

**MEETING MINUTES OF THE PLAINS TOWNSHIP BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING
OF DECEMBER 12, 2024**

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CALL TO ORDER TIME: 7:00

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Led by Gerald Yozwiak

Presentation of plaque to Commissioner Cinti from PSATC

ROLL CALL: Peter J. Biscontini, Esq., Ciro Cinti, Robert Sax, Thomas Shubilla,
Gerald Yozwiak.

The Sunshine Act requires that those in attendance be given the opportunity to comment before a vote is taken. Anyone wishing to comment on an issue is encouraged to notify the Board prior to roll call being taken on that issue. The Township policy is to limit comment to five minutes. Anyone requiring additional time is encouraged to make arrangements to meet with the Board at a later date. Additionally, all correspondence read or referred to is available at the North Main Street Municipal Building for public inspection during regular business hours. Note that the meeting is being recorded. At this time please turn off any cell phones to avoid disrupting the meeting.

GENERAL ORDER OF BUSINESS

Motion to accept: **Minutes:** Board of Commissioner Regular meeting minutes of November, Plains Township Sewer Authority meeting minutes of October, Wyoming Valley Sanitary Authority meeting minutes for October, Planning Commission Meeting Minutes from August
Monthly Reports: Police Department; Fire Department, DPW and EMA for November; Zoning Permits & Contractors Licenses Issued for November; Secretaries Report for November.
Payrolls of the Administrative, Zoning Office, Department of Public Works and Recreation Departments. The **Treasurers Report for November:** General Fund Receipts in the amount of **\$742,011.86** General Fund Disbursements **\$730,750.02**; Total Ending Balance in the General Fund as of 11/30/2024 **\$2,587,947.60**. **BY: Cinti 2ND: Sax All for, motion carried**

CORRESPONDENCE – None

COMMITTEE REPORTS -

POLICE – Quiet month, I want to thank the department for helping the Plains Lions Club with the Christmas Parade, tree lighting, and hanging the lights. If anyone has any questions for the Chief he is here.

FIRE – 123 fire calls and 20 captains incidents (fire investigations, dumping calls burning complaints etc) Once again if you are in need of smoke detectors please contact the department they will provide and install them free of charge.

DPW – November crazy month, we cut grass in the beginning of the month and now we are out plowing. We have been cold patching We closed the drop off site till January. We have a lot of dumping going on, so if you see something let us know

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RECREATION – Accepting applications for the Pavilion rental. They can be picked up at the office and then returned there. I would like to thank the commissioners for continuing the Summer program in next years budget. I would like to thank Pat Delasandro who has been here more than 17 years. He was head of our parks and recreation department and has retired. He will be missed. I want to thank him again for his dedication to the township. I would also like to thank DPW for their help with the parks, and the Lions Club for the tree lighting.

CHAIRMAN MESSAGE – I would like to thank all 8 of you for coming out tonight, there are 10,000 people in this township and its nice to see you. On behalf of the board of commissioners we would like to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Commissioner Cinti – Chariman if I may say something else?

Commissioner Yozwiak, - Sure, absolutely

Cinti – I just want to say what I pleasure it is to serve the Township and all of you, I have actually been in this position on and off for more than 12 years. And I just want to thank you and the board for the opportunity.

OLD BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

Motion to authorize payment of the **General Fund Bills** consisting of the **Utility Bills \$25,609.48; Regular Bills \$306,446.13; Total \$332,055.61**

BY: Biscontini 2ND: Shubilla Cinti abstains – Assured Partners All for, motion carried

Motion to request a police traffic study for No parking along the guard rail on Stadium Alley.

BY: Sax 2ND: Cinti All for, motion carried Cinti: Along with that motion, I know Mr.

Bucknavage is here, the Principal Mr. Correll did put out notice asking that the parents not park along the guard rail. Mr. Bucknavage – That will be on the guard rail side?

Yozwiak – yes. Mr. Bucknavage – ok because there was a big issue during

Thanksgiving, with the people parking along the guard rail and blocking the alley. I

have pictures, but if you are going to be putting the no parking signs along the guard rail side and enforce them then I just want to say thank you.

Motion to re-hire Nino Cinti, and Kameron Taylor and hire Christopher Hine as Part time

Seasonal DPW workers at a rate of \$11.00 per hour **BY: Shubilla 2nd: Biscontini**

Cinti abstains – relation All for, motion carried

Solicitors Report:

Motion to authorize payment application No. 4 of the 50 Second Street Fire House

Improvement Project to Smith Miller Roofing in the amount of \$6,318.47 **BY: Cinti**

2nd: Sax All for, motion carried

Motion to authorize payment application No. 2 in the amount of \$11,409.50 and payment

application #3 in the amount of \$7,152.44 for a total of \$18,561.94 to American Asphalt

Paving Co for the Plains Twp. 2024 Paving Project. **BY: Biscontini 2nd: Shubilla All for,**

motion carried

Motion to adopt an ordinance authorizing the recovery of service costs of fire and rescue services and payment for costs associated with fire and rescue services. **BY: Shubilla 2nd: Cinti All for, motion carried**

Motion to enter into a 12-month agreement with Constellation Energy as our electrical supplier at a cost of 0.06313 cents per kilowatt hour beginning December 13, 2024. **BY: Sax 2ND: Biscontini All for, motion carried**

Motion to adopt a resolution and execute all documentation for the 2025 Tax Anticipation Note **BY: Biscontini 2nd: Cinti All for, motion carried**

Motion to have the second and final reading of the **2025 Budget.**

INCOME	2025 TENTATIVE OPERATING BUDGET
Real Estate Taxes	\$ 1,675,000.00
Taxes, Enabling Act	3,364,500.00
Licenses & Permits	753,800.00
Fines, Forfeits & Costs	34,200.00
Interest & Rents	26,000.00
Grants & Gifts	6,191,665.07
Department Earnings	404,550.00
Non-Revenue Receipts	578,069.61

Misc Revenue Receipts	159,000.00
TOTAL REVENUE	\$ 13,186,784.68

EXPENDITURES	
General Government	\$ 385,259.60
Mun Bldgs/Offices	162,000.00
Tax Collection	12,275.00
Bldg, Regulations, Plan/Zone	340,420.00
Police Protection	2,107,025.44
Fire Protection	1,961,493.62
Health Services	9,000.00
Sanitation	467,460.54
General Services/Highways	1,193,841.16
General Services Main.	2,163,226.02
Parks & Recreation	281,912.00
Library Contributions	22,000.00
Principal/Interest -Unpaid Bills	1,173,211.00
Benefits, Payroll Taxes, Insurances	2,907,660.30
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$ 13,186,784.68

BY: Sax 2ND: Biscontini All for, motion carried Sax: we always try to not raise anyone's taxes and keep the budget balanced. We can't always do it but it is great when we can

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Motion to adopt the Annual Budget of the Township of Plains for Fiscal Year 2025 Tax Levy and Appropriation Ordinance. **BY: Shubilla 2nd; Sax Roll Call: B C SA SH Y**

ANNOUNCEMENTS – The next regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners will be held January 9, 2025 7:00 P.M. The Administrative and Zoning Offices close at noon on Tuesday December 24th for the Christmas holiday and will reopen on Friday December 27th at 8:00 am. The DPW will be closed on Wednesday December 25th, in observance of the holiday. Residents with Wednesday garbage collection will have their garbage collected on Thursday, December 26th. There will be a 6 bag limit for the collection week of December 26th thru December 31st. The Administrative, Zoning and DPW will be closed on January 1st in observance of the New Year. Residents with Wednesday garbage collection will have their garbage collected on Thursday January 2nd. All other schedules remain the same.

TAXPAYERS (Time limit 5 minutes taxpayers must sign in).

Mr. Bucknavage – We are good I was just here about the parking and we have covered that.

Mr. Granteed – Enterprise Street – I have a few items I would like to talk about. Corner of N. Main and Powell Street there is a head board and foot board sitting there for the last 3 months.

Yozwiak – Mr. Sax will contact the DPW and get that picked up.

Mr. Granteed – Snow plowing, I appreciate the snow plowing on my road, but there comes a point when you are just over doing it. And its only damaging the roads. There has to be common sense used when plowing.

Yozwiak – We will talk to the guys.

Mr. Granteed – If its an inch of snow they don't need to plow.

Yozwiak – They drop it hard, Mr. Sax will talk to them.

Mr. Granteed – The next issue is South Main Street, where the high school is. There are no sidewalks and the kids walk along that road and its dark and dangerous, someone is going to end up hurt. These kids don't look where they are going

Yozwiak – We have a meeting with the School Director, this would be their responsibility. And we have talked with them before but we will bring it up again.

Mr. Granteed – I am also curious about the traffic lights on Abbott and South Main.

It seems like expensive hardware are they going to get used?

Attorney Menn – That's all PennDOT.

Mr. Granteec – The last thing is the rain tax. I was under the impression that the rain tax was going to be something that was shared, and now I feel like a fool. You guys need to do something about this. The people around us are not paying, and we shouldn't be either. If they cant go about it the right way then we shouldn't be on the hook for it.

Yozwiak – If I could just comment on that – 2 of us voted against it but to be honest with you Joe, we get reimbursed for repairs we make from that money. I don't know if you noticed but there was a large pipe on River Street that burst and we had to replace. That was 180,000 project we used our reimbursement for that project. Its not a lot and it's a fair tax. We get street cleaning, and this reimbursements for catch basins and repairs.

Granteed – That's all well and good, you think its not expensive but for some people it is. They have to sacrifice to pay it. You get reimbursed but what do I get out of it?

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Yozwiak – You see it through storm drains being cleaned out and repaired to keep water out and there is no flooding. It's a benefit,

Mr. Granteed - But the responsibility should be evenly doled out – these other communities should be paying.

Yozwiak - We try to be fair. And it is a good program,

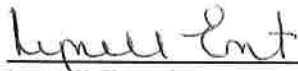
Granteed – I don't think it is fair, I shouldn't have to pay when these other communities don't. Back Mcuntain doesn't pay, Lackawanna county doesn't pay. Its not the way the plan was.

Yozwiak – We will take it into consideration.

ADJOURNMENT BY: Cinti 2ND: Yozwiak Roll Call: All for, motion carried TIME: 7:35

Respectfully Submitted,

Accepted by,



Lynell Ent, Secretary



Gerald J. Yozwiak, Chairman