

COVINGTON TOWNSHIP SUPERVISORS
REGULAR MEETING
JULY 07, 2020

The Covington Township Board of Supervisors held their Regular Meeting on Tuesday, July 07, 2020 at 7:00 p.m., at the Covington Township Municipal Building, Moffat Estate, 20 Moffat Drive, Covington Township, PA. Public participation was through the Zoom online meeting platform.

There were present: Thomas M. Yerke, Chairman; John Brostoski, Vice Chairman; Joseph Setta, Supervisor; William Fells, Supervisor; Melissa Kearney, Supervisor; Douglas A Hein, Secretary/Asst. Treasurer and Joel M. Wolff, Esquire. Also present was Mary Lou Butler, Township Engineer.

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

AGENDA: *ON MOTION* duly made (Setta), seconded (Brostoski), and carried to approve the agenda as presented.
ANNOUNCEMENT: *Chairman Yerke announced that an Executive Sessions were held on July 7, 2020 at 6:30 p.m. to discuss personnel issues. Charles Raziano, EMA Coordinator updated everyone regarding the potential COVID-19 exposure and Supervisor Setta commented that everyone must take responsibility.*

PUBLIC COMMENT: *Roz Davis thanked the Board for fixing the potholes in front of her house*

MINUTES: *ON MOTION* duly made (Setta), seconded (Fells), and carried to accept the minutes of the June 2, 2020 Public Hearing and the June 2, 2020 Regular meeting.

BILLS: *Mr. Yerke stated that the payment to Tom Hall should be \$414.21 and will be fixed. Supervisor Kearney asked why Kate Tierney was still on the United Concordia and Nationwide invoices. Mr. Hein stated that they are billed in advance and the Township will receive a refund on the August invoices. Supervisor Kearney asked why the work Pocono Spray Patch is doing was not bid out; Chairman Yerke stated they are the only company that does it. Supervisor Kearney stated she did not think the accumulated time payout for Kate Tierney should be paid; extensive discussion was held. She believes that a payroll company should be doing the Township's payroll. Mr. Hein stated a payroll company would be expensive. ON MOTION* duly made (Brostoski), seconded (Fells), and carried to pay the bills. *Supervisor Kearney voted to pay all bills except the accumulated time payout to Kate Tierney.*

TREASURER'S REPORT: *Supervisor Kearney asked why there was a different beginning balance from July than what the ending balance for June stated on the prior Treasurer's report for the General Fund. Mr. Hein stated there were items found by the external auditors when reviewing the books for their half year audit and the report was changed; he said he would provide an updated June Treasurer's report along with the changes. Supervisor Kearney questioned why the \$60 transfer to payroll for Mr. St. Hart was not listed; Mr. Hein said it was an oversight and would be corrected. ON MOTION* duly made (Brostoski), seconded (Fells), and carried to accept the Treasurer's report as submitted on a 4-1 vote with Supervisor Kearney objecting.

PLANNING COMMISSION: *No meeting was held.*

BUILDING INSPECTOR: *Chairman Yerke reviewed David Lamm's monthly report. ON MOTION* duly made (Kearney), seconded (Fells), and carried to accept the Building Inspector's report.

ZONING CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER: *Chairman Yerke reviewed Ronald Donati's his monthly report. ON MOTION* duly made (Kearney), seconded (Setta), and carried to accept the Zoning Officer's report.

ENGINEER: *Mary Lou Butler, Township Engineer stated she was applying for a PennDOT Multi-Modal Grant for a Langan Road project and needed the Board to pass resolution 2020-08. ON MOTION* duly made (Brostoski), seconded (Fells), and carried to pass Resolution 2020-08. *ON MOTION* duly made (Setta), seconded (Kearney), and carried to allow the Township Engineer to submit the grant application. *Discussion was held about the possibility of various road projects including tar and chip for Leggs Road and drainage and paving of Storms Road. ON MOTION* duly made (Setta), seconded (Fells), and carried to allow the Township Engineer to put together a package for the two roads. *Ms. Butler stated she is working on the 537 Plan update and should have it ready for the August 4, 2020 Board meeting. ON MOTION* duly made (Kearney), seconded (Fells), and carried to accept the Engineer's report.

DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS: *Mr. Yerke read the DPW report. He stated the dirt pile behind the volunteer fire company building has been cleaned up. The Township Cleanup was scheduled for September 18 and 19, 2020 at the fire company. ON MOTION* duly made (Fells), seconded (Brostoski), and carried to set the cleanup days as September 18 and 19, 2020. *Mr. Yerke said he attended a County recycling meeting at the 911 center this morning. The operator of the recycling center will now be charging \$40/ton for recyclables containing glass and \$20/ton for loads with only plastic and metal cans. Recyclables can be taken to the landfill for \$70/ton, but no DEP funded equipment is allowed into a landfill. Pocono Spray Patch will have one more load. The 1997 Mack needs approximately \$10,000 in repairs; Mr. Yerke is getting the estimate. Mr. Yerke asked if he could take Dumpsters*

that are in bad shape along with an unused trailer to the auction in October. He stated that any funding from grants would be repaid from the proceeds. He also stated there was a Chevrolet police cruiser and the Dodge engine given to NPSD to be taken to auction. ON MOTION duly made (Setta), seconded (Brostoski), and carried to send the equipment to auction in October. ON MOTION duly made (Brostoski), seconded (Setta), and carried to accept the DPW report.

POLICE DEPT: Chairman Yerke read the June 2020 report. ON MOTION duly made (Setta), seconded (Kearney), and carried to accept the June 2020 Police report. Supervisor Setta asked if the State Police covered the Township when no Township officers were on duty; Supervisor Brostoski said they do.

RECREATION COMMITTEE: No meeting was held.

SEO REPORT: No report was submitted.

SOLICITOR: Attorney Wolff had nothing to report.

ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIONS:

- The Emergency Declaration of April 22, 2020 was further extended to August 4, 2020.
- Mr. Yerke said he would contact Lackawanna College to find out who repaired their windmill so that we can have the Townships looked at as a cable is broken, and it appears a bearing may be going.
- Engineer Butler said she is half done with the Act 537 updates and will be submitting them to the Sewer Authority.
- The 2019 Audit and Financial Report was reviewed. ON MOTION duly made (Brostoski), seconded (Fells), and carried 4-1 with Supervisor Kearney objecting due to a lack of knowledge of the 2019 finances on her part, to accept the 2019 Audit and Financial Report as presented.
- ON MOTION duly made (Kearney), seconded (Fells), and carried to authorize Mr. Hein place an ad in the Lackawanna County Association of Township Officials Information Booklet.
- ON MOTION duly made (Setta), seconded (Fells), and carried to authorize extending the Emergency Disaster Declaration through Tuesday August 4, 2020.

NEW BUSINESS:

- The potholes on Union Mill Road before the second entrance to Independence Ridge have been repaired.
- The complaint received from Kevin Cook regarding Naro Trucking was forwarded to the Zoning Officer to handle.

OLD BUSINESS:

- WC Insurance Audit recommended formation of a safety committee. Mr. Hein stated an official committee and program would need to be implemented for six months before it could be submitted to the State for review and possible discount. He was instructed to further look into it.
- Mr. Hein stated he reviewed the franchise agreement with Comcast and found no provision for senior citizen discounts.

CORRESPONDENCE: Lourdes Swarts submitted a proposed resolution to make Covington Township a Second Amendment Sanctuary Township. The Board agreed to review it along with Solicitor Wolff and discuss it at the July 28, 2020 Work Session. Mr. Yerke stated the Covington Township Sewer Authority waived second quarter fees.

SUPERVISORS COMMENT: Supervisor Kearney asked if any bids had been received on the Mansion roof. Chairman Yerke stated he had received none because the job is too small. He believes that if the front building roof and the Mansion roof are bid out together, the Township will receive bids. Supervisor Brostoski asked Chairman Yerke to contact a contractor he knows in Gouldsboro. Supervisor Kearney asked if the renters are paying anything yet because she saw activity at the dance studio. Chairman Yerke stated that the rent is to be forgiven until August.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Roz Davis asked people not to become lax on preventing the spread of COVID-19 and asked for an update from Charles Raziano on Eagle Lake. Mr. Raziano stated he was satisfied on the measures Eagle Lake was taking for social distancing and masks. Supervisor Setta said everyone must do their own part. Mark Chimelewski stated there is a lack of EMS coverage in the Township and that the Board should revisit the contract between the Volunteer Fire Company and Pennsylvania Ambulance. Mr. Yerke asked him to submit his concerns in writing and the Board would address them.

ADJOURNMENT: ON MOTION duly made (Kearney), seconded (Fells), and carried to adjourn the meeting at 8:24 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Douglas A. Hein, Secretary

APPROVED: