

**COVINGTON TOWNSHIP SUPERVISORS  
EMERGENCY MEETING  
APRIL 30, 2020**

*The Covington Township Board of Supervisors held an Emergency Meeting on Thursday, April 30, 2020 at 1:00 p.m., at the Covington Township Municipal Building, Moffat Estate, 20 Moffat Drive, Covington Township, PA.*

*There were present: Thomas M. Yerke, Chairman; Joseph Setta, Supervisor; William Fells, Supervisor; Melissa Kearney, Supervisor; Kate Tierney, Secretary / Treasurer; and Joel M. Wolff, Esquire. John Brostoski, Vice Chairman was not present. Also present was Charles Raziano, EMA coordinator.*

*The meeting was opened with a Pledge of Allegiance led by Mr. Yerke.*

*Chairman Yerke stated that this Emergency Meeting is being held to consider the closing Eagle Lake with an injunction. Mr. Yerke thanked Supervisor Kearney for her diligent work on the subject of Eagle Lake. He stated that now it is up to Charles Raziano, Covington Township EMA coordinator to make a decision regarding the health and welfare of its residents.*

*Chairman Yerke hoped to obtain an extension of the May 1<sup>st</sup> opening date of Eagle Lake until at least mid-May.*

*Supervisor Kearney explained that she has been speaking with Rick Vilello, Deputy Secretary of the DCED. She provided him with information regarding Eagle Lake properties. Mr. Vilello, having been told that the administration of Eagle Lake was on board with the continued closing, said that the township has the authority to say they want them to stay closed. Mr. Vilello suggested using the same verbiage as the Governor. He indicated that in the case of the township being sued, they are protected because they are not being negligent. Although the township doesn't have a health officer, they do have an EMA coordinator who is doing his due diligence during this epidemic. Ms. Kearney did indicate to Mr. Vilello that many of the people in Eagle Lake are coming from the COVID-19 "hot-spots" and provided him with other information regarding the RV community ie the estimated number of RVs.*

*Charles Raziano had been speaking with a woman named Robin at the PA Dept of Health, who pointed out to him that the Governor's directive stated that they "may" open, so the decision goes back to the Township and /or the owner. He would recommend postponing the opening to May 15<sup>th</sup>, then reevaluate, saying that there are still 100 more cases per day in Pennsylvania, and most of the cases are in the northeast. He reported that the few cases in our area are maintaining with no other spread in the area. The delay would also allow Eagle Lake to put a plan together to address the safety guidelines. It was stated that Eagle Lake has a flier for the owners that address some of the issues. Raziano said that if they open now or later all the amenities will remain closed until Memorial Day.*

*Attorney Wolff had looked at Eagle Lake's website and they will be opening up full scale on Memorial Day. Wolff explained that the EMA coordinator must have a definitive plan and policies and procedures must be in place. He further explained that an emergency petition would be presented to the courts, and if granted, five days would be granted. After that there would be a hearing.*

*Wolff made suggestions to Mr. Raziano saying he will need direction from the board regarding whether he will tell Eagle Lake to shut down voluntarily until May 15<sup>th</sup>, providing time for discussion to better understanding of who is coming in, when, what are the policies and procedure, is there enough protective equipment available etc. Wolff further suggested that he*

may want to tour the facility to get a better idea of what he would like to see in place before opening. Both agreed that this action would need to be done immediately. If the board approves the injunction, Raziano should tell Eagle Lake that if they don't voluntarily close, they will be served with an emergency order.

ON MOTION duly made (Setta), seconded (Fells), and carried to allow our solicitor to seek an injunction against Eagle Lake.

ON MOTION duly made (Setta), seconded (Fells), and carried direct Charles Raziano, EMA coordinator of Covington Township to contact Eagle Lake and direct them to maintain a status quo until May 15<sup>th</sup> to put in place policies and procedures to stem the spread of COVID-19.

Supervisor Kearney reported that she spoke to John Brostoski, who could not attend today's meeting and who, as we all know, is against keeping Eagle Lake closed for even two weeks. She reported that Brostoski told her that he was speaking with Representative Mike Carroll, who spoke to Governor Wolf. Carroll said that the reason the Governor is opening is due to politics. Kearney stated that this is not a typical campground where people bring a tent, spend the weekend and go home. Eagle Lake people are here for weeks and months. John wanted the board to know that Mike Carroll didn't think that the Township can't win and he is worried about a lawsuit.

Mr. Yerke commented that he too spoke to Mike Carroll who told him the Governor probably does not know how big Eagle Lake and a campsite in his mind is a small piece of property like at the State parks. Yerke said that Carroll was going to try to clarify this with the governor, but the governor cannot change his mind once it is in place. Yerke never heard back from Representative Carroll.

Supervisor Setta thought the Township did have a chance because of the information received from Rick Vilello. Supervisor Kearney agreed further stated that we all want to keep our residents safe, as well as, the staff and owners at Eagle Lake and the community.

There was a discussion about the issue.

Charles Raziano offered to take calls on this issue. Supervisor Kearney explained that when the secretary gets calls, they are conveyed to her via email.

ON MOTION duly made (Kearney), seconded (Fells) and carried to adjourn.

Respectfully submitted,  
Kate Tierney, Secretary

APPROVED: