

**COVINGTON TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
WORK SESSION MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2021**

The September 28, 2021 Work Session meeting of the Covington Township Board of Supervisors was called to order with a Pledge of Allegiance at 7:00 p.m. in the Municipal Building, 20 Moffat Drive, Covington Township, PA 18444, by Chairwoman Melissa Kearney.

PRESENT:

Chairwoman Melissa Kearney, Vice Chairman John Brostoski, Supervisor Marshall Peirce, Supervisor Chris Balish, Supervisor Vicki Williams, Solicitor Joel Wolff, Secretary Melinda Musso.

Also present: Corporal Robert Bastek

AGENDA:

Chairwoman Kearney announced that with the new law that was passed, agenda items must be requested at least one day in advance since the agenda must be posted twenty-four hours prior to the meeting. If something comes up after the agenda is posted, the item can be added at the meeting by motion and the secretary would have some other things to do to fulfill the requirements after the meeting.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Supervisor Balish stated he would like to get a toolbox for the pickup truck to put saws and other items so they can be protected from bad weather. Supervisor Balish stated he received quotes from NAPA, Tractor Supply and Home Depot that he has on his cell phone. Chairwoman Kearney stated this can be put on the monthly meeting agenda.

MINUTES:

Minutes presented from September 7, 2021 monthly meeting. Any changes should be sent to Ms. Musso by Friday afternoon.

BILLS:

List of bills presented as of September 28, 2021.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Treasurer's report presented as of September 28, 2021.

Vice Chairman Brostoski asked Chairwoman Kearney about having everything in by October 31, 2021 for the COVID money. Chairwoman Kearney stated the township has to report yearly by October 31st with our first report due this year for any money we spend for COVID expenses. She explained that the final list of items this can be spent on has not come out yet, however, we know what we've spent so far will be covered. Once filed, the money would be reimbursed to the township. Supervisor Brostoski asked if the Zoom subscription or special equipment would be recoverable. There was further discussion on the Zoom subscription, special equipment for Zoom, and Liquid Fuels possibly being included in the totals.

ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIONS: None

PLANNING COMMISSION: No report submitted.

BUILDING INSPECTOR: No report submitted.

ZONING CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER: No report submitted.

ENGINEER: No report submitted.

DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS: No report submitted.

Supervisor Peirce had a picture of tire chains from eBay that is more reasonable than the previous prices he received. There was a discussion on purchasing from eBay, return policies, and PayPal options for extra security.

Supervisor Peirce stated there are three estimates on two tires for the grader that we need to act on at the next meeting.

ROADMASTER: No report submitted.

MOFFAT ESTATE MAINTENANCE – GROUNDSKEEPER:

Chairwoman Kearney reported our new groundskeeper, Jay Hallock, started last week and considering he was working alone last week, he kept himself busy and is doing pretty good. Ms. Musso stated how nice the Senior Center looked with all of the trim done. Corporal Bastek stated every time he patrols the property, Mr. Hallock is always busy working and is very impressed by him.

POLICE DEPARTMENT:

SRO Contract:

The school board has the township's contract for police service in the high school and it will be discussed at their work session with a decision being made at their regular meeting in October.

RECREATION COMMITTEE: No report submitted. They did not meet.

SEWAGE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER: No report submitted.

SOLICITOR:

North Point Developer's Agreement:

This is part of their conditional approval given by the Board last month. Attorney Wolff has begun drafting the agreement and asked if the Board had something in particular they wanted in the agreement or would it just be the standard agreement. There will be the construction bond guarantee, conditions for all of his services, conditions for the engineer services, escrow account, etc. Attorney Wolff asked the Board to let him know of anything that may be needed to be added otherwise he will just draw up the standard agreement.

NEW BUSINESS:

Dead trees at Moffat:

There's a numerous number of dead trees at the Moffat Estate that are a safety concern. There was a discussion concerning the conservancy, Moffat Trust, the expense of removing all the dead trees, the safety of the Road Department attempting the removal. Supervisor Balish stated he will make calls tomorrow to obtain quotes for those dead trees along the front of the property and along the driveway. Supervisors Peirce and Brostoski agreed to mark the dead trees for Supervisor Balish to get quotes.

Chairwoman Kearney requested Zoning Secretary – Office Assistant position interviews be put on the meeting agenda for next week.

Chairwoman Kearney stated the original lights at the pillars were found and due to their condition, are not worth repairing. A quote was received from Cooper Electric through the contractor David Lindsey for new pillar lights, small spotlights along the wall of the stone, and waterproof timer for \$1,192.84. She requested this be put on our next meeting agenda also.

OLD BUSINESS:

Windmill yearly service:

Supervisor Balish stated Mr. Jones never returned his call and will try to call him again tomorrow. Supervisor Peirce stated Mr. Jones was talking to Ronald Donati about needing to take the windmill down. Supervisor Williams questioned if it's worth putting a lot of money into having it serviced, along with, how much money the township actually saves on the electric. There was further discussion on the scope of the work. Ms. Musso stated former Supervisor Fells investigated this a few years ago and he noticed the reduced bills during the winter month. Supervisor Balish stated when it's too windy, it trips the breaker and is not generating electric until it is reset again.

Wonderful lease agreement:

The Wonderful lease agreement has been signed and is valid until the end of this year. The township also received the rent check.

CORRESPONDENCE:

9/27/21 Letter and Police Report from Bill Willson re: Correction of Minutes:

Chairwoman Kearney stated Mr. Willson is addressing a meeting from last year with an alleged weapon incident and has requested an addendum to the minutes be issued. This will remain on the agenda for next week's meeting. There's also an attached police report that found the allegation to be baseless. Attorney Wolff stated Mr. Willson is also looking for a \$1,000.00 refund from him for his fees.

SUPERVISOR'S COMMENTS:

Chairwoman Kearney stated Diana Patton will be sending her dates available to work on the budget.

Vice Chairman Brostoski asked about the Eagle Lake contract for police. Corporal Bastek stated we are still waiting to hear back from Eagle Lake Community Association.

Vice Chairman Brostoski stated Act 91 of 2020 can provide volunteer firemen with a 100% refund on their real estate taxes and he is interested in this if they put a specific amount of time into volunteering.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Roz Davis asked the status of the Short-Term Rental Ordinance. Chairwoman Kearney stated she reached out to a local property management company to discuss our options and they gave her two township's that have hired them to take care of this type of ordinance. There was further discussion on what a property management company could provide, enforcement, and what's needed to complete this process.

Roz Davis stated the township website references the township right-of-way with snow plowing but it doesn't specify what the right-of-way distance is. Supervisor Peirce stated all roads have different right-of-way distances and the biggest issues are in the subdivisions where people put their mailboxes right out to the blacktop road where the mailman can't even pull off the road to deliver mail. Residents are also growing their lawns right out to the blacktop and the plow edge catches the grass and rips it up. He also stated in Skyline Acres, a resident just built a stone pillar for his mailbox

that is right out to the road and other's have their boxes hanging out in the roadway, that are all in the way of removing snow, resulting in narrower roads. The plow trucks must be able to push the snow back off the blacktop and the township is no longer going to fix damages occurring in our right-of-way. Ms. Davis asked Supervisor Balish if the plows can be angled so that snow can be plowed to the side of the street that has no houses on it to which he replied yes. Supervisor Balish stated the most common problem was people had stones in their yard or sod at a level higher than the road and there's no way to avoid plowing it up. Additionally, he stated the more snow we get, the further the plow trucks have to push it back off the roadway.

Roz Davis stated it was mentioned previously that every roof but the police department had leaks and asked what was wrong with the Senior Center. Supervisor Peirce told her the soffit was damaged in the winter and the shingles may all need to be replaced. They are trying to get it fixed during this fall.

Roz Davis also asked if the contractor who rebuilt the pillars also fixed the stone in the wall by the courtyard. Supervisor Peirce stated he did.

Roz Davis stated that since our county is in an extremely high-risk time since our COVID numbers are well above the substantial spread category, asked if the Board is considering doing Zoom meetings again. She stated she was very happy to see everyone in attendance wearing masks, however, at previous meetings, there were groups that wore none, including a group from the Senior Center where one woman wasn't wearing her mask and announced she was unvaccinated. Ms. Davis stated she would like to feel safe coming here. Chairwoman Kearney stated that due to some recent medical conditions that have arose, the Board felt they needed to adhere to the masking once again. Chairwoman Kearney stated she is open to Zoom.

ADJOURNMENT:

ON MOTION duly made (Brostoski), seconded (Balish), and carried to adjourn at 7:53 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Melinda Musso, Secretary

Approved: