

WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP COUNCIL MEETING JUNE 18, 2013

CALL TO ORDER Mayor Patterson called the Washington Township Council Meeting to order on June 18, 2013 at 4:00 P.M. at the Washington Township Administration Building at 11800 Edinboro Road, Edinboro, PA 16412. Those present were Vice-Mayor Feikles, Councilmen Pernisek, Glass and Councilwoman Campbell. Also present were Manager Anthony, Zoning Administrator Willow, Community Development Specialist Deborah Anthony and Engineer Halmi. Visitors were Chris Roth, Jean Davis, Mary Ann Horne, Rick Scaletta, Jeffrey Fox, Dennis Porto, Bunny Bucho, and Samuel Kim.

AGENDA It was voted on motion by Campbell, seconded by Pernisek, to approve the Agenda as presented.
APPROVAL Motion carried unanimously.

COUNCIL MINUTES It was voted on motion by Glass, seconded by Feikles, to approve the Council Minutes of June 4, 2013. Motion carried unanimously.

TREASURER'S REPORT The following checks presented for approval: General Fund #14742-14745 and manual check #14703, Sewer Fund #6521, Money Market check #98 (½ Sewer, ½ Water), payroll #15097-15106. It was voted on motion by Campbell, seconded by Pernisek, to approve the payable checks as presented. Motion carried unanimously. It was voted on motion by Glass, seconded by Campbell, to approve the Payroll checks as presented. Voting in favor were Campbell, Patterson, Glass and Pernisek. Abstaining was Feikles. Motion carried.

SECRETARY'S REPORT Manager Anthony gave the following verbal report: Hank Wescoat has been permanently laid off as of June 1, 2013. The new culvert on Beason Road has been installed. The proposed roads projects list will be finalized upon bid openings to determine how many projects will be completed. Snow seal, a rubber roof coating has been purchased for the Sewer Plant at a cost of \$700 and will be applied by the Township employees.

CORRESPONDENCE Manager Anthony had no correspondence.

ZONING OFFICER'S REPORT Zoning Officer Willow presented the Enforcement Report, involving 4 complaints.

ENGINEER'S REPORT None.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

SEWER AUTH. Vice-Mayor Feikles presented the Minutes of the May 9th and June 13th, 2013 Meetings and Flow Report.

EDINBORO LIASISON Vice-Mayor Feikles informed Council the Wesbury issue was discussed as well as the proposed joint water agreement the Borough had submitted to the Township in 2012.

FIRE DEPT. Councilman Pernisek informed Council that a fire truck was damaged when it was stuck on a Township road and said repairs will be approximately \$10,000 to \$14,000 for repairs.

WATERSHED ASSOC. No meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

DENISTY ZONING CHANGES Manager Anthony presented proposed changes to the density levels for the R-2 zoning district. Council will discuss the changes at an upcoming workshop.

NOTE PURCHASE AGREEMENT It was voted on motion by Campbell, seconded by Pernisek, to adopt Ordinance #1-13, the Note Purchase Agreement with the General McLane School District for the sewer extension project on Route 99, Edinboro Road. A settlement date for the up to \$1,500,000 loan will be forthcoming from Solicitor Burroughs. Motion carried unanimously.

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WESBURY CONCERNS Manager Anthony presented a letter from Colin Wylie concerning the Wesbury Development issue of which municipality will provide water and sewer service to said development.

ROADS PROJECTS Manager Anthony presented the following bids for road materials:

BIDS 98,500 sq. yds. single sealcoat:

Russell Standard	\$1.176/ gal	Total \$115,836.00
Suit-Kote	\$1.1466/ gal	Total \$112,940.00

5,600 sq. yds. double sealcoat:

Russell Standard	\$2.648/ gal	Total \$14,828.00
Suit-Kote	\$2.56/ gal	Total \$14,347.20

It was voted on motion by Glass, seconded by Feikles, to accept the bid from Suit Kote for single and Double sealcoat. **Motion carried unanimously.**

550 tons super-pave:

Russell Standard	\$78.77/ ton	Total \$43,323.50
McCormick	\$77.10/ ton	Total \$42,405.00
Mayer Bros.	\$75.00/ ton	Total \$41,250.00

It was voted on motion by Glass, seconded by Pernisek, to accept the bid from Mayer Bros. for super-pave. **Motion carried unanimously.**

WESBURY REQUEST for PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURE Manager Anthony presented a memo outlining a compromise for Council's consideration for the Wesbury development's request for water and sewer services to be provided by Edinboro Borough, though part of the development is in Washington Township. Washington Township can implement the 2005 50,000 Gallon Agreement but will want the Township water extended into the project for those homes within Washington township boundaries. The bulk water agreement proposed by the Borough of Edinboro in 2012 was discussed. A lengthy discussion ensued. Councilman Feikles stated he was in favor of the bulk water agreement as presented to facilitate Wesbury development to begin construction as soon as possible, as Mr. Clawson, the developer has threatened to pull out unless Washington Township agrees to this proposed agreement. Councilman Glass pointed out several deficiencies of the proposed bulk water agreement including a 20% surcharge for Township residents that would be served by said agreement, the cost for installation and connection would be the responsibility of Township residents, and the Township would be responsible for all maintenance of said Borough water lines serving Township residents. He also added the areas where the water service would be available were restricted as stated in said agreement. Councilman Pernisek stated it was a disservice to Township residents to allow the Borough of Edinboro service the proposed Wesbury development because the Township needs new customers to stabilize water rates for their residents. He also stated the 20% surcharge was too costly for our residents. Councilwoman Campbell stated she was concerned for the School District's tax revenue if the Wesbury development would pull out of the said project. Dr. Bunny Bucho, Chair of the Washington Township Planning Commission, stated the policy of Washington Township has always been to deal with each development equally and that past developers within Washington Township had to follow the Township's rules and regulations accordingly; she had concerns for potential litigation that could be forthcoming if the Township waived some of the developer's requirements. Planning Commission member Samuel Kim suggested if the Township agreed to have the proposed development serviced by Borough sewer as per the 50,000 Gallon Agreement of 2005, it would be beneficial to the Township to provide water service. Edinboro Mayor Mary Ann Horne stated that the Borough's water lines are close and should be allowed to service the development at this time because Borough Manager T. J. Jemetz stated that in the future the developer could extend Township's lines for service, and the 20% surcharge added a minimal amount to a water bill. General McLane School Superintendent Rick Scaletta stated the Township should allow the Borough of Edinboro to provide all water and sewer service because the School District would benefit from said development via taxes. Manager Anthony read the following statement:

Lately I have heard a common theme, "we need help". Some of us may have forgotten that this refrain is certainly not new to us.

Let's look at the past and bring it back to present day. Early 1970's, Washington Township is informed

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that the Lakeside Area is in desperate need of public sewers. The Township turns to its neighbor the Boro of Edinboro and says, "we need help". "The answer was sorry, we can't, this plant was built for our residents." Washington Township then builds to the request of Harrisburg, a "Temporary plant". That word, TEMPORARY will come back to haunt us 30 years later. We built the plant and laid a heavy financial burden on homeowners and property owners in Township in order to fund it. A burden that I am reminded of still to this day, as old timers recant the bitter battles that took place and the losses they sustained. Done for the betterment of our community

Now fast forward to the 1990's. Harrisburg insists that Washington Township must provide public water as a chemical waste dump has poisoned the ground water. The Township turns to its neighbor the Boro of Edinboro as says "we need help". The answer was sorry, we can't. This plant was built for our residents. Washington Township then builds to the request of Harrisburg a water treatment plant. We built the plant and again laid a heavy financial burden on homeowners and property owners in the Township in order to fund it, another burden that I am reminded of still to this day. Done for the betterment of our community

My predecessor and I told residents that the burden will ease as slow and controlled growth adds customers to the system and allows operation, maintenance and debt service to be spread out over more customers. But, in the year 2000 we learned that sewer system was only TEMPORARY and Harrisburg says you must remove your discharge from Edinboro Lake. Once again, we went to our neighbors the Boro of Edinboro and say, "we need help". The answer was still NO. Our plant was built for our residents. Harrisburg recognized the trend and after a legal battle, forced the Boro to allow us to regionalize the treatment system. The process was costly with expensive engineering that ultimately added to the bottom-line and a long and drawn out lawsuit that once again laid a heavy financial burden on the homeowners and property owners of Washington Township. Washington Township paid ALL cost associated with the \$4.5 million increase to the Borough's treatment system. The residents paid ALL legal bills and engineering costs as well. The Boro received instantly over 700 customers, we paid for the upgrades and they receive the benefit. Yes their resident's benefit, a modern and well-run operation that has a cash flow that allows them to have top employees and equipment. While each year we struggle to make a budget balance. Council people say, "Don't raise the sewer rates". We laid off employees, we cut costs, we made do, we continued to ask the customers to bare that heavy burden.

So now we come to the present, residents having a hard time paying the high water and sewer rates, older citizens on fixed incomes unable to keep up with them, young families struggling the same. Each month our staff bears the brunt of their burden as they continually complain about the cost, some in tears as we inform them of our rules to lien their homes because of them being so far behind in rents. It hasn't gotten better, they haven't gotten use it, they look at us with pleading eyes and say "we need help".

Now a developer who's sole purpose is to make money, "come on now people that's what developers do", asks "we need help". Is the Wesbury project good for the Edinboro Community, by all means, is it the save all, I don't think so. Of course, GMSD is behind it, it stands to bring in hundreds of thousands of tax dollars to them without burden of more children. Of course the Boro is behind it, they have little growth areas left and the it will help to revitalize the community. Is it good for Washington Township, in my opinion as Manager. YES it is. Council now has the chance to insist that the Boro sit down with them and hammer out a Joint Authority. I emphasize the word insist, don't poke it with a stick, study it for years and do nothing, sit down and say we must do what is long overdue. Make it clear that this isn't a Township or Boro problem, it's an Edinboro Community problem and this can solve it. One that is fair to the entire Edinboro Community, promotes and permits growth in the proper areas, puts no burden on the customers and no burden on the developer to determine where and if they can get public services. Stand up for residents that said, "we need help" and do what's right not only for the community but for them as well.

If Council feels I am incorrect or out of line, I strongly suggest that you insist upon my resignation as manager and I we gladly provide that. Washington Township staff works every day for our residents and do what we can to answer that call of "we need help".

It was voted on motion by Patterson, seconded by Pernisek, to suspend the water service discussion and Request a joint meeting with the Borough of Edinboro's Council to discuss a proposed joint water and sewer authority to facilitate future developments. **Motion carried unanimously.**

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NEW BUSINESS

STREET LIGHT ASSESSMENT It was voted on motion by Campbell, second by Pernisek, to accept the street light tax assessment as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

VISITORS None.

ADJOURNMENT It was voted on motion by Campbell, seconded by Pernisek, to adjourn the Meeting at 4:49 P.M. Motion carried unanimously.