trailhead and that no parking would be affected. The settlement agreement was drawn up by the applicant’s attorney and has been reviewed by both the ZHB solicitor and our Township solicitor. Ms. Roesener asked the Board to approve the final settlement agreement per the review and approval of the Solicitors. Commissioner Green made a motion to approve the settlement agreement, seconded by Commissioner Shawell. Commissioner Valentine abstained from the vote as he did not review the settlement agreement, all other Commissioners were in favor of the settlement agreement.

Anthony Wayne Drive, Von Steuben Drive & Pulaski St. Improvement Project – This is a CBDG Grant project, and we have been going back and forth with the County waiting for all of their approvals so we can place the project out for public bid. They are now ready to issue our final authorization which we will have before our next meeting. If the Board could give authorization to bid now, once we receive the letter from the County we can place the project for bid, and this won't delay us any longer. Commissioner Palladino made a motion to authorize Ms. Roesener to place the project out for bid, seconded by Commissioner Valentine. All were in favor.

West High Street Repaving Project PennDOT – Starting next Tuesday August 8<sup>th</sup> PennDOT will start a repaving project. The work limit is the Pottstown Borough line to the Berks County line, they are milling and overlaying. Most of the work will be done in the evenings.

1097 State Street – Gambone Development Update – Gambone submitted a conceptual plan to the Township after meeting with Upper Pottsgrove. They provided us with a plan to show how they plan to develop the commercial land across from Upland Square Shopping Plaza. Gambone is looking to move forward, they have already gotten some of their required PennDOT permits extended or updated. One of the critical items for this project is for the Township to acquire the private sewer from Upland Square Shopping Plaza.

Voter Information Session – Requested by Montco Election Services to be held on August 29<sup>th</sup> or 30<sup>th</sup> at 6 or 7pm. Commissioner Palladino made a motion to go through with holding the informational session for the residents, seconded by Commissioner Green. All were in favor of hosting the voter session.

Red Cross Blood Drive – Host an Event – Minimum 35 donors, residents, staff, surrounding municipalities, and the Red Cross will help recruit the donors. Commissioner Green made a motion for Ms. Roesener to investigate hosting a blood drive, seconded by Commissioner Shawell. All were in favor.

BOC Workshop Meeting Wednesday August 16, 2023 @ 7 pm – Hold or Cancel – Commissioner Green made a motion to cancel the Workshop meeting for August 16<sup>th</sup>, seconded by Commissioner Palladino. All were in favor. Workshop meetings to resume in September.

### **CITIZEN COMMENTS**

Carole Palladino 640 Morello Dr. – Mrs. Palladino asked if the Red Cross paid the Township to host a blood drive, which we do not. She also commented on how nice the National Night Out was. Mrs. Palladino asked about the overgrowth around the wall at the end of Morello Drive. Ms. Roesener said it is on the agenda to determine what is private versus Township during a field survey to be completed in the next week or two.

Tina Sovizal- Hines 974 Grosstown Road – Mrs. Sovizal- Hines was concerned with the dogs and scooters at the National Night Out Event due to safety concerns.

Kelly Gabriel 929 E Race St. -Expressed concern with accidents on Berks St. She would also like to see a survey done on Berks St. as well as a Center line. Chief Sokolofski gave some statistics of incidents that have occurred on Berks in the last five years, and the way these incidents have occurred. Chief Sokolofski also stated he would like to see a traffic study done on Berks St. Commissioner Green made a motion to do a traffic study on Berks St. seconded by Commissioner Shawell. All were in favor of moving forward with a traffic study.

### **CORRESPONDENCE**

Former Commissioner Richard Bacchi passed away on July 15<sup>th</sup>, 2023. Commissioner Palladino stated that Mr. Bacchi was a man who had West Pottsgrove in his heart. He was on the Board for over 20 years and was President of the Board for many years. Mr. Palladino made a motion to name the meeting room in Mr. Bacchi's honor. Commissioner Green seconded the motion, all were in favor of naming the meeting room in honor of former Commissioner Richard Bacchi.

### **Upcoming Events**

Zoning Hearing Board Meeting – Thursday August 10, 2023 @ 7 pm

Veteran's Memorial Park – Monday August 14, 2023 @ 6 pm

Planning Commission Meeting – Thursday August 17<sup>th</sup>, 2023 @ 7 pm

### **ADJOURNMENT**

President Miller asked for a motion to adjourn. A motion was made by Commissioner Green, seconded by Commissioner Shawell. The motion was approved unanimously.

The Board of Commissioners Meeting of West Pottsgrove Township concluded at 7:50 P.M. On August 2, 2023.

Respectfully Submitted,

Courtney Harris  
Township Secretary