

**COVINGTON TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
REGULAR MEETING
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2020 7:00 PM**

The Covington Township Board of Supervisors held its Regular Meeting on Tuesday, October 6, 2020 at 7:00 p.m., at the Covington Township Municipal Building, 20 Moffat Drive, Covington Township, PA.

There were present: John Brostoski, Vice-Chairman; Melissa Kearney, Supervisor; Marshall Peirce, Supervisor; Douglas A. Hein, Secretary / Treasurer and Joel M. Wolff, Esquire. Chairman Thomas M. Yerke and Supervisor Joseph Setta were absent. Also present were David Lamm, Building Inspector; Ronald Donati, Zoning Officer; and Mary Lou Butler, Township Engineer.

- 1. CALL TO ORDER / PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** *Vice-Chairman Brostoski opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance at 7:00 pm*
- 2. AGENDA:** *The agenda was accepted as presented.*
- 3. ANNOUNCEMENT:** *None*
- 4. PUBLIC COMMENT:** *None*
- 5. MINUTES:** *ON MOTION duly made (Kearney), seconded (Peirce), and carried 3-0 to accept the minutes of the September 1, 2020 Regular meeting and September 29, 2020 Work Session.*
- 6. BILLS:** *ON MOTION duly made (Peirce), seconded (Kearney), and carried 3-0 to approve the bills as presented.*
- 7. TREASURER'S REPORT:** *Roz Davis questioned the Jack Williams Tire invoice and the Pocono Transportation invoice. Mr. Hein detailed the charges. ON MOTION duly made (Peirce), seconded (Kearney), and carried 3-0 to accept the Treasurer's report as presented.*
- 8. PLANNING COMMISSION:** *JCO Land Development Application – Attorney Boyd Hughes and Mr. Occhipinti were present to discuss the plan recommended for conditional approval by the Planning Commission. Discussion was held on the plans as well as the need for a performance bond and developer's agreement. ON MOTION duly made (Kearney), seconded (Peirce), and carried 3-0 to conditionally approve the JCO Land Development based on receipt of the PennDOT HOP and Lackawanna County Conservation District erosion and sediment approval. The bond and developer's agreement were waived by the Board.*
- 9. BUILDING INSPECTOR:** *David Lamm reviewed permits issued for September. ON MOTION duly made (Kearney), seconded (Peirce), and carried 3-0 to accept the Building Inspector's report.*
- 10. ZONING CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER:** *Ron Donati reviewed permits issued for September as well as enforcement actions taken. ON MOTION duly made (Peirce), seconded (Kearney), and carried 3-0 to accept the Building Inspector's report.*
- 11. ENGINEER:** *Mary Lou Butler stated that she submitted the LSA grant to DCED for the Pavilion project and gave Mr. Hein a copy for the Township's files. She has a draft Act 537 plan ready to present to the CTSA at their October meeting and will begin working on the Storms Road project. ON MOTION duly made (Kearney), seconded (Peirce), and carried 3-0 to accept the Engineer's report as presented.*
- 12. DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS:** *Mr. Hein stated Chairman Yerke told him there were a lot of repairs to equipment and the DPW is getting ready for winter. ON MOTION duly made (Kearney), seconded (Peirce), and carried 3-0 to accept the Director of Public Works report as presented.*
- 13. POLICE DEPT:** *Officer Bastek presented the September report and requested an Executive Session regarding the 2021 budget. Mr. Hein stated the first budget meeting is October 13th and he would get in touch with Chief Klocko. ON MOTION duly made (Peirce), seconded (Kearney), and carried 3-0 to accept the Police report as presented.*
- 14. RECREATION COMMITTEE:** *No meeting was held*

15. SEWAGE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER: Vice-Chairman Brostoski reviewed the SEO report. *ON MOTION* duly made (Kearney), seconded (Peirce), and carried 3-0 to accept the SEO report as presented.

16. SOLICITOR:

- a. Attorney Wolff reviewed the lease with Kelly Davies (Wonderful) to be extended for one year, adding two offices at the same rate. Mr. Hein stated that at the work session it was agreed to charge an additional \$50 per month for the two offices. Roz Davis thought it was \$50 per office per month but Mr. Brostoski said it was \$50 per month for both. Officer Bastek said the Police Department has records stored in one office and that the Chief is working with the DA's office on a destruction order. Attorney Wolff, after discussion, said he would revise the agreement to be \$800 per month for one year at time of signing.
- b. Joe Lorah, Blue Ridge Cable was present to discuss a franchise agreement with the Township. Upon review of Blue Ridge records, they found no agreement with the Township to cover their customers in Big Bass Lake. Discussion was held and the issue was tabled to the November meeting.

ON MOTION duly made (Kearney), seconded (Peirce), and carried 3-0 to accept the Solicitor's report as presented.

17. ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIONS:

- a) JCO Land Development Application – discussion was held previously under the Planning Commission.
- b) Extend Emergency Declaration and guidelines for opening of Township office – Supervisor Peirce asked for clarification since he is new to the Board. Attorney Wolff, Mr. Brostoski and Mr. Hein filled him in on the details. *ON MOTION* duly made (Peirce), seconded (Kearney), and carried 3-0 to extend the Emergency Declaration through November 3, 2020.
- c) Lackawanna County COVID-19 Relief Block Grant agreement – Mr. Hein stated this was a requirement of Lackawanna County in order to participate in their CDBG reimbursement program for COVID expenses. *ON MOTION* duly made (Peirce), seconded (Kearney), and carried 3-0 to authorize entering into the agreement.
- d) Accept Auditor General's Compliance Audit of the Covington Independent Volunteer Firemen's Relief Association – The audit was accepted.
- e) Appoint Chet Havenstrite, Jr. to fill vacancy on Planning Commission – *ON MOTION* duly made (Kearney), seconded (Peirce), and carried 3-0 to appoint Chet Havenstrite, Jr. to fill out the vacancy on the Planning Commission.
- f) Lackawanna County Land Bank – Discussion was held regarding the types of properties put into the Land Bank, which are those that have gone through all sales with no one purchasing them. If NPSD joins, the Board will approve at the November meeting. The Township has final say as to whether or not a property is allowed to go into the Land Bank. If a property is sold out of the land bank, all delinquent taxes, fees and liens are forgiven, and the Land Bank then receives half of the taxes for five years. This was tabled to the November 3rd meeting.
- g) Lackawanna County repository sales – *ON MOTION* duly made (Peirce), seconded (Kearney), and carried 3-0 to approve the repository sales.

18. NEW BUSINESS: Angela Musgrave asked when the drainpipe would be installed on Union Mill Road. Mr. Brostoski said Mr. Yerke was not present to discuss it. Mr. Hein stated that Mr. Yerke has been trying to get in touch with the developer. He said he would contact Mr. Yerke to let him know her concerns. Mr. Hein asked Ms. Musgrave to provide him with her contact information after the meeting so he would be able to update her.

19. OLD BUSINESS: Supervisor Peirce asked when recycling would resume; Mr. Hein stated Mr. Yerke said a few weeks after the clean-up. Discussion was held as to the cost for taking recycling to the Lackawanna Recycling Center. Supervisor Kearney asked if Mr. Yerke's position was advertised in the paper. Mr. Hein said it was, but he had not received any applications yet.

20. CORRESPONDENCE: Mr. Brostoski addressed the request from Griffin Pond Animal Shelter for \$1,000 donation. Mr. Hein stated he reviewed the financial records, and the Township has never donated to Griffin Pond. No action was taken.

21. SUPERVISORS COMMENTS: Vice-Chairman Brostoski stated the North Pocono Public Library is having a fundraiser on October 24th and asked the public to support them.

22. PUBLIC COMMENT: *Barbara Havenstrite asked when the Township Office would reopen. Roz Davis asked for copies of the minutes in the public packet and stated the Township website was not user friendly. Supervisor Kearney apologized for her outburst at the September 1st meeting.*

23. ADJOURNMENT: *ON MOTION duly made (Kearney), seconded (Peirce), and carried 3-0 to adjourn at 8:15 pm.*

*Respectfully submitted,
Douglas A. Hein, Secretary*

APPROVED: