


West Caln Township Board of Supervisors	Minutes Wednesday, December 11, 2019 Public Meeting	
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A regular monthly meeting of the West Caln Township Board of Supervisors was held on Wednesday, December 11, 2019 at 7:00 PM in the Township Municipal Building.

Present were:

Supervisor Martz	Police Chief Martinez	Solicitor Venzie
Supervisor Martin	Assistant Manager Sauro	Road Foreman Touchton
Supervisor Hutton	Treasurer Barsz	

1. CALL TO ORDER

Supervisor Martz opened the meeting at 7:00 PM and lead in the salute to the flag.

2. SALUTE TO THE FLAG

3. ADDITIONS DELETIONS OR MODIFICATIONS TO THE AGENDA

4. EXECUTIVE SESSION

None.


5. CITIZEN'S COMMENTS

a. Patricia McVey – 226 Valley Green Drive – Inquired as to the status of people living in a trailer at 216 Valley Green Drive. Township will follow up with Castle Valley.

b. There were several residents who were inquiring as to the proposed tax increase for a new ambulance. This new tax would be for EMS (fire and ambulance) services only. Comments are generalized below and were made by the following people:

- Dale Scott and James Brown – 1459 Airport Road
- Robert Stewart, Sr. – 681 W. Kings Highway
- Robert Stewart, Jr. – 106 Sunny View Court
- Lynda Beale – Northwood Drive
- Ronald Rambo, Sr. – 302 Buttonwood Dr
- Geoff Taylor – 400 Aspen St
- John Hashem - 1481 Birdell Rd
- Bill Sharp – 148 Oak Ln
- Chris Dunlap – 522 W. Kings Hwy

Most questions/comments that were addressed by the residents were the need for a second ambulance, housing of the ambulance (i.e. why West Caln would pay for an ambulance that would be parked in West Brandywine), cost of the ambulance now and in the future, would the need for another tax increase occur, contributions being made by other townships involved (West Brandywine and Wallace), concerns about Wagontown Fire Company as it relates to any issue concerning finances, who will manage these funds,

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what happens to all equipment should the fire company not operate in the future as Martin Corner did, and transparency of the township and fire company as it relates to monies.

Questions were addressed by Supervisor Hutton, Solicitor Venzie, John Sly of the Westwood Ambulance and Mike Reber of the Wagontown Fire Company.

It was stated that all townships are being faced with the same issue as to how to fund and provide a volunteer fire company and ambulance service to its residents. This has become increasingly hard as volunteer contributions and fundraising events have been declining over the years. The need for a second ambulance arose out of the number of calls and response times being provided to the residents of West Caln, West Brandywine and Wallace Townships. If Westwood's sole ambulance is on a call when another call comes in, an ambulance from a neighboring area would be dispatched and response times could increase. No actual fiscal study was completed just the data that is compiled every month by the fire company and ambulance service which is provided every month to the township at their monthly meetings was used for analysis. The contribution amounts being provided by each township is equal. Each township is to provide \$100,000 however, Wallace Township has offered \$120,000 and West Brandywine will be getting a one time (this year only) break to \$80,000 as they will be using \$20,000 for the construction/remodeling of an area to house the ambulance and EMS service quarters. The proposed tax increase would be distributed as ¼ mill to EMS and ½ to fire. An oversight committee will be established to oversee all the funding for the fire company and ambulance. Yearly audits will continue to be provided to the township as they have been in the past. An agreement will be established with the three townships as well as the fire company and ambulance service so as to provide for all equipment distribution should the need arise. The Board stated that they did not take this matter lightly but being forced to provide a service for its residents as required by the state and with contributions declining there really is no other option. It was also stated that the ambulance service has decided that with the tax being instituted, when they respond to a call, they will check the contribution list and if the contribution has been paid by that household, they will be waiving all fees associated with their services and the resident will not receive a bill. The township will continue to make its annual audits available to the public as these documents are public information.

6. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES


The Board of Supervisors approved the minutes for the November 13, 2019 Board of Supervisors meeting.

Motion to Approve: Supervisor Martin Second: Supervisor Hutton Vote: 3-0-0

Motion Passed

7. MANAGER'S REPORT

The Board of Supervisors accepted the Township Manager's Report as presented.

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8. TREASURER'S REPORT

The Board of Supervisors approved the Treasurer's Report as presented.

Motion to Approve: Supervisor Martin Second: Supervisor Hutton Vote: 3-0-0

Motion Passed

9. SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Solicitor Venzie reported that she met with the township's assistant zoning officer regarding ongoing property maintenance issues in the township and to discuss the plans moving forward.

10. POLICE REPORT

None

11. CODE ENFORCEMENT REPORT

The Board of Supervisors accepted the Code Enforcement Report as presented.

12. ROAD DEPARTMENT REPORT

The Board of Supervisors accepted the Roads Report as presented.

13. FIRE MARSHAL REPORT

None

14. WAGONTOWN FIRE COMPANY

The Board of Supervisors accepted the Wagontown Fire Company Report as presented.

15. WESTWOOD FIRE COMPANY – EMS SERVICE

The Board of Supervisors accepted the Westwood Fire Company EMS Report as presented.

16. HISTORICAL COMMISSION REPORT

The Board of Supervisors accepted the Historical Commission Report as presented.

17. OLD BUSINESS

None


18. NEW BUSINESS

a. Appointment: Assistant Emergency Management Coordinator

The Board of Supervisors appoints David J. Garver as Assistant Emergency Management Coordinator.

Motion to Approve: Supervisor Martin Second: Supervisor Hutton Vote: 3-0-0

Motion Passed

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b. West Caln Township 2020 General Fund Budget

The Board of Supervisors approves the 2020 General Fund Budget as presented.

Motion to Approve: Supervisor Martin Second: Supervisor Hutton Vote: 3-0-0

Motion Passed

c. West Caln Township 2020 Liquid Fuels Budget

The Board of Supervisors approves the 2020 Liquid Fuels Budget as presented.

Motion to Approve: Supervisor Martin Second: Supervisor Hutton Vote: 3-0-0

Motion Passed

a. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

None

b. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business at hand, the meeting was adjourned at 8:15 PM

Motion to Approve: Supervisor Martin Second: Supervisor Hutton Vote: 3-0-0

Motion Passed

Respectful Submitted,

Kimberly Milane-Sauro

Assistant Secretary

Approved January 6, 2020