

**WILLISTOWN TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**  
**June 28, 2021 AT 7:00 pm via Zoom**

The Regular Meeting of the Willistown Township Board of Supervisors came to order at 7:00 pm. Supervisors William R. Shoemaker, Robert T. Lange, and George J. McHugh IV were present. Also present were Township Manager Sally Slook, Chief Robert Klinger, Lt. Jeff Heim, Finance Director Martin McKenzie, Director of Planning and Zoning Robert Smiley, and Solicitor Bill Christman.

Supervisor Shoemaker led a moment of silence for military personnel, first responders, and all front-line workers in the current pandemic.

**Announcements** – Application No. C-3-21: The application of Costel Talanca located at 613 South Warren Avenue will be continued until the July 19 Board of Supervisor Meeting.

**New Business**

**Appointing New Board Member** – Supervisor Lange moved to appoint George J. McHugh IV to replace the vacancy created by the resignation of Supervisor Handelin. Term expires 12/31/21. Supervisor Shoemaker seconded. There were no comments from the Board or the public, and the motion carried 2-0.

**Oath of Office** - District Justice Thomas Tartaglio administered the oath of office to George J. McHugh IV as the new Willistown Township Supervisor.

**Minutes** – Supervisor Lange moved to approve the minutes of the meeting of June 14, 2021. Supervisor Shoemaker seconded the motion. There were no comments from the Board or the public, and the motion carried 2-0. Supervisor McHugh abstained from voting since he was not present at the last meeting.

**Expenditures** - Supervisor Lange moved to approve the list of expenditures and interfund transfers dated June 25, 2021. Supervisor McHugh seconded the motion. There were no comments from the Board or the public, and the motion carried 3-0.

**Escrow Release** – Supervisor McHugh moved to authorize the release of escrow funds for the development known as Willistown Point. This is request # 6, in the amount of \$84,936.48, with \$882,110.05 remaining in escrow balance. Supervisor Shoemaker seconded. There were no comments from the Board or the public, and the motion carried 2-1. Supervisor Lange has gone on record previously, stating he has opposed this development.

**Police Report** – Chief Klinger reported the Department arrested a 40-year old male for a DUI while driving a golf cart on Sugartown Road. The Department has seen an increase in fraudulent unemployment filings. If any resident is a victim of a fraudulent filing, they should follow up with the PA Department of Labor. The Chief would like to remind both cyclists and motorists to pay extra attention when out on the road. Cyclists should never assume drivers can always see them. He also reminded residents with the 4<sup>th</sup> of July approaching, PA residents are allowed consumer-grade fireworks such a roman candles, sparklers, and ground displays.

**Citizens' Comments**

Betsy Allinson, 21 Wistar Road, asked why a Republican was appointed to replace Supervisor Handelin, a Democrat. Supervisor Shoemaker replied that the Board chose Mr. McHugh as he had prior experience as a Supervisor in Willistown, and with all the current important business in front of the Board, he could step into the

position without any "on the job training" required. Also, as Ms. Handelin won her seat by a 3-vote margin, the Board did not feel that the seat was a "Democrat" position as such. Discussion ensued.

John McGowan, 149 Grubb Road, asked about the June 7 letter the Supervisors mailed to the current users, and the status of the legal opinion. Supervisor Shoemaker restated what was said at the June 14 meeting: The Board has never used the term legal opinion. Instead, the word "indicates" was used that the payout would likely be unlawful. Discussion ensued.

Julie Frissora, 34 Chetwynd Road, asked about the Pennoni Engineering report. Ms. Slook said there has been a delay due to the complexity of the transaction. Pennoni is also making sure they do their due diligence in checking all aspects of the report. She expects the report soon. Discussion ensued.

Fred Haack, 486 King Road, asked about the June 7 letter the Supervisor mailed to residents regarding the sewer sale and the three funds being set up. Supervisor Shoemaker replied the expenditures of the three funds would be subject to recommendation from the Sewer Advisory Board. The reasoning behind putting one fund in the General Fund, is the Sewer Advisory Board would have the option of recommending the use of the monies in the fund for the benefit of all residents in the Township, rather than just the sewer ratepayers. Again, the recommendation for the expenditures of those funds would come from the Sewer Advisory Board, which will be made up of sewer ratepayers. Discussion ensued. Mr. Haack also asked about the ongoing lawsuit with the Great Valley Soccer Association. Solicitor Christman replied they are currently in the discovery phase of the litigation. Discussion ensued.

Leslie Green, 2 Castlebar Lane, asked about approved permits and activities and the July 6<sup>th</sup> hearing at the Magisterial Court regarding the property at 8 Castlebar Lane. Solicitor Christman replied there was a notice of violation sent after the Mother's Day event and it is being appealed to the Zoning Hearing Board. There was a notice of violation for issues regarding impervious coverage, and that has also been appealed to the Zoning Hearing Board. And there are ongoing investigations that cannot be discussed. Solicitor Christman explained in the Township Zoning Ordinance one of the approved uses for the RU district is farm stands selling products, 50% of which are grown on the property. Discussion ensued.

Mike Kerr, 33 Stonehenge Lane, asked about an update on developer agreements for Troutbeck Farms. Solicitor Christman said he had reviewed the documents required for approval and his edits are back at the Troutbeck Farms solicitor for approval.

Brian Evarts, 224 Paoli Pike, asked how the Township is seeking residents' feedback regarding selling the system. Supervisor Shoemaker replied the Township sent the letter on June 7<sup>th</sup> to all residents and has received a tremendous amount of input via email. Mr. Evarts asked if the comments could be summarized and made public. Supervisor Shoemaker replied that the volume of emails and calls the Township is receiving would require hiring an additional staff member. Discussion ensued. Mr. Evarts also asked about the Service Level Agreements and protection for residents against poor service. Supervisor Shoemaker replied the Board firmly believes the proposed rate stabilization plan is the best course of action for protecting ratepayers in the long run. Discussion ensued. Mr. Evarts asked if a risk assessment was done. Supervisor Shoemaker replied there is no in-depth risk assessment. Still, items that factored into the decision to sell the system included Aqua's economies of scale in comparison with the Township's, Aqua having more technical experience, and the resources to assist with all the complex regulatory issues. Discussion ensued.

Bill Lordan, 112 Spruce Lane, asked who will be on the Sewer Advisory Board and asked how a resident could apply to be on the Board. Supervisor Shoemaker said the Sewer Advisory Board would be appointed as settlement gets closer and likely will be made up of 5 to 7 members who are ratepayers. Anyone interested will be able to send in a volunteer form and a resume to the Township. He envisions the Board of Supervisors appointing two members, and those members will look through the resumes of interested candidates. The two members will



make recommendations to the Board of Supervisors for an appointment for the remaining Board seats. Discussion ensued.

Michael Wall, 5 & 7 Castlebar Lane, commented on the activities at 8 Castlebar Lane. Discussion ensued.

Yolanda Grey, 9 Castlebar Lane, also asked about the activities at 8 Castlebar Lane. Discussion ensued.

Robert Steidle, 4 Castlebar Lane, also asked about the activities at 8 Castlebar Lane. Discussion ensued.

### **Next Meeting**

The next regular meeting of the Board of Supervisors will be on Monday, July 19, 2021, at 7:00 pm at the Township building.

### **Adjournment**

Seeing no further business, the meeting adjourned.

Sincerely,



---

Sally Slook, Township Manager