

**EAST GOSHEN TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING
1580 PAOLI PIKE
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 2022
FINAL MINUTES**

Present: Chairman Michele Truitt; Vice Chairman John Hertzog; Members: Mike Lynch, Cody Bright, David Shuey; Township Manager Derek Davis; Finance Director Dave Ware; Senior Staff Accountant Chris Boylan; Goshen Fire Executive Director Grant Everhart; Erich Meyer (Conservancy); Brian Hutchinson (ESAC).

Call to Order & Pledge of Allegiance:

Michele Truitt called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Michele requested a moment of silence for our police, fire, EMS and the Phillies.

Michele stated this hybrid meeting is being recorded via Zoom and will be available on the Township website.

Chairman's Report:

Michele announced:

- The Board met in executive session prior to tonight's meeting to discuss personnel and legal matters.
- The Board met with the Westtown Board jointly on Wednesday, October 19th to discuss legal and personnel matters regarding the WEGO Police Department.
- The Municipal Authority, Pipeline Task Force, Conservancy Board, and Futurist Committee are all looking for new members. Please reach out to Township Manager Derek Davis directly if interested or fill out the "ABC Volunteer" form on our website located on the "Forms & Applications" page.
- Township offices will be closed on Friday, November 11th in recognition of Veterans Day.

Public Hearings: None

Emergency Services Reports: None

Financial Report: None

Approval of Minutes:

Cody made a motion to approve the minutes of September 27 & October 18, 2022.

David seconded.

Motion carried 5-0.

Treasurer's Report:

Dave Ware presented the October 27, 2022 Treasurer's Report.

Cody made a motion to accept the receipts and approve the expenditures as presented in the Expenditure Register and as summarized in the October 27, 2022 Treasurer's Report.

Mike seconded.

Michele questioned how much is spent annually on electrician expenses. Dave will research and report back. Michele asked about the Chester County Art Association revenue split. Dave clarified.

Motion carried 5-0.

Old Business:

Consider stop sign addition at the intersection of Baldwin Drive and Margaret Lane.

Derek explained this was discussed at the October 18, 2022 meeting. After review of this location by Public Works and WEGO, it was determined that a 3-way stop sign was a necessity.

Cody made a motion to adopt Ordinance 129-F-2022, creating a multi-way stop at the intersection of Baldwin Drive and Margaret Lane.

Mike seconded.

Motion carried 5-0.

Mr. Christman acknowledged this was advertised.

Continued budget discussion for 2023 Fiscal Year.

Grant Everhart presented the Goshen Fire Company 2023 Municipal Contribution request.

Mike is supportive of Goshen Fire funding request and understands Goshen Fire is essential service and their budget constraints are the same as the Township is facing. John asked Dave if the funding that Grant is presenting is included in our 2023 Budget. Dave clarified. David echoed Mike's comments and is supportive of firefighters and he also views this as an essential service. David asked Grant if Goshen Fire applied for County ARPA funds. Grant was not aware of this opportunity. Grant was not aware of this grant application. David asked if Grant considered capital fundraising. Grant said they had a capital campaign when the Boot Rd. station was built and it was moderately successful. Grant plans to apply for a State grant but requires matching funds.

Bryan Nowak, via Zoom, chatted that he is supportive of raising taxes relative to this topic.

Dave elaborated on the 2023 Budget and presented options to consider. He explained that if we cut a service, then we can quantify that. But any projection that is made otherwise, we are required to pay the invoices as they are received.

David commented that he is not in favor of presenting arbitrary numbers after formulating reasonable assumptions. Dave responded.

John added the 2022 revenue was essentially budgeted over \$300K short in projection. Dave added we had a banner year in real estate transfer tax. John added the impending Miller property development could add to the 2023 revenue. Mike explained his own calculation on the potential revenue that could be realized on that development. John asked if we have a final WEGO budget. Dave stated we received late today.

Derek stated that we have the preliminary passage of 2023 budget scheduled on November 15, 2022. The budget needs to sit for at least 20 days. Changes of 10% overall or up to 25% in any one line item can be made between the Prelim Budget to Final Budget. Derek stressed Board members need to solidify their position on the 2023 budget.

Mike commented this past week, he continued to review and discuss the 2023 budget and met with staff and fellow supervisors. Mike further elaborated on his position. He supports the .5 mil tax increase and feels this increase erases the deficit and avoids cuts to expenditures. Mike feels this will sustain, not erode, and we need to keep an eye on the future.

Cody hasn't solidified his position but is leaning towards .5 mil increase that will ensure services are fully funded. Cody is not in favor of using Police Trust or decreasing services.

John is resistant to a tax increase and does not feel it is absolutely necessary right now because inflation is hurting people. John feels that we can take \$250K from reserve to balance the budget without raising taxes. He appreciates Dave's work on the budget presentation.

David commented that he made his position clear at the last meeting. David is looking at the continued deteriorating infrastructure, trees to come down, ponds to be remediated, and an incomplete trail that he feels creates unsafe conditions. He favors a .5 mill increase. David suggested in the future the Township might consider an Emergency Municipal Service Tax. He added that Fire and Police are 42% of our budget. With growing expense, along with reduced volunteerism, increase to Fire salaries and infrastructure improvements, and the Police budget, one way to recognize the impact of these emergency services on our budget is to promulgate a new tax which is allowable under State law.

Michele is not in favor of a tax increase this year when residents are struggling. She is reluctant to be amenable to raise taxes this year, but Michele feels it is an unfortunate reality that we look at raising taxes as early as next year. She feels there is a small budget shortfall and we should look at option #2 and consider there could be an option of less of a contribution to WEGO. Michele added that the next step of budget process is to pass the budget to the public at the

November 15th meeting. This does not mean that the Board is in favor or not in favor of the budget. This just means the Board is required by law to pass the budget to the public for their input. Michele asked all Board Members to get in touch with Dave and look at line items to reconsider to help close the shortfall.

Mike added to advertise the 2023 budget action on November 15th, there are limitations on adjustments that can be made between Preliminary and Final Budget. Under Second Class Township Code, the Board cannot increase the budget by more than 10% overall or more than 25% on any given line item.

Russ Frank, 451 Gateswood, asked why we can't delay budget passage until January. Michele stated we are required by law to have a 2023 budget in place by year end. Mr. Frank stated that only two Board members took concern about residents who are hurting financially in the Township and he appreciates the Board acknowledging those residents. Mike responded the other three Board members are not insensitive to residents. Mike added that our County has a 4.6 millage property tax and the School District has 22 mils, which increased .71 mils since 2020, and Mike hasn't heard protest from residents about that. Mike does not feel their services touch our residents as much as Township. Mike doesn't want to discount any resident's hardship and further, he asked the Solicitor if the Township had the authority to consider hardship in applying the property tax. The Township does not have the authority to do so.

Michele stated that it is our fiduciary responsibility to make sure we are doing the best we can with the funds we have without the option of raising taxes first.

David added the fixed income argument and impacts of inflation ignore the fact that the Township is on fixed income and is feeling the impact of inflation, which is driving this budget discussion. To ignore that is unacceptable.

Mike elaborated on discussions he had with John regarding the budget and potential cuts. Mike stated with the professional Director of Finance and Township Manager, Mike does not see any fluff or waste in this budget.

New Business:

Accept resignation of Phil Mayer from the Municipal Authority.

Derek stated that after 7 years of service to the Municipal Authority, he is moving from the Township so he is resigning. The Municipal Authority plays a vital role in the more expensive infrastructure and Derek will be looking for someone to fill this position. Mike believes the Municipal Authority is an autonomous/semiautonomous entity and this is an important position. Mike would like the Municipal Authority involved in the interview. Michele asked for Derek's direction.

David made a motion to accept the resignation of Phil Mayer from the Municipal Authority.

Mike seconded.

Michele thanked Phil for his service.

Motion carried 5-0.

Distinguishing of sewer easement on Line Road.

Mr. Christman explained the 1980's subdivision plan on the Thorncroft property included a sanitary sewer easement granted to the Township that, ultimately, the sanitary sewer improvements were never constructed. The resident approached the Township and requested extinguishing the sanitary sewer easement. Mr. Christman confirmed with the Township Manager and Public Works Director that this easement is not needed by the Township.

Mike made a motion to authorize the Chair to execute the proposed Extinguishment and Release of Easement document for the property located at 214 Line Road.

John seconded.

Motion carried 5-0.

ESAC Letter to specific residents regarding rooftop solar opportunities.

Brian Hutchinson explained the draft letter is intended to introduce homeowners, who have installed a new roof, to consider solar and provide them with references of neighbors who also have solar.

Michele will be on the list of references and suggested possibly giving a letter to homeowners when they request a permit. Brian explained some houses don't show up in a good area to install solar.

John asked the cost of solar installation and Brian responded that there are many variables.

David commented there are potentially up to three rebates available if a resident qualifies.

Dave asked if this letter could be included in a new resident packet. Brian responded there are pros and cons to including this information.

Cody made a motion to allow the ESAC to send out the attached letter to the residents in the township identified as having an excellent roof for potential rooftop solar.

David seconded.

Motion carried 5-0.

Introduction to the Conditional Use application that will be heard on November 15th for 1010 Hershey Mill Road.

Derek stated this was discussed earlier tonight and a developer has an agreement of sale on this property and would like to potentially build 13-15 homes. There will be a conditional use hearing because they are coming in under the single family open space development option, attempting to use a large common space to offset impervious. They went before the Planning Commission for introduction in October. The Planning Commission will hear this again tomorrow night. Derek emphasized this is not for land development, this is strictly for the conditional use only. He stated that a letter was sent to residents informing them of the Planning Commission meeting and the November 15th hearing. No motion to consider.

Standing Issues/Projects:

Hershey's Mill Dam Project – Derek stated that Mark Miller and Derek received the as-builts from the contractor.

Milltown Dam Project – Bid documents are still with DCNR and Army Corp.

John requested to add the Hersheys Mill Sewer project to this Standing Issues/Projects section. Derek reported that the first advertisement went out for this today and will be advertised again next week. There will be a bid opening sometime in December. Dave added there is no update on the grants or Chester County ARPA funds.

Dave reported that the 902 grant application was completed and submitted for the lidded recycling toters.

Any Other Matter: None

Public Comment: None

Liaison Reports: None

Correspondence, Reports of Interest: None

Adjournment:

There being no further business, Cody made a motion to adjourn at 8:48PM.

John seconded.

Motion carried 5-0.

Respectfully submitted,
Chris Boylan
Recording Secretary

Attached: October 27, 2022 Treasurer's Report

TREASURER'S REPORT		October 13, 2022 - October 27, 2022	
RECEIPTS AND BILLS			
GENERAL FUND			
Real Estate Tax	\$0.00	Accounts Payable	\$59,124.90
Earned Income Tax	\$98,400.00	Electronic Pmts:	
Local Service Tax	\$2,400.00	Debt Service	\$78,576.08
EIT/LST Interest Earned	\$15,214.61	Payroll	\$174,937.59
Transfer Tax	\$0.00		
General Fund Interest Earned	\$19,970.75		
Total Other Revenue	\$35,872.49		
Total General Fund Receipts:	\$171,857.85	Total Expenditures:	\$312,638.57
STATE LIQUID FUELS FUND			
Receipts	\$0.00	Accounts Payable	\$0.00
Interest Earned	\$3,581.01		
Total State Liquid Fuels Receipts:	\$3,581.01	Total Expenditures:	\$0.00
CAPITAL RESERVE FUND			
Receipts	\$0.00	Accounts Payable	\$16,113.25
Interest Earned	\$28,084.88		
Total Capital Reserve Fund Receipts:	\$28,084.88	Total Expenditures:	\$16,113.25
TRANSPORTATION FUND			
Receipts	\$0.00	Accounts Payable	\$0.00
Interest Earned	\$3,209.48		
Total Transportation Fund Receipts:	\$3,209.48	Total Expenditures:	\$0.00
SEWER OPERATING FUND			
Receipts	\$159,265.60	Accounts Payable	\$134,380.91
Interest Earned	\$0.00	Electronic Pmts:	
		Debt Service	\$179,050.77
Total Sewer Operating Fund Receipts:	\$159,265.60	Total Expenditures:	\$313,431.68
REFUSE FUND			
Receipts	\$77,306.58	Accounts Payable	\$24,465.43
Interest Earned	\$0.00		
Total Refuse Fund Receipts:	\$77,306.58	Total Expenditures:	\$24,465.43
BOND FUND			
Receipts	\$0.00	Accounts Payable	\$364,202.20
Interest Earned	\$15,992.88		
Total Bond Fund Receipts:	\$15,992.88	Total Expenditures:	\$364,202.20
SEWER CAPITAL RESERVE FUND			
Receipts	\$0.00	Accounts Payable	\$0.00
Interest Earned	\$12,481.40		
Total Sewer Capital Reserve Fund Receipts:	\$12,481.40	Total Expenditures:	\$0.00
OPERATING RESERVE FUND			
Receipts	\$0.00	Accounts Payable	\$0.00
Interest Earned	\$10,675.29		
Total Operating Reserve Fund Receipts:	\$10,675.29	Total Expenditures:	\$0.00
INFRASTRUCTURE SUSTAINABILITY FUND			
Receipts	\$0.00	Accounts Payable	\$0.00
Interest Earned	\$10,986.41		
Total Infrastructure Sustainability Fund Receipts:	\$10,986.41	Total Expenditures:	\$0.00
ARPA - COVID RELIEF FUND			
Receipts	\$0.00	Accounts Payable	\$0.00
Interest Earned	\$4,867.40		
Total ARPA - COVID Relief Fund Receipts:	\$4,867.40	Total Expenditures:	\$0.00