

COVINGTON TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
REGULAR MEETING
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2021 AT 7 PM VIA ZOOM ONLY AT:
<https://zoom.us/j/93073934537>

The Covington Township Board of Supervisors held its Regular Meeting on Tuesday, February 2, 2021 at 7:00 p.m., via Zoom.

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

1. **CALL TO ORDER / PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Vice Chairman Setta called the meeting to order at 7 pm and dispensed with the Pledge due to the lack of a flag.
2. **AGENDA:** Supervisor Kearney asked for Mr. Hein to elaborate more on the reports being presented in the agenda. *ON MOTION* duly made (Setta), seconded (Peirce), and carried 4-0 to accept the agenda as presented.
3. **ANNOUNCEMENT:** Vice Chairman Setta said the Executive Session scheduled for Tuesday, February 2, 2021 at 5:30 pm for legal issues would be held at a later date.
4. **PUBLIC COMMENT:** There was no public comment on agenda items.
5. **MINUTES:** Supervisor Kearney stated the January 4th Organization Meeting minutes should state that Supervisor Brostoski did not participate until item 5 on the agenda. Mr. Hein said that was already in the minutes in the opening paragraph. Supervisor Kearney also stated the vote on the Recreation Committee should state 4-1 with Chairman Yerke against for appointing Bill Beavers. Supervisor Kearney stated that in the January 4th Regular Meeting the DPW Director's report contained a heated discussion. Vice Chairman Setta asked Mr. Hein if he was OK with more detail; Mr. Hein said he was. *ON MOTION* duly made (Kearney), seconded (Peirce), and carried 4-0 to approve the January 4, 2021 Reorganization Meeting and Regular Meeting minutes; and the January 26, 2021 Work Session minutes as amended.
6. **BILLS:** Supervisor Kearney asked if the deposit from the Commonwealth of PA was grant money discussed for the recycling container grant. Mr. Hein said it was the 2019 Act 904 Performance Grant. Ms. Kearney asked where the oil was delivered by ABC Oil; Mr. Hein said \$1,426.82 was to the Estate and \$359.19 was to the Community Center. Ms. Kearney stated she was shocked to see the payment to Chairman Yerke for his PTO payout because it was not discussed by the Board. Mr. Hein said it was discussed a few month ago when Kate Tierney was given her payout that Mr. Yerke would also be given his payout and that is why he cut the check. Vice Chairman Setta stated the check had been written and cashed. Ms. Kearney asked for a breakdown of the time paid, said it should be discussed by the Board and she would not approve it. Supervisor Peirce asked how much PTO employees get; Mr. Hein said it is in the employee handbook and varies by number of years of service. Supervisor Brostoski said there is no limit on the amount to be carried over from year to year which is something the Board should look at. He also stated that if Mr. Yerke were overpaid, he was sure that he would pay it back. Supervisor Kearney asked Solicitor Wolff who is responsible when an unauthorized check is paid. Solicitor Wolff stated that if Mr. Yerke is due the payout, there is no reason he should not get it, but it should be approved. Ms. Kearney said the PTO check for Chairman Yerke needs to be voted on at a future meeting. Supervisor Peirce asked why anti-skid was purchased from Edwards Sand & Stone and not Eureka Quarry which is in Covington Township. Mr. Hein stated that was a question for Mr. Comcowich, the DPW Director, who was not in attendance. *ON MOTION* duly made (Kearney), seconded (Brostoski), and carried 4-0 to pay the bills except for the PTO payout to Chairman Yerke until it can be reviewed.
7. **TREASURER'S REPORT:** Supervisor Kearney said there was a typo in the year for January 2020 that it should be 2021 and that she had a question on the Escrow Account balance. She said she would stop by Mr. Hein's office later in the week to review. *ON MOTION* duly made (Brostoski), seconded (Peirce), and carried 3-1 with Supervisor Kearney against until she could get more information to approve the Treasurer's Report as submitted.
8. **PLANNING COMMISSION:** Vice Chairman Setta read the Planning Commission report. At the 1/6/21 PC work session, the Adam Horsky minor subdivision application was reviewed. At the 1/20/21 regular meeting, the Adam Horsky minor subdivision was recommended for approval by the BOS. *ON MOTION* duly made (Peirce), seconded (Setta), and carried 4-0 to approve the Planning Commission report as submitted.

9. **BUILDING INSPECTOR:** David Lamm reviewed the SBA Communications permit that was approved in January. He completed a report for the Census Bureau for the number of single family residences constructed in the year. In 2020, there were 8 new single family residences built with a value of \$3,476,520. ON MOTION duly made (Kearney), seconded (Brostoski), and carried 4-0 to accept the Building Inspector's report as submitted.
10. **ZONING CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER:** Vice Chairman Setta reviewed the report stating there was 1 sign permit for \$25.00, 2 zoning permits for \$3,040 and 10 Eagle Lake permits for \$400. ON MOTION duly made (Peirce), seconded (Kearney), and carried 4-0 to accept the zoning report as submitted.
11. **ENGINEER:** Mary Lou Butler updated the Board that the Union Mill Road project is in process and she has plans drafted. She stated the Board needs to approve the Adam Horsky lot combination and there were no contingencies. Mr. Hein said he had them in his office for signatures. Mr. Horsky's engineer, William Senepedis asked how he would get the plans once signed. Mr. Hein said he would have them signed by the end of the week and would call him once all Supervisors signed them. ON MOTION duly made (Kearney), seconded (Peirce), and carried 4-0 to approve the Horsky subdivision. Supervisor Brostoski asked Ms. Butler if she had any reservations; she did not, and all contingencies had been addressed before it went to the Planning Commission. ON MOTION duly made (Peirce), seconded (Kearney), and carried 4-0 to accept the Engineer's report as submitted.
12. **DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS:** Mr. Comcowich was not present to review the report. Vice Chairman reviewed December and January reports. He stated there was a pan that needed to be replaced recently on one of the vehicles and asked Mr. Hein to confirm. Mr. Hein said it was the transmission pan on the F550 that rotted out and needed an emergency repair before the snowstorm. He paid the \$46 bill, and it was on the bill list for approval. Mr. Comcowich also recommended building a storage shed for the Township's salt and anti-skid supply on Township property to keep a better handle on the inventory. Mr. Setta said it had been addressed in the past and should be revisited. Lights were installed at the dance studio and day-care buildings. ON MOTION duly made (Brostoski), seconded (Peirce), and carried 4-0 to accept the report as submitted. Supervisors Brostoski and Setta commended the DPW for keeping the roads open during this storm.
13. **POLICE DEPARTMENT:** Chief Klocko reviewed his report as of 1/28/21. The department responded to 38 total calls with the hours and vehicle mileage broken down on the bottom of the report. ON MOTION duly made (Kearney), seconded (Peirce), and carried 4-0 to accept the report as submitted.
14. **RECREATION COMMITTEE:** There was no report as the committee did not meet. They were supposed to meet on January 28th but Supervisor Brostoski was the only member who showed up.
15. **SEWAGE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER:** No report
16. **SOLICITOR:** Solicitor Wolff said he submitted a draft Short-Term Rental ordinance for Board review and had heard from some of the Supervisors and asked the others for more input. Supervisor Peirce asked why it was necessary for Joel to represent the Township in the stop sign litigation since we're insured. Mr. Wolff said there is no litigation at this time, the Township was just notified of the possibility. A claim was submitted for that purpose and the insurance company would provide legal counsel and asked if the Township had a preferred lawyer. Atty. Wolff said he could do it. He stated he told the other law firm that it was a State road, not a Township road. ON MOTION duly made (Kearney), seconded (Peirce), and carried 4-0 to accept the report as submitted.
17. **ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIONS:**
 - a. Adam Horsky lot combination plan for signatures – covered in Engineer's report; the Supervisors will come in to sign the plans.
 - b. Purchase recycling containers from DEP Recycling Grant – Mr. Hein stated Supervisor Peirce asked this be added back. Mr. Peirce said we should buy the containers and pass them out to those who don't have them, citing new construction. He said the overtime spent each time the recycling center was open was \$600-\$700 which was a lot. Supervisor Kearney agreed and thought the Township should purchase them. Supervisor Setta said it should be postponed to next month since Chairman Yerke, the recycling liaison, wasn't present. Supervisor Brostoski asked if the grant expired. Mr. Hein said the middle of next month a decision needed to be made.

- c. *Northeast Signal & Electric estimate – The estimate of \$14,355.28 for repairs was read. Vice Chairman Setta asked who should be notified when there was a problem with the lights. He asked Mr. Hein if he called Northeast Signal. Mr. Hein said if he is made aware, he does but hadn't had any calls. Supervisor Brostoski asked what the cost of the quote was. Mr. Setta read the line items of the estimate. Mr. Hein said the estimate was for repairs found during the last round of repairs and said the Board should consider tabling until Mr. Yerke is available to discuss. ON MOTION duly made (Brostoski), seconded (Peirce), and carried 4-0 to table the estimate until next month. Supervisor Kearney said this should be sent to DPW Director Comcowich for review.*
- d. *Camera system for Municipal Campus – Quotes from CVI, Triguard and Vector Security Systems were reviewed. Vice Chairman Setta said he was confused and not comfortable with any of them. Supervisor Kearney said it is a lot of money and didn't know if the Township needed something so elaborate. Supervisor Setta asked Mr. Hein to contact the companies to attend a meeting to talk about their proposals. He said he would have them attend the February work session. It was tabled 4-0 until the February work session.*
- e. *Web site design proposals – Vice Chairman Setta said he was not a tech person and asked the Board for their opinions. Supervisor Kearney said she was more impressed by Computer Visionaries and felt they would prioritize us; they are also local. Civic Plus was large, and we would only be a number. The cost of service after was much cheaper with CVI. CVI would also allow us to take our data if we moved to another provider. Mr. Hein said he is comfortable with whatever the Board chooses. Supervisor Setta asked Mr. Hein which company was government clients only; Mr. Hein said Civic Plus. Supervisor Brostoski asked Melinda for her opinion. Melinda said that Civic Plus training was all prerecorded meetings and was self-taught with in-person training \$1,000/day. CVI training was always reliable and timely. Supervisor Setta asked Mr. Hein if he agreed; he said there were pluses and minuses with each and would go with the Board's choice. ON MOTION duly made (Kearney), seconded (Brostoski), and carried 3-0-1 with Supervisor Peirce abstaining because he had no knowledge of web sites to contract with CVI for the web site reconstruction.*

18. NEW BUSINESS: *None*

19. OLD BUSINESS: *None*

20. CORRESPONDENCE: *Letter from Mr. Lou DeMarco – Vice Chairman Setta asked Mr. Donati to review this. Mr. Donati said he recommended Mr. DeMarco give the letter to update the Board. He is having trouble obtaining a vehicle title to junk it; he is using the skid-steer for snow removal and plans to get rid of more junk once the weather clears. Vice Chairman Setta noted the Board had received a letter from Mr. William Willson regarding comments he wants taken off the November 3rd minutes and had questions about Mr. Yerke's phone.*

21. SUPERVISORS COMMENTS: *Supervisor Peirce said last month Chairman Yerke stated he still had equipment on his property and would give it back to the Township once the rental fee was settled. He asked Mr. Wolff if Mr. Yerke can keep the taxpayer equipment until the rental agreement is settled. Mr. Wolff said he believed Mr. Yerke was not keeping it from the Township, just storing it as has been done for several years. There is an inventory of what is still there. Supervisor Kearney said her problem is that Mr. Yerke stated he will not give the property back until there is a meeting to discuss the rental agreement payment. Mr. Wolff said it is the Township's equipment and he will give it back. Supervisor Brostoski stated he believed the only equipment left were dumpsters. He asked if anyone else knew of other equipment; Supervisor Kearney said she knew of a chainsaw. Mr. Brostoski said that if he has a chainsaw or anything of course it should be returned. Supervisor Peirce said the dumpsters were sold at the last auction for a lot of money. Mr. Wolff said Mr. Yerke should return the Township equipment and could make a claim for the storage, that they were two separate issues. Vice Chairman Setta moved the meeting along because Chairman Yerke was not present to comment. He asked Solicitor Wolff if there was an agreement for Mr. Yerke to store the equipment on his property; Attorney Wolff said he believed there is.*

22. PUBLIC COMMENT: *Roz Davis complimented Tom Hall for how well he cleared the snow on her road. She asked why the Pavilion Manager salary was not in the Organization Meeting minutes. Mr. Hein did a quick review and said he would review the recording and include it if necessary. Jill and Bill Sweeney from Union Mill Road asked for more details on the project. Ms. Butler said it was what was discussed when the Township was at the site. She will give it to the Township for them to decide who will do the work or where the bids come in. Supervisor Setta asked them if they have a problem when the snow melts. They said it depends how much snow there is and how fast it melts.*

23. ADJOURNMENT: *ON MOTION* duly made (Peirce), seconded (Kearney), and carried 4-0 to adjourn the meeting at 8:21 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Douglas A. Hein, Secretary
APPROVED: