

**COVINGTON TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 2021 – WORK SESSION MEETING**

The November 30, 2021 Work Session meeting of the Covington Township Board of Supervisors was called to order with a Pledge of Allegiance at 7:10 p.m. in the Municipal Building, 20 Moffat Drive, Covington Township, PA 18444, by Chairwoman Melissa Kearney.

PRESENT: Chairwoman Melissa Kearney, Supervisor Vicki Williams, Supervisor Marshall Peirce, Solicitor Joel Wolff, and Secretary Melinda Musso

Also present: Zoning Officer Ronald Donati

Absent: Vice Chairman John Brostoski, Supervisor Chris Balish

AGENDA: As presented.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: There was an executive session held tonight at 6:00 p.m. for personnel reasons pertaining to the Police Department and hiring.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

MINUTES: Minutes from November 2, 2021 monthly meeting were reviewed. Chairwoman Kearney announced if any Board members had corrections or changes, to notify Ms. Musso by the end of the week.

BILLS: Was presented as of November 29, 2021

TREASURER'S REPORT: Was presented as of November 29, 2021

ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIONS:

Motion to correct SRO pay & retroactive to start of school:

Chairwoman Kearney stated the School Board increased the wages for a SPO to \$25.00 per hour. The township has their police officer in the high school and would like to correct his pay to the \$25.00 per hour and make it retroactive back to the beginning of this school year.

PLANNING COMMISSION: No report submitted

BUILDING INSPECTOR: No report submitted

ZONING CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER:

Ronald Donati reviewed his monthly report and discussed the two magisterial court appearances pertaining to violations. Both were found guilty and given another opportunity to correct things. One property was issued a \$1,000.00 fine, and the other has their deadline next week and the fine will be determined at that time. Mr. Donati stated he is off work next week and asked if Chairwoman Kearney would contact the magistrate with an update, to which she agreed.

Bill Willson stated that an old piece of equipment was removed last weekend from the pending violation property on Route 435.

Mr. Donati brought up the tentative permit fees and the differences with other municipalities surrounding us. Chairwoman Kearney recommended he reach out to our engineer, Mary Lou Butler, for insight to the Planning Commission fees. There was further discussion on different permit fees and how it could affect the building permit fees. Mr. Donati stated he would have this ready for the next meeting so the Board can review and make any necessary changes.

Roz Davis asked about the two hearings, one being on Route 435, and asked who the other one was. Mr. Donati stated the two hearings were for Sheridan and DeMarco.

Ms. Davis asked when people put things up without permits, what are the penalties. Mr. Donati stated that comes under Dave Lamm with the building permits. Ms. Musso advised in the fee schedule, there is a penalty of \$100 plus the cost of the permit fee, plus three times the fee.

ENGINEER: No report submitted

SOLICITOR:

Assessment Appeal re: Michael & Brittany Terbovich:

Attorney Wolff stated he would like to receive permission to put in an entry of appearance.

Assessment Appeal re: Kevin & Robin McCarthy:

Attorney Wolff stated he would like to receive permission to get approval to sign the stipulation.

Assessment Appeal re: William Bracey:

Attorney Wolff stated there's been a hearing where he was assessed at \$15 million and the panel came back with \$27 million. That was again appealed, then listed for trial. A continuance was requested since there's been no assessment on that property. The North Pocono School District thinks this should be appraised. The assessor did not obtain an appraisal because he felt it wasn't needed and the school district doesn't think it's a good idea. An appraisal would cost between \$5,000 - \$10,000 and the school district is asking if the township would pay half of the cost. There was further discussion on the appeal, appraisal, and the difference in millage between the township and school district. Supervisor Peirce suggested that due to the difference in millage, a 75% / 25% split in the appraisal fee would be acceptable, where the township would pay the 25%.

DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS:

Mr. Peirce stated bids will be opened at the monthly meeting next week.

Bill Willson commented that it was good to see the big trees that were dead by the roadway were being removed.

ROADMASTER: No report submitted

MOFFAT ESTATE MAINTENANCE-GROUNDSKEEPER: No report submitted.

Chairwoman Kearney stated Mr. Hallock did decorate for Christmas and is taking down the trees at the pavilion.

POLICE DEPARTMENT:

Law Enforcement Officers Safety Act Policy #5-14:

Chairwoman Kearney stated it will be reviewed for the monthly meeting.

RECREATION COMMITTEE: No report submitted.

SEWAGE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER: No report submitted.

NEW BUSINESS:

Gentile property concrete crushing equipment re: DEP permit application:

Chairwoman Kearney stated this has been done in the past and needs to be completed. Ms. Musso explained when the previous zoning officer completed this form, the prior Board of Supervisors in 2019 directed him to attach a letter with some conditions since that property is close to residences and the high school. This letter was attached to the form and submitted at that time. Ms. Musso asked if the supervisors would want the zoning officer to write a letter keeping any conditions on the new application. There was a discussion on the history of that property and there not being any issues with the last permit.

OLD BUSINESS: None

CORRESPONDENCE:

11/1/21 PA Bureau of Labor Law Compliance re: Multimodal Transportation Fund Program:

This correspondence is for information.

11/8/21 Lackawanna County Conservation District re: transfer of NPDES permit:

This is for 100 First Avenue.

SUPERVISORS COMMENTS:

Supervisor Peirce stated the fire department would like to make a deal with the township. If the township would be willing to purchase smoke detectors for those who do not have them, the fire company would be willing to install them. Supervisor Peirce stated he was recently at a fatal house fire and to his knowledge, there were no working smoke detectors in the home. There was further discussion on ordering in bulk and how to get word out to our residents.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Mr. Donati told the Board he will be out of town for a two-week period and suggested if anything needed to be handled right away that maybe David Lamm would be willing to do that.

ADJOURNMENT:

ON MOTION duly made (Williams), seconded (Kearney), and carried to adjourn at 7:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Melinda Musso, Secretary

Approved: