

**COVINGTON TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
WORK SESSION MEETING
TUESDAY, JULY 28, 2020 7:00 PM**

The Covington Township Board of Supervisors held their Work Session on Tuesday, July 28, 2020 at 7:00 p.m., at the Covington Township Pavilion Building, Moffat Estate, 20 Moffat Drive, Covington Township, PA.

There were present: John Brostoski, Vice Chairman; Joseph Setta, Supervisor; William Fells, Supervisor; Melissa Kearney, Supervisor; Douglas A Hein, Secretary / Treasurer and Joel M. Wolff, Esquire. Also present were David Lamm, Building Inspector; and Ronald Donati, Zoning. Thomas M. Yerke, Chairman was not present.

- 1. CALL TO ORDER / PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** *Supervisor Brostoski brought the meeting to order and led the Pledge of Allegiance*
- 2. AGENDA:** *As presented*
- 3. ANNOUNCEMENT:** *Mr. Brostoski stated an Executive Session was held on Monday July 20, 2020 at 10:00 am for personnel.*
- 4. PUBLIC COMMENT:** *Agenda items only; none was heard*
- 5. MINUTES:** *July 7, 2020 Regular Meeting minutes for review. Mr. Hein stated Supervisor Kearney submitted changes and these minutes presented included them. The minutes will be on the August 4, 2020 meeting agenda for adoption.*
- 6. BILLS:**
- 7. TREASURER'S REPORT:**
- 8. PLANNING COMMISSION:**
- 9. BUILDING INSPECTOR:**
- 10. ZONING CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER:**
- 11. ENGINEER:**
- 12. DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS:**
- 13. POLICE DEPT:**
- 14. RECREATION COMMITTEE:**
- 15. SEWAGE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER:**

Mr. Brostoski began to go through the agenda items 6-15 above. Mr. Hein stated there was nothing for these items, he just left them in place in case something came up during the meeting. Supervisor Kearney asked if there would be a bill pack and Treasurer's Report for the regular meeting; Mr. Hein said there would be.

- 16. SOLICITOR:** *RGM Hardwoods, Inc. Mr. Wolff said this issue was finalized and was informing the Board of such.*
- 17. ZONING HEARING BOARD:** *Minutes for January 9, 2020 meetings and March 12, 2020 hearings. Mr. Brostoski asked why these minutes were in the packet. Mr. Hein said these minutes were presented for review only as the ZHB had their quarterly meeting. He asked if they needed to be on the August 4th regular meeting agenda and was told no.*
- 18. ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIONS:**
 - a) Review SEO services** – *Mr. Hein stated that under the current arrangement for the SEO compensation, the Township is losing money because Mr. Enslin is an employee. Mr. Enslin receives as pay all the fees collected for permits and the Township must pay his SS and Medicare taxes. Mr. Hein asked if this could be discussed to change the arrangement or put the services out for RFP. He was instructed to place it on the August 4th agenda.*
 - b) Proposed Second Amendment Sanctuary Resolution** – *Patti Coombs and Lourdes Swarts were present to discuss the resolution they would like the Township to pass. They stated they were representing Covington Township in this issue; Mr. Wolff asked what they meant and was told they are representing the citizens of the Township in getting a petition signed. Ms. Coombs stated this was not a gun control resolution but rather a money resolution requesting the Township not spend any taxpayer funds, use any Township personnel or facilities to support any new Federal or State laws that may be enacted restricting Second Amendment rights. She listed various municipalities and Counties that have passed similar resolutions. Mr. Hein asked if any municipalities in Lackawanna, Luzerne,*

Monroe or Carbon Counties had passed such a resolution. Ms. Coombs said no but many are working on it. Ms. Swarts said she is recovering from a stroke and her husband works out of town. She moved to the U.S. from Brazil to escape oppression and wants to remain able to protect herself and future generations. Mr. Brostoski said the Supervisors all agree with the Second Amendment and the best way to make sure it is not threatened is to vote for people who support it. Mr. Brostoski said Township residents are able to protect themselves. The Supervisors asked for mor information for them to be able to further consider it.

- c) **Northeast Signal & Electric Company 2020 Preventative Maintenance Estimate** – Mr. Hein said Mr. Yerke and Township Engineer Mary Lou Butler had reviewed it and agree it is a good proposal and that it includes the inspection of utility poles as required by PennDOT. Mr. Hein was instructed to place this on the August 4th regular meeting agenda.*
 - d) **Recycling center options** – Mr. Brostoski stated that people are still dumping trash at the recycling center and it is costing the Township too much money. With Mr. Yerke absent, this is to go to the August 4th regular meeting.*
 - e) **Lackawanna County Land Bank** – Mr. Hein was instructed to consult with Ms. Tierney regarding this and place on the August 4th agenda. Mr. Wolff stated other municipalities have done this and in particular, Scranton has had much success with it.*
 - f) **Blue Ridge Cable Franchise Agreement** – Mr. Wolff stated he believes Comcast has an exclusivity right; he will research and bring to the August 4th meeting.*
- 19. **NEW BUSINESS:** North Pocono Cultural Society letter – Mr. Hein stated that the NP Cultural Society does not need the \$500 funding this year because their street fair has been cancelled. They are encouraging municipalities to come up with beautification projects and apply for the funding. Mr. Brostoski instructed Mr. Hein to speak with John Bauman, the groundskeeper for the Moffat Estate to see what trees or flowers could be planted.*
- 20. **OLD BUSINESS:** None*
- 21. **CORRESPONDENCE:** None*
- 22. **SUPERVISORS COMMENTS:** None*
- 23. **PUBLIC COMMENT:** Open public comment*

***ADJOURNMENT:** ON MOTION duly made (Fells), seconded (Kearney), and carried to adjourn the hearing at 7:33 p.m.*

*Respectfully submitted,
Douglas A. Hein, Secretary*

APPROVED: