

**COVINGTON TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
WORK SESSION**

**TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2021 AT 7 PM IN PERSON AND VIA ZOOM AT:
<https://zoom.us/j/99497683161>**

The Covington Township Board of Supervisors held its Work Session on Tuesday, February 23, 2021 at 7:00 p.m., in person at the Moffat Estate, 20 Moffat Drive, Covington Township, PA 18444 and via Zoom.

There were present: Thomas M. Yerke, Chairman; Joseph Setta, Vice-Chairman; John Brostoski, Supervisor; Melissa Kearney, Supervisor; Marshall Peirce, Supervisor; Douglas A. Hein, Secretary / Treasurer; and Joel M. Wolff, Esquire.

- 1. CALL TO ORDER / PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** *Chairman Yerke called the meeting to order with the Pledge of Allegiance at 7:00 pm.*
- 2. AGENDA:** *The agenda was presented.*
- 3. ANNOUNCEMENT:** *Chairman Yerke stated an Executive Session had been held tonight, February 23rd at 5:30 pm for legal issues.*
- 4. PUBLIC COMMENT:** *There was no public comment.*
- 5. MINUTES:** *Board members reviewed the February 2, 2021 Regular Meeting minutes with no comment.*
- 6. BILLS:** *Mr. Hein stated the interim bills list was the normal insurance and utility bills.*
- 7. TREASURER'S REPORT:** *Mr. Hein said the report will be submitted at the March 2, 2021 Regular Meeting.*
- 8. CAMERA SYSTEM PRESENTATIONS:** *CVI, Vector Security Systems, Triguard Security Systems – Tony D’Eliseo from Computer Visionaries Inc. (CVI) gave a brief overview of his company’s proposal with no questions from the Board. Robert Zagorsky from Vector Security was on the Zoom meeting but was not able to connect his video or audio. Mr. Hein said Mr. Zagorsky would be given another chance later in the meeting to present. Peter Lewis from Triguard Security Systems did not attend the meeting.*
- 9. COVINGTON INDEPENDENT FIRE COMPANY:** *Fire Chief Brad Jones updated the Board on the Covington Township EMS. Since August 10, 2020 they have transported 295 patients for the whole of North Pocono. They have been out of service for ten hours during that time for service to the ambulance so the vehicle could be undercoated. They partnered with Gouldsboro Ambulance so there was no lapse in service. They do not need any financial assistance from Covington Township for the ambulance as they are starting to make a slight profit. The Fire Company needs to replace its 1989 engine due to its age and safety concerns with it. They are asking the Township for financial or grant assistance. The Chief has not started looking at specifics and said he has been working with Doug on grants and said Chairman Yerke had spoken to Rep. Carroll. Mr. Yerke said he would speak to him again. Chief Jones estimates a cost of approximately \$650,000 for a new engine. Supervisor Brostoski asked if the ladder truck was paid off; Chief Jones said it was but there was still a loan on the rescue truck. Chairman Yerke asked what the purpose of an engine was. Chief Jones said it was the primary firefighting equipment. Mr. Yerke asked if it was a big pump and if the other equipment had pumps on them. Chief Jones said it was and carries water and the ladder and rescue had pumps. Chairman Yerke asked if Sutphen in Jefferson could build one for them. Chief Jones said they would be one of the companies they would reach out to. Supervisor Brostoski asked if there was one full time EMS. Chief Jones said ten new members have joined some of whom have joined to be EMS, though not paid, but will be given a stipend by the Fire Company. Chairman Yerke asked if any other communities have chipped in for the ambulance service. Chief Jones said Clifton Township has committed to contributing \$3,000 annually and they are in discussions with Thornhurst Township for \$3,000-\$3,500 annually. They are also looking at taking over their annual membership drive and have become their primary ambulance service. He said Thornhurst’s Supervisors passed a resolution for them to cover Gouldsboro as well. Chairman Yerke asked if Covington Ambulance can solicit annual membership in Thornhurst; Chief Jones said he anticipates sending requests in 2021.*
- 10. PLANNING COMMISSION:** *Mr. Hein said there is a conditional use hearing for Theresa Tulaney that needs to be scheduled at next week’s meeting as well as a zoning change hearing for NorthPoint Development. The hearings should be scheduled for the same date.*

11. **BUILDING INSPECTOR:** *No report was submitted.*
12. **ZONING CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER:** *No report was submitted.*
13. **ENGINEER:** *No report was submitted.*
14. **DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS:** *No report was submitted.*
15. **POLICE DEPARTMENT:** *Chief Klocko stated he put in a request for new computers because the current computers are running Windows 7 and their programs will not run on that. He requested this during the budget meetings and is asking for computers, office chairs and a printer not to exceed \$3,850. Mr. Hein said it is on next week's agenda for approval.*
16. **RECREATION COMMITTEE:** *No report was submitted.*
17. **SEWAGE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER:** *No report was submitted.*
18. **SOLICITOR:** *Solicitor Wolff said the short term rental issue is still outstanding.*
19. **ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIONS:**
 - a. *Northeast Signal & Electric estimate – Chairman Yerke said the estimate was very expensive. Supervisor Kearney stated she has been informed there is another company that does this kind of work. She will get the contact information for next week's meeting. Chairman Yerke said originally there were two companies but the more prominent one over the years has been Northeast Signal. He asked Chief Jones if the preemption sensors are working. Chief Jones said they are working better than they have. Mr. Yerke said there is a line item for these for \$3,900. He said the loop sensor on Douglas Drive has been replaced several times and it is a line item for \$5,100. He questioned if things were in the estimate that didn't need to be changed and asked Supervisor Kearney to get the information on the other vendor. Vice Chairman Setta asked if there was any update on the green light on Rt. 307 that is out. Chairman Yerke said it was called in two weeks ago and that he gave the information to Ken (DPW Director).*
20. **NEW BUSINESS:** *There was no new business.*
21. **OLD BUSINESS:** *There was no old business.*
22. **CORRESPONDENCE:** *Pennsylvania Law Enforcement Accreditation Commission – Mr. Hein reviewed the letter that the Covington Township Police Department was accredited by the Pennsylvania Law Enforcement Accreditation Commission and our department would be listed with the US Department of Justice. Chief Klocko said it makes the department able to apply for federal grants and goes into policy changes the department implemented that he discussed with Supervisor Brostoski. Mr. Hein noted to Chairman Yerke there was another letter that was received yesterday; Chairman Yerke did not address it.*
23. **SUPERVISORS COMMENTS:** *Supervisor Peirce asked that the Board sit with DPW Director Comcowich for a review since he has been with the Township for three months. It was agreed they would do so at an Executive Session at 5:30 before the Regular Meeting on March 2nd. Supervisor Kearney asked to go back to old business to purchase recycling containers. Chairman Yerke said they were between \$25-30 each and he could order them tomorrow (Wednesday February 24th) if the Board wanted so that the invoice would be dated before the recycling grant expires in the middle of March. He said we would pay the whole amount and be reimbursed the amount less 10% which is the Township's portion. It was agreed to order 200. Supervisor Kearney suggested keeping track of who took them, but Chairman Yerke said it was tried in the past and when County Waste began recycling, people brought our containers back so it's not possible to number them and keep track. He said we are dumping one container of recyclables every month and one container of cardboard every two months. Supervisor Peirce said if we are going to be recycling, we should spend the money so people have containers. Mr. Yerke said he would order them tomorrow; the Board would have to approve the payment and we are obligated to the 10%.*
24. **PUBLIC COMMENT:** *Mr. Hein again asked Bob Zagorsky of Vector Security if he was able to make his presentation. He was not. There was no public comment.*

25. ADJOURNMENT: *ON MOTION* duly made (Setta), seconded (Brostoski), and carried 5-0 to adjourn the meeting at 7:28 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Douglas A. Hein, Secretary

APPROVED: