

**COVINGTON TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 5, 2021**

The October 5, 2021 regular meeting of the Covington Township Board of Supervisors was called to order with a Pledge of Allegiance at 7:02 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: Police Chief Bernie Klocko, Roadmaster Thomas Hall, Zoning Officer Ronald Donati, Building Inspector David Lamm

AGENDA:

ON MOTION duly made (Williams), seconded (Brostoski), and carried to accept the agenda as presented.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Executive session was held Tuesday, September 28, 2021 after the monthly work session meeting for personnel reasons concerning the open Zoning Secretary-Office Assistant position and Police Chief's contract.

MINUTES:

ON MOTION duly made (Brostoski), seconded (Williams), and carried to accept the September 7, 2021 monthly meeting minutes and September 28, 2021 work session minutes as presented.

BILLS:

Vice Chairman Brostoski questioned the two charges from Ehrlich. Chairwoman Kearney explained there was one for the Senior Center and the other from the mansion.

ON MOTION duly made (Peirce), seconded (Williams), and carried to accept and pay the bill list as presented up to October 4, 2021.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Vice Chairman Brostoski asked if the charges for RiteTemp regarding the furnace installation was reimbursed by the township's insurance. Chairwoman Kearney stated she would verify this with our Treasurer.

ON MOTION duly made (Balish), seconded (Williams), and carried to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented.

ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIONS:

Toolbox for Pickup Truck:

Supervisor Chris Balish reviewed three website screenshots from Home Depot and Tractor Supply. Supervisor Balish stated he wants to go with the one from Home Depot for \$359.00 because it's heavy duty, bigger than the one from Tractor Supply, and locks.

ON MOTION duly made (Brostoski), seconded (Peirce), and carried to purchase the pickup toolbox from Home Depot for \$359.00.

Facebook account to link with website:

There was a discussion on who would be handling the account, security features available to prevent it from becoming a nuisance, and if it gets out of control, then the Board can decide to delete the Facebook page.

ON MOTION duly made (Kearney), seconded (Brostoski), and carried to establish a Facebook account to link with our website. This is to include the following restrictions: Nothing can be posted without approval. Comments must be reviewed and approved before it's posted to the Township's Facebook page.

Bochicchio Boulevard Line Painting Quote:

Chairwoman Kearney stated a quote was received to line Bochicchio Boulevard for \$3,270.00 from Universal Line Painting. Ms. Musso stated she reached out twice to two other companies and nothing was submitted. There was a discussion if the township split the cost with the school district the last time this was done. Mary Lou Butler stated it was completed with the Bochicchio Boulevard Road Project and she can look back to check.

ON MOTION duly made (Brostoski), seconded (Peirce), and carried to hire Universal Line Painting to reline Bochicchio Boulevard as presented in the quote.

Senior Center Roof Estimate & Materials:

Supervisor Peirce explained the Senior Center soffit needs repair, along with shingles, and the township needs to provide a dumpster. Chairwoman Kearney stated she spoke with a local dumpster company that can bring a dumpster once a date is provided. Supervisor Peirce stated once approved tonight, the dumpster would be delivered Friday. The quote for labor from Dave Lindsey Contracting on the front section is \$3,700.00 and materials for the entire roof are \$5,618.68. Vice Chairman Brostoski asked about the cost of the back section of

the roof. Supervisor Peirce stated he didn't know why that wasn't in this quote, however, it is cutting it close to winter.

ON MOTION duly made (Peirce), seconded (Balish), and carried to hire Dave Lindsey to repair the front section of the Senior Center roof and to order the materials for the entire roof.

Dumpster to land fill re: illegal dumping of building materials on township roads:

Roadmaster Tom Hall stated there's been dumping of a large amount of building materials, specifically shingles, on Havenstrite Lane that has filled a dumpster. There was a discussion of where they could have come from, what can be done in the future, and reporting it to the Game Commission.

2022 Minimum Municipal Obligation (MMO) for Pension Plans:

The treasurer has submitted the paperwork on behalf of the township. Attorney Wolff asked why Bill Morgan is listed as active since August 10, 2021. Chief Klocko stated it shouldn't be and that he requested a pension committee years ago which was denied. Chief Klocko also stated it could be that Mr. Morgan never took that money out of the pension yet. Vice Chairman Brostoski stated we must check on the following people listed on the pension: William Morgan, John Bauman, Kenneth Comcowich, Douglas Hein, and Michael Milewski.

Township Treasurer, Diana Patton, was called by Chairwoman Kearney on speaker phone and asked about those no longer employed with the township. Mrs. Patton stated they have not removed their money or filed to collect it yet and their money sits in the fund. Vice Chairman Brostoski asked Mrs. Patton if the township was paying anything towards John Bauman or Douglas Hein since they haven't taken their money yet and Mrs. Patton stated we are not paying anything.

Roz Davis asked how long someone needs to work with the township in order to be vested. Chief Klocko stated he believed the non-uniform was 5 years and the uniform was 12 years.

ON MOTION duly made (Brostoski), seconded (Williams), and carried to accept the 2022 Minimum Municipal Obligation (MMO) as submitted by Diana Patton.

PLANNING COMMISSION:

No report was submitted.

Resignation letter 9/16/21 from Planning Commission Solicitor Jason O'Malley:

Chairwoman Kearney stated we are sad to see Attorney O'Malley leave the Planning Commission.

ON MOTION duly made (Williams), seconded (Balish), and carried to accept Attorney Jason O'Malley's resignation from the Planning Commission.

Chairwoman Kearney stated the Planning Commission will be meeting tomorrow night and will be discussing a replacement. They will then make a recommendation to the Board of Supervisors.

BUILDING INSPECTOR:

David Lamm reviewed his monthly report and informed the supervisors there's a contractor's meeting every Tuesday at 11:00 a.m., at lot #5. If there are any questions the Board may have, please let him know since he attends these meetings.

ON MOTION duly made (Peirce), seconded (Balish), and carried to accept the Building Inspector's report.

ZONING CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER:

Ronald Donati reviewed his monthly report.

ON MOTION duly made (Balish), seconded (Williams), and carried to accept the Zoning Code Enforcement Officer's report.

Magisterial Hearing re: Sheridan's violation:

Mr. Donati stated he received a court hearing date for October 19, 2021. Attorney John Mercuri will be attending this hearing with Mr. Donati.

ENGINEER:

Mary Lou Butler stated the Storm Road project is 95% complete. They just have clean up work to do and remove some trees.

Mrs. Butler stated the Union Road project will begin as soon as possible since the pipe has been delivered.

There was a brief discussion on the Millard subdivision submission.

ON MOTION duly made (Balish), seconded (Peirce), and carried to accept the Engineer's report.

DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS:

Marshall Peirce stated they are making a lot of progress. The Mack truck is now inspected and they are beginning to get ready for the winter season. Chairwoman Kearney complimented the Director of Public Works and the Road Department for all the work they have been accomplishing and she thanked them for all of the hard work they are doing. She stated that although the township is spending money, they can see that it is going where it needs to go, and everybody sees this.

ON MOTION duly made (Williams), seconded (Balish), and carried to accept the Director of Public Works report.

ROADMASTER:

Tom Hall stated the MacKenzie Road project is completed. He had to order another new MacKenzie Road sign because people are stealing them.

ON MOTION duly made (Balish), seconded (Williams), and carried to accept the Roadmaster's report.

Supervisor Peirce stated he was on Lehigh Road and our Road Department graded the road from the railroad tracks down to the red fox gate. He stated the road was truly really nice. Chairwoman Kearney agreed that she was also on Lehigh Road and it was in great condition.

MOFFAT ESTATE MAINTENANCE – GROUNDSKEEPER:

There will be reports in the future.

POLICE DEPARTMENT:

Chief Bernie Klocko reviewed his monthly report. He stated they have one officer in the school so they are operating on a skeleton crew until the school district makes their decision on the SRO contract.

ON MOTION duly made (Peirce), seconded (Williams), and carried to accept the Police Department's report.

SRO contract:

Chief Klocko stated the North Pocono school district has a work session on October 12, 2021 where the contract will be discussed. Then their business meeting is on October 14, 2021 where the school board will make the decision.

Chief Klocko stated he reached out to Officer McGuire and he was still interested in the position if the school district signed the SRO contract. Chief Klocko stated he also reached out to Officer Grube in the event Officer McGuire didn't take the job; Officer Grube would be interested if the school signed the SRO contract and the rate of pay increased, then he would consider it.

RECREATION COMMITTEE:

There was no meeting. They are not sure about the Christmas event yet.

SEWAGE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER:

Chairwoman Kearney read the report.

ON MOTION duly made (Peirce), seconded (Balish), and carried to accept the Sewage Enforcement Officer's report.

SOLICITOR:

North Point Developer's Agreement:

Attorney Wolff thanked Mary Lou Butler for the construction estimate. He stated he was able to complete and finalize the developer's agreement. The Planning Commission's report is attached to this, itemizing the contingencies. The construction guarantee is also included, along with the escrow amounts needed, for the professional fees and expenses that he and Mary Lou Butler's fees can be paid from. Attorney Wolff stated his fees are substantial since he's been working on this since August and hasn't been paid yet. Chairwoman Kearney asked if there were any problems that have been arising and Attorney Wolff stated he was just working through the process and North Point has been wonderful to work with. He stated if there were any questions to please let him know, otherwise, he is asking for a motion to authorize the Chairwoman to sign this document so North Point can do the same. There were further discussions regarding sewer and D.E.P. requirements, including agreements North Point has with Spring Brook Township. Attorney Wolff requested Melinda Musso to scan the developer's agreement to him once it's signed.

ON MOTION duly made (Brostoski), seconded (Peirce), and carried to authorize Chairwoman Melissa Kearney to sign the North Point Developer's Agreement.

ON MOTION duly made (Peirce), seconded (Williams), and carried to approve the Solicitor's Report.

NEW BUSINESS:

North Pocono Public Library:

Justine Yeager, Library Director at North Pocono Public Library, stated they are open for their normal pre-pandemic hours of 9am-7pm Mondays-Thursdays, 9am-5pm Fridays & Saturdays. They have also resumed in-person programs for kids, families, and adults. She stated they are still wiping down high-touch surfaces, encouraging social distancing, and per CDC, they are recommending masks be worn indoors, but it is not required yet. Handouts were passed out with their schedules and upcoming events.

Chris Kelly, Development Director at North Pocono Public Library, stated they wanted to make sure they visit all the areas and keep the lines of communication open, so everyone knows they are welcome at the library. He announced there are approximately 1,000 library card holders from Covington Township alone. The app,

LCLS Go links people to the catalog and accounts. Mr. Kelly thanked the Board for allocating funds to them last year and to please consider them this year as the budget approaches. They are trying to get all municipalities to support the library since the library is here for every resident.

Dead Trees at Moffat:

There were quotes received from JPE Preferred Power Washing and Landscaping on 41 trees for \$16,000.00, Blue Ox Tree Service on 21 trees for \$16,985.00, and Beaver's Logging and Firewood on 20 trees for \$18,500.00.

Supervisor Peirce stated he spoke with Bernie McGurl and was given his blessing to remove all the dead trees. He will be meeting with Mr. McGurl towards the end of October. Supervisor Peirce looked at the budget and asked if unused money can be moved around, if it's permissible, to complete this project. Supervisor Williams suggested they talk with Diana Patton to see if that could be done. Vice Chairman Brostoski stated he felt the overall budget was in good shape and it's important to get this done safely this month. Chairwoman Kearney stated she felt this is a safety issue that needs to get done and money can be moved around to accomplish this.

Chairwoman Kearney announced that the township is holding their Budget Workshop meeting on Monday, October 18, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. The budget can be viewed in November and voted upon in December.

ON MOTION duly made (Brostoski), seconded (Williams), and carried to hire JPE Preferred Power Washing and Landscaping for \$16,000.00 for the removal of 41 trees and to move money from the capital fund to cover this. Vice Chairman Brostoski stated once Ms. Patton looks at this, other money can reimburse capital funds.

Zoning Secretary – Office Assistant position interviews:

Chairwoman Kearney announced we received seventeen applicants and narrowed them down to interviewing seven of them. Interviews will be scheduled later this week and hire someone at the November meeting.

Lights, spotlights, waterproof timer for newly finished pillars at Moffat entrance:

The items have been ordered and partially installed. Chairwoman Kearney stated it is looking very nice.

Entryway stone walls re: estimate to clean & repoint all joints:

Chairwoman Kearney stated the stone walls need to be cleaned & repointed, which pertains to the materials between each rock. An estimate was received from Dave Lindsey for \$1,800.00.

ON MOTION duly made (Balish), seconded (Williams), and carried to hire Dave Lindsey to clean and repoint all joints of the entryway stone walls for \$1,800.00.

PSATS Boot Camp for elected officials, secretaries, and managers:

Chairwoman Kearney announced this is offered every two years. For Lackawanna County this is held at the Courtyard Marriott in Moosic on December 14th, February 19th, and February 26th. The cost is \$169.00 per person and will need to let Ms. Musso know if interested in attending once the election results are in.

PSATS Northeast Regional Forum November 10, 2021:

This will be held on November 10, 2021 and costs \$75.00 per person. If anyone is interested in attending, notify Ms. Musso.

OLD BUSINESS:

WINDMILL YEARLY SERVICE:

Supervisor Peirce stated he spoke to Bob Jones and was told he hasn't looked at or serviced that windmill in a few years. Mr. Jones recommended spending \$600.00 on inspecting it, where the biggest thing he would be looking for is cracks in the blades. Mr. Jones does not believe there is anything wrong with the windmill, however, the guidewires will need to be tightened and brush needs to be cut where the guidewires meet the ground. Mr. Jones requested to look at the room in the pavilion and tell us if it's producing electricity and the totals so far. Supervisor Peirce stated a crane would only be needed if the windmill needs to be removed for repairs. Supervisor Balish stated it is making noise and Supervisor Peirce stated Mr. Jones believes it's coming from the ground level and not from any bearings.

ON MOTION duly made (Peirce), seconded (Balish), and carried to hire Bob Jones to climb and inspect the windmill for \$600.00.

CORRESPONDENCE:

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

Chairwoman Kearney stated the letter is asking the Board to amend minutes from the November 3, 2020 meeting to reflect the outcome of baseless allegations regarding a weapon. She stated Mr. Willson is also asking that the letter and copy of the official police report be entered into the record of the October 5, 2021 meeting so they would be available to be viewed by the public. Chairman Kearney also stated the township received the incident report that states the allegation was baseless and there were not any direct or indirect threats made by Mr. Willson. Chairwoman Kearney would like to entertain a motion to put this letter and incident report into an amendment for the November 3, 2020 meeting.

Vice Chairman Brostoski asked Chief Klocko if he was the one who stated the allegation was baseless. Chief Klocko replied affirmatively then stated township officials didn't believe him and made him go the District Attorney's office, which they came to the same conclusion.

Attorney Wolff asked to talk about the accusation. Attorney Wolff told Chief Klocko that in the incident report he accused him of misrepresentations. Chief Klocko stated he accused township officials. Attorney Wolff stated Chief Klocko identified him as one of them and stated the accusation was baseless to which Chief Klocko stated it was. Attorney Wolff stated he doesn't remember ever saying anything to the extent of he (Willson) made this up or made a threat, but Attorney Wolff does remember clearly saying that he was very concerned about the topic of a weapon being brought up by that individual. Attorney Wolff stated he said told him (Willson) to not bring up a weapon in this venue and that was all Attorney Wolff relayed to the Chief. Attorney Wolff stated he was concerned for the safety of the Board, himself, and the public. Attorney Wolff stated that everyone seems to have a copy of this tape, except for him, even though he's the subject of this incident report and finds it very concerning that Chief Klocko would put in an incident report that he (Wolff) would make misrepresentations.

Chief Klocko stated that Attorney Wolff was the first person to call him regarding this case and brought up that Willson made a threat about bringing a weapon to a township meeting, then the second call was from Doug Hein on the same day. Chief Klocko stated he listened to the tape, then Attorney Wolff and Doug Hein did not like his answer. Chief Klocko mentioned to Attorney Wolff that he doesn't answer to him because he is not his boss. Attorney Wolff stated the Chief generated an incident report about him and Chief Klocko clarified that he created an incident report based on an allegation that Attorney Wolff relayed to him. Attorney Wolff said he only relayed to the Chief his concern of that being brought up and he only requested the Chief to take action to cool the temperature down. Chief Klocko disagreed. Attorney Wolff stated he would like a copy of the tape because he remembers saying do not bring up a weapon. Chief Klocko agreed. Attorney Wolff also indicated his concern relayed to the Chief was the temperature getting way too hot because of covid, Willson's hostility, and now he was bringing up a weapon, whether or not it was Willson or Yerke doing it. Chief Klocko stated that was definitely the concern Attorney Wolff relayed on the tape, however, the conversation they had together was a little different which is reflected in his report. Chief Klocko stated that the township didn't like his answer that there was no threat made, made him go to the District Attorney's office, where they came to the same conclusion, and now, he is being questioned again for inaccurate reporting. Attorney Wolff stated the Chief is being questioned again because the incident report is now being made part of the record. When Chief Klocko asked Attorney Wolff if he called him to report this alleged crime, Attorney Wolff stated he didn't know since this is going back to November 2020, over a year ago and it's still being talked about. Chief Klocko stated that if the Board did what they should have done by listening to the tape, not jump to conclusions, not make decisions based on emotions, bias, and ego, then we wouldn't still be having this conversation.

Vice Chairman Brostoski stated Mr. Yerke wasn't here and he was filling in. Vice Chairman Brostoski stated he has been accused on several occasions by Mr. Willson that he was one of those that stated Willson said this. Vice Chairman Brostoski stated he has never once said that Bill Willson made a threat. Chief Klocko informed Mr. Brostoski that he was not mentioned in the report at all. Mr. Brostoski stated that Bill Willson has made that allegation on his Facebook. Chief Klocko stated there was another supervisor at that same meeting who stated the same thing that he concluded. Vice Chairman Brostoski stated he was trying to figure out the Zoom that was in front of him at that time and really didn't hear it at all. Vice Chairman Brostoski also explained that in an atmosphere where over the years with Willson's hostility towards Mr. Yerke, then include where a supervisor was shot, up in the Poconos, which has created a bad atmosphere and then, when there's a meeting here and you hear gun mentioned...Chief Klocko interrupted to state that a gun was never mentioned. Brostoski continued to say that there was one supervisor, Mr. Setta, and the secretary at the time, Doug Hein, and the solicitor who just heard words. Brostoski explained that when there's a situation where you think something was said, and two of them thought they heard it that way, and maybe it was just because of the atmosphere, they heard it one way, then they

would make a police complaint and that's exactly what these guys did. Chief Klocko agreed. Vice Chairman Brostoski stated that when the Chief ran the tape, he did not agree, which was fine, but he was told to take it to the District Attorney's Office where they were able to run the tape. Vice Chairman Brostoski told Chief Klocko the word baseless is a poor word and suggested using the term, unsubstantiated complaint, since there was no proof for it, but history can't be changed. Vice Chairman Brostoski stated baseless was the wrong word to use. Chief Klocko told Vice Chairman Brostoski that he is entitled to his own opinion. Vice Chairman Brostoski stated he believes it would also be the opinion of everyone else in the legal community also. Attorney Wolff stated he felt the same way and stated Chief Klocko claims he made a misrepresentation to him. Chief Klocko stated the actual allegation was misrepresented and that is why it is stated in the report. Chief Klocko repeated that there was an allegation made that Bill Willson threatened to bring a weapon to a township meeting and that allegation was proven to be false. Attorney Wolff pointed out what Brostoski just mentioned was the context that for months and months stuff was happening that Chief Klocko didn't even know about, then Willson raised the issue of a weapon in a public meeting, in this room. Attorney Wolff stated Chief Klocko wasn't even at the meeting, however, Chief Klocko reminded him that he listened to the tape. Wolff stated the concern was that Chief Klocko wasn't actually present for the meeting, the fact that the implication & the way the Chief's report was worded was that Attorney Wolff called and implicated he deliberately made misrepresentations, and that wasn't the case. Attorney Wolff's concern was for the safety of the people in the room. Chief Klocko explained the report notates that he received a call from Attorney Wolff and Doug Hein, then the next paragraph goes into the township officials, and doesn't state Attorney Wolff's name, nor does it say Joe Setta, Tom Yerke, or John Brostoski. Attorney Wolff clarified that township officials were identified in the first sentence as himself and Doug Hein. Chief Klocko stated what he was looking at was not even the complete report, but just a brief. Chief Klocko further stated every conversation he had with all individuals investigating this case are in a full detailed report and what they are all looking at was not the full detailed official report. Chief Klocko stated he would not release the full report to Mr. Willson, then Attorney Wolff stated he got the incident report, to which Chief Klocko replied he was entitled to it. Chief Klocko stated you guys made an allegation where he had to investigate an alleged crime, and Willson came to him looking for something to clear his name. Chief Klocko stated he would do that for anyone. Attorney Wolff told Chief Klocko that by doing this, the Chief tarnished his name by insinuating he made misrepresentations and baseless allegations to the Chief. Attorney Wolff explained that indicates he called him, making things up and fabricating it. Chief Klocko stated the township was so upset with his decision that they made him go to the District Attorney's office, and now you (Attorney Wolff) is upset with his decision again and accusing him of falsifying a report. Wolff stated what was absent from the report was his concerns and he believed he was very clear about it. Chief Klocko advised that Bill Willson has a recording, along with others. Attorney Wolff stated he doesn't have it and he's the one named in the incident report, and then when he asked for it, he was told he couldn't get it. Attorney Wolff stated he asked Chief Klocko for it but chief stated he never received a phone call from him. Attorney Wolff clarified that he sent him an email, but when he requested it from the office, he was told he needed Board approval.

Chairwoman Kearney stated that in defense of the recording with the township, she was here when Ms. Musso looked for it and the township didn't have it because the previous secretary deleted all of the recordings from 2020 and she doesn't know why. Chairwoman Kearney said she also records the township meetings and has just brought copies of them tonight so the township has them, then told Attorney Wolff that he can now get a copy of it.

Vice Chairman Brostoski stated that by Chief Klocko saying our solicitor misrepresented is like saying he intentionally did something wrong. Chief Klocko stated he never said he intentionally did anything, that was Brostoski's opinion, not his. Chief Klocko stated this was a very brief synopsis of the investigation where the first paragraph contains how he was notified, and the next paragraph was what his determination is, and that's it. Chief Klocko stated he understood where Attorney Wolff and Vice Chairman Brostoski were coming from. Vice Chairman Brostoski told Chief Klocko he should have used the word unsubstantiated and not baseless. Chief explained that was not the word he used. Vice Chairman Brostoski pointed out that to Doug Hein and Joe Setta, they heard it in a certain way that other people didn't, so to them it's not baseless. Chief Klocko stated they were operating from biased opinions and emotions that were not facts, and that is where the problem is. Chief Klocko stated it's no different than his one contract negotiation where he (Brostoski) heard from Jim Knecht that Chris Grub wasn't his responsibility. Brostoski stated he feels this is just one big misunderstanding. Chief Klocko stated it was initiated from that table (Board), he was called to do an investigation and it wasn't liked, so he was forced to go to the DA's office, and now you still don't like it, so now, he's being questioned on his report. Vice Chairman Brostoski clarified the Board never said they didn't like his investigation. Chief Klocko asked why he

was forced to go to the District Attorney's office then. Vice Chairman Brostoski stated it was because they are the Chief Law Enforcement Officers. Chief Klocko stated then you (Brostoski) feel your own police department isn't capable of investigating a crime like this. Chief Klocko stated he has audio that is clear as day, he has witnesses, and one supervisor who confirms that was never said, but yet his (Klocko's) word isn't good enough. Chief Klocko stated he has been doing this job for twenty-four years. Chief Klocko mentioned that even though he didn't want to do anything nice for Mr. Willson, he is an alleged victim of a crime, we do our investigation, and he deserves fair treatment that any other residents would get.

Vice Chairman Brostoski stated he never resented being sent to the District Attorney's office because they are the final decision. Klocko stated under normal circumstances, he wouldn't have been, however, when the township doesn't like an answer, they go to someone else to get a different answer, similar to cop-shopping. Vice Chairman Brostoski felt the Chief was reading too much into it and history can't be changed; It happened, we had an investigation because certain people believed in certain things that were said, it went to the District Attorney's office, where they said it wasn't substantiated. Vice Chairman Brostoski felt that if we wanted to put this into the minutes tonight but doesn't feel it's proper to go back to the minutes and amend them from a year and a half ago, however, we can put in the minutes tonight that it was unsubstantiated by the District Attorney's office and that's it, it's over. Vice Chairman Brostoski stated he understood that Mr. Willson is running for office again and he wants to have his record clean, and his record is clean because it was never substantiated by a couple people that he said a certain word. Vice Chairman Brostoski stated in the future, he (Willson) should look at a public meeting and not utilize certain words. Vice Chairman Brostoski stated to let the tonight's minutes reflect it was discussed, and once again history stated a year and a half ago that the District Attorney's office did not substantiate the complaint.

Roz Davis asked for the letter and police report to be read instead of everyone summarizing. Chairwoman Kearney read the two documents submitted by Bill Willson. Roz Davis recommended when a motion is made, if we are referencing the District Attorney's finding it unsubstantiated, then Chief Klocko's report should also be referenced.

Chairwoman Kearney stated she was present for that meeting and clearly heard Mr. Willson's concern about a township supervisor bringing a weapon. Roz Davis stated she was also at that meeting and heard the same thing as Chairwoman Kearney. Chairwoman Kearney stated she agreed with everything Chief Klocko has been saying as far as it being a biased opinion of a select few, however, it was not the entire Board that was in agreeance with what was alleged to have been said and with the pursuant investigation that entailed. Chairwoman Kearney stated she will make a motion to include the letter and incident report in the minutes as an amendment because it was an unfounded accusation. As far as the letter stating the solicitor should return his fees, Chairwoman Kearney stated she will not have that happen because he did his job at the direction of certain members of the Board and he is entitled to compensation for the job that he did. She further stated she felt these allegations were based on personalities, egos, biases, personality conflicts, and it was drug out and shouldn't have gone on as long as it did. She would like to see it being noted in these minutes and maybe an amendment to the previous minutes.

Vice Chairman Brostoski wanted to state once again how people in their minds can hear something that they didn't hear. Doug Hein and Joe Setta heard certain things in their minds and did not make them up. Brostoski stated that Bill Willson, in his mind, John Brostoski accused him also even though he never once said about Bill Willson making that threat, but in Bill's mind, he always associated him with Mr. Yerke. For example, when he would vote with Mr. Yerke, you would be able to read about it on Facebook, but when he didn't vote with Mr. Yerke, then he was let off the hook for that month. Vice Chairman Brostoski stated it was in Willson's mind that Brostoski voted with Yerke and its in his mind that I must have said something also because he went with Mr. Hein and Mr. Brostoski never once said that; Your mind gets set in a certain way and you hear things that maybe didn't happen. Mr. Brostoski asked if Joe Setta and Doug Hein made this up, then answered that he thinks in their mind, they heard it, and maybe it was prejudicial because of the atmosphere for all of these years has been adversarial all the time.

Roz Davis stated at the very least, Mr. Willson should receive an apology. Vice Chairman Brostoski stated maybe Willson should apologize to him for accusing him for a year and a half that he made a remark that he never made. Roz Davis stated that Mr. Brostoski should talk to him about that but what is in the minutes is public. Vice Chairman Brostoski stated it's in the record as being an unsubstantiated complaint and if anyone is going to vote for Bill, then that's fine and dandy.

Attorney Wolff stated the whole conversation has missed the point which is nobody brought up a weapon until Willson did. It was never discussed or raised. He stated Willson has made allegations about him, which were

totally baseless, then published them on Facebook. Attorney Wolff also said Willson sent emails to the Board, made similar accusations to agency officials, which were clearly baseless; He published them on Facebook, sent emails to the Board, made similar accusation to agency officials, which were clearly baseless. Wolff stated that meeting after meeting there was the adversarial environment created by that, then Willson raises the weapon comment. Attorney Wolff said his knee-jerk reaction was stop, don't bring it up, don't talk about it, weapons in this forum have absolutely no place. Wolff expressed this has gotten lost in all of this.

Chief Klocko spoke up and stated that not to defend Mr. Willson, but we all have to remember that Willson was taunted into that by a supervisor. The supervisor told Willson to confront the subject yourself and what are you afraid of this subject and that's when the conversation took place and then Joel Wolff stepped up and stated what he just said. Roz Davis agreed. Attorney Wolff stated he was trying to diffuse it after Willson brought up a weapon. Roz Davis pointed out to Attorney Wolff that after he tried to diffuse it, Mr. Willson told him that he wasn't talking about himself but a former supervisor bringing in a weapon. Wolff stated it still misses the point that we wouldn't need to be having this discussion if Willson didn't raise it. Roz Davis stated she has to agree with Chief Klocko, Willson was instigated because Mr. Setta sat right there and asked Willson, "What? Are you afraid of him?". Chief Klocko stated the comment was a direct insult to one particular person because of the other allegation, and other investigation, that went to the District Attorney's office over the road department and a threat of a weapon. Chief Klocko told Attorney Wolff he was missing a lot, and doesn't respect or appreciate it when he's still coming at him. Chief stated he understands where everyone is coming from concerning his report, but they should have reached out to him and he would have explained it. Chief Klocko told Attorney Wolff he has misrepresented his report. Attorney Wolff disagreed and stated after reading it, it's clear. Chief Klocko stated we are getting no where and we need to move the meeting along.

John Brostoski stated put the letter with the minutes for tonight and hopefully he won't bring it up again. He stated Willson is running for election and no one is running against him, so if he's worried people may want to look at his public record, so an addendum to our minutes tonight may be fine and dandy.

Chairwoman Kearney stated we will just keep the minutes of tonight as they were discussed this evening with the records. There was further discussion on how to document this related to the previous minutes with addendums. Ms. Musso asked Attorney Wolff about an addendum process to which he replied he had no idea, but his recommendation would be to follow what Vice Chairman Brostoski suggested, to make it part of this meeting and reflect it in these minutes, and if he feels the need to clear his name, it's in tonight's meeting minutes. Marshall Peirce stated he didn't think the supervisors are correcting anything because we are accepting Mr. Willson's letter and police report as part of tonight's meeting. Chairwoman Kearney stated we have discussed it into tonight's meeting and are incorporating the letter and police report into the minutes of tonight's meeting and that's it. Brostoski stated the Board accepted the investigation of Chief Klocko and of the District Attorney's office of Lackawanna County.

Notice of Estimated Allocation Municipal Liquid Fuels and Turnback:

Chairwoman Kearney stated the estimated Liquid Fuels allocation for 2022 is \$116,952.43.

SUPERVISOR COMMENTS:

Chairwoman Kearney reminded everyone that on October 18, 2021 at 6pm will be a budget workshop meeting. This will be advertised.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Chief Klocko stated he will not be able to attend the budget workshop meeting due to his honeymoon, but he has already discussed everything. Chairwoman Kearney advised she will keep him posted and wished him good luck, congratulations, and happy honeymoon.

Roz Davis stated she just wanted to make a point on how Mr. Willson tried to get these corrections made to the minutes prior to him running for office. He wasn't running for office before and was trying to get this corrected. Chairwoman Kearney confirmed he had approached the Board numerous times prior to running and it was only a matter of time before it was brought up again. Chairwoman Kearney stated Mr. Willson is running for a position on the Board and according to his letter, he is trying to make sure his name is clear.

ADJOURNMENT:

ON MOTION duly made (Williams), seconded (Balish), and carried to adjourn at 9:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Melinda Musso, Secretary

Approved:

William J. Willson

31 Skyline Drive
Covington Township, PA 18424

(cell) 570-499-0979

Email: carolebill2@comcast.net

September 27, 2021

Board of Supervisors
20 Moffat Drive
Covington Township, Pa. 18444

Dear Supervisors,

I am writing this letter now in order to avoid any misinformation that may come about leading up to the upcoming election on November 2, 2021. I had originally not planned on running for supervisor but that has changed and I am now on the ballot as the only candidate for the two year unexpired term that came about as a result of Tom Yerke's resignation from that position. It is my intention, should I win, to work hand in hand with a new Board of Supervisors in our township to insure transparency and accountability to the taxpayers of our township. Several of our current Board members have made great steps in this direction and I would like to be able to help them continue their goals for our township.

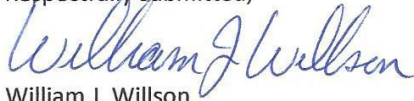
At Covington Township's November 3, 2020 meeting, during a heated discussion with Supervisor Setta and Supervisor Brostoski. I made a comment about being concerned about Supervisor Yerke pulling out a weapon at a meeting in order to try and intimidate me. I was immediately accused by Solicitor Wolff and Supervisor Setta of threatening to bring a weapon to a meeting. If you read the incredibly inaccurate minutes of this meeting, it appears that secretary/treasurer Douglas Hein wrote a slanted version of the minutes to make it appear that I actually made that statement. I did not. It seems that these four only heard what they wanted to hear and jumped at an opportunity to discredit me. Fortunately for me and unfortunately for them, they failed.

What I find most disturbing about this whole series of events was that immediately after the meeting, Solicitor Wolff approached me outside while I was having a discussion with Supervisor Peirce. He remarked something to the effect of "why would you threaten to bring a weapon to a meeting". Supervisor Peirce immediately turned to him and told him that was not what I said, and that I had expressed concern about Supervisor Yerke bringing a weapon. Just to clarify a point here, Supervisor Peirce and Solicitor Wolff were sitting next to each other at the table when this alleged comment was made. Without saying a word Solicitor Wolff turned and walked away. Even after knowing the truth, Solicitor Wolff, Supervisor Setta, and secretary/treasurer Hein continued their ridiculous agenda and went to our police chief, Bernie Klocko, and asked him to investigate this incident. Solicitor Wolff had the means to diffuse this situation and instead, he chose to enable it to continue. To add insult to injury, Solicitor Wolff charged the Covington Township taxpayers approximately \$1,000.00 for his "expert" advice on this matter. Apparently Chief Klocko's investigation wasn't good enough and the Lackawanna County District Attorney was asked to investigate also. For several months after this incident, I asked the Board to correct these minutes and every time it came up, Supervisor Setta went on a tirade about the threat was real, they heard it and there would be an officer at every meeting to watch me. At one

meeting, Supervisor Brostoski started to back peddle stating that there may have been a misunderstanding due to people wearing masks and their voices being muffled! Too little, too late. Anyone can listen to the recordings of the November 3, 2020, December 1, 2020, and March 3, 2021 meetings and listen to these tantrums. The Covington Township Police Department and the Lackawanna County District Attorney's office concluded that these allegations were baseless and closed their investigations on November 18, 2020, yet these individuals continued to be obsessed with this situation.

With this letter, I am including a copy of the final report issued by Chief Klocko concerning this incident. I am asking the current Board to add an addendum to the November 3, 2020 meeting to reflect the outcome of these baseless allegations. I am asking that this letter and a copy of the official police report be entered into the record of the October 5, 2021 meeting so that they are available for the public to view. I will forward a copy of my recording of this incident to our secretary so that anyone who desires can listen to a true and accurate version of the verbal exchange. I was recording the meeting on my phone and my comments are exceptionally clear. I also believe that our solicitor should refund to the township any monies paid to him to perpetuate this investigation knowing that it was a sham from the beginning.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "William J. Willson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

William J. Willson

COVINGTON TOWNSHIP POLICE: INCIDENT REPORT

4 John J. Michaels Drive
Covington Township, Pennsylvania 18444
Phone: (570) 842-6400
Fax: (570) 842-3149
Police@covingtontwp.org

Case#: 2020-638
Date: 11/19/2020

On 11-05-2020 Reporting Officer (R.O.) was contacted by Covington Township officials (Doug Hein, secretary treasurer and Joe Wolf, solicitor for the township) regarding an alleged threat said to have been made at the 11-03-2020 Covington Township Board of Supervisors regular monthly meeting. Township officials alleged that a resident and member of the audience, William Willson, was said to have threatened to bring a weapon to the next township meeting. This threat was alleged to have occurred during an exchange between Township Supervisors, Joseph Setta, John Brostoski and William Willson.

R.O. began the investigation into this allegation on 11-11-2020. Prior to, R.O. was quarantined due to Covid-19. Audio recordings of the meeting were reviewed and several subjects present during the meeting were interviewed. The investigation concluded that the allegation brought forward by Covington Township Officials was baseless. The alleged threat made by Willson was not a threat in any manner. The statement misrepresented by Covington Township Officials was in fact Willson making a statement concerning a township official bringing a weapon to the next township meeting to intimidate and threaten Willson.

At the request of Covington Township Officials, this case was also reviewed by the Lackawanna County District Attorney's Office. Officials from the DA's Office (First Assistant to the District Attorney, Judy Price and Assistant District Attorney Jerry Grill) also agreed with reporting officer's conclusion. The allegation was baseless. Willson did not make a threat, directly or indirectly. The case is closed as of 11-18-2020. There is no need for further investigation.

Chief Klocko

