

COVINGTON TOWNSHIP SUPERVISORS
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES – JANUARY 10, 2022

The January 10, 2022 special 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. Chairwoman Kearney explained the purpose of this special meeting was due to Zoom timing out and the township not wanting to violate the Sunshine Law.

AGENDA:

ON MOTION duly made (Kearney), seconded (Williams), and carried to add Wonderful lease update to the agenda under Administrative Actions.

ON MOTION duly made (Willson), seconded (Andreoli), and carried to accept the agenda as presented with the addition.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Executive session was held December 15, 2021 for legal reasons regarding Wonderful lease. Executive session was held January 3, 2022 for personnel reasons regarding pay raises and bonuses.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Roz Davis asked if a new Zoning Hearing Board Solicitor can be paid \$150.00 per hour just as other township attorneys. ON MOTION duly made (Willson), seconded (Williams), and carried to increase the Zoning Hearing Board Solicitor's wages to a flat fee of \$150.00 per hour, without any further compensation for meetings or hearings, and pending on the Zoning Hearing Board's recommendation for a new attorney.

MINUTES:

ON MOTION duly made (Williams), seconded (Andreoli), and carried to accept the minutes as presented from the December 7, 2021 monthly meeting.

BILLS:

Marshall Peirce stated an invoice was missing from Wengers in the amount of \$50,050.00 for a boom mower with shipping that he would like to have included.

ON MOTION duly made (Peirce), seconded (Williams), and carried to pay the bills as listed with the addition of Wengers for \$50,050.00.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

ON MOTION duly made (Willson), seconded (Peirce), and carried to approve the treasurer's report as presented.

ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIONS:

Resolution 2022-02 Plan Revision for New Land Development (Storm Minor Subdivision):

Resolution 2022-02 was read (Kearney). ON MOTION duly made (Peirce), seconded (Williams), and carried to approve Resolution 2022-02.

Resolution 2022-03 Tower Ten Year Renewal re: UniSite, LLC on Victoria Drive:

Resolution 2022-03 was read (Kearney). ON MOTION duly made (Willson), seconded (Andreoli), and carried to approve Resolution 2022-03.

Repository Sale re: Eagle Lake, Carousel Ct. J-5-136:

ON MOTION duly made (Williams), seconded (Peirce), and carried to approve the repository sale for Eagle Lake, Carousel Ct. J-5-136.

Tax Collector's Request re: all service charges:

Letter from the Tax Collector was read (Kearney). There was a conversation on the township resources still being used, the drop box/safe, stamps, envelopes, software, dues, bonding, etc., along with the process of amending the ordinance.

ON MOTION duly made (Willson), seconded (Kearney), and carried to keep everything the same and research this for next year.

Emergency Declaration Extension:

ON MOTION duly made (Williams), seconded (Peirce), and carried to extend the Emergency Declaration to July 5, 2022.

Auditor's recommendation and Letter of Interest from Bill Beavers re: Auditor's Vacancy:

Auditor's letter of recommendation was read (Kearney). ON MOTION duly made (Willson), seconded (Peirce), and carried to appoint Bill Beavers to the vacated Auditor's term.

Auditor's request re: PSATS webinar, ABC's of Elected Auditors:

Auditor's letter requesting to take a PSATS webinar was read (Kearney). ON MOTION duly made (Williams), seconded (Peirce), and carried to approve the auditors taking a webinar.

Wonderful lease:

Chairwoman Kearney stated Kelly Davies agreed to the township's terms of a one-year lease, \$1,200.00 rent per month plus heat, and other stuff in the lease. There was a brief discussion on having this placed under Old Business.

PLANNING COMMISSION:

Monthly report was read (Kearney). The Planning Commission recommended approval on the revised Land Development Application with three contingencies.

Kost Tire revised Land Development:

Mr. Mendola spoke on the revised plans on the small addition. Mary Lou Butler stated the contingencies have been addressed and are completed. Attorney Wolff stated the developer's agreement is waiting for signatures and he is also waiting on the irrevocable letter of credit, additional escrow funds, and certificate of insurance. The developer's agreement & irrevocable letter of credit were given to Attorney Wolff. There was a discussion on the difference between a bond, irrevocable letter of credit, and what the additional \$7,500.00 was needed for in escrow. Representatives from Kost requested a break down on what has been spent from money in escrow.

ON MOTION duly made (Andreoli), seconded (Willson), and carried to approve and sign Kost's revised land development plan and developer's agreement.

ON MOTION duly made (Williams), seconded (Willson), and carried to accept the Planning Commission's report.

BUILDING INSPECTOR:

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

ZONING CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER:

The Zoning Code Enforcement Officer's report was read (Kearney). ON MOTION duly made (Peirce), seconded (Andreoli), and carried to accept the Zoning Code Enforcement Officer's report as submitted.

ENGINEER:

Mary Lou Butler gave updates on the following projects: Union Mill Road, Storm Road, and Langan Road. David Lamm suggested the township keep track of all the work on Union Mill Road for reimbursement by Roger Altmier. ON MOTION duly made (Peirce), seconded (Williams), and carried to accept the Engineer's report.

SOLICITOR:

Assessment Appeal re: Michael & Brittany Terbovich:

Attorney Wolff explained the proposed stipulation. ON MOTION duly made (Williams), seconded (Andreoli), and carried to approve the stipulation and allow Attorney Wolff to sign the Terbovich assessment appeal.

Kost-Covington re: Revised Developers Agreement:

This motion was made under the Planning Commission.

ON MOTION duly made (Williams), seconded (Peirce), and carried to accept the Solicitor's report as presented.

DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS:

Upgrade current pick-up and 2003 F550:

Marshall Peirce discussed the possibility of upgrading the 2018 pickup truck and 2003 F550 dump truck by trading them in and buying a F350 pickup truck with a utility body and plow with a cinder spreader. ON MOTION duly made (Willson), seconded (Andreoli), and carried to allow Mr. Peirce to research and bring the information back to the Board.

Recycling lids for new containers:

Marshall Peirce stated lids were never ordered last year for the new recycling containers and would like to get prices in order to purchase them.

Thumb for tractor loader backhoe:

Mr. Peirce received an estimate for \$9,550, which was too expensive and will keep looking for a better deal.

Alarm system at mansion for fire protection:

Mr. Peirce suggested looking into putting an alarm system in at the mansion for fire protection. Roz Davis asked if it would include a sprinkler system and Mr. Peirce stated no. ON MOTION duly made (Kearney), seconded (Peirce), and carried to investigate and receive some bids on a fire alarm system. ON MOTION duly made (Willson), seconded (Andreoli), and carried to accept the Director of Public Works report.

ROADMASTER:

Monthly report given by Tom Hall. There was a brief discussion on a service request from Wayne Gavin regarding removing dead trees bordering his property at the back of the Moffat Estate and how this is not possible during the winter. ON MOTION duly made (Willson), seconded (Andreoli), and carried to accept the Roadmaster's report.

MOFFAT MAINTENANCE:

Report was read (Kearney). There was a discussion on a requested burn pit. ON MOTION duly made (Williams), seconded (Andreoli), and carried to approve the Moffat Maintenance's report.

Marshall Peirce stated the Road Department will be using Jay Hallock for plowing just like they did with the previous Moffat Maintenance employee. Chairwoman Kearney commended the Road Department for the great work clearing snow from the last storm.

POLICE DEPARTMENT:

Monthly and yearly reports were reviewed by Chief Bastek. There are also interviews scheduled for this Thursday. Chairwoman Kearney stated the Board will wait for his recommendation on who to hire and this could be on the February agenda. ON MOTION duly made (Williams), seconded (Peirce), and carried to accept the Police Department's reports as presented.

RECREATION COMMITTEE: No report

SEWAGE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER: No report

NEW BUSINESS:

CDL license re: Chris Balish and employees:

Chairwoman Kearney stated Mr. Balish did get his permit to get his CDL restrictions lifted.

Emergency Management Committee:

ON MOTION duly made (Willson), seconded (Andreoli), and carried to have Chairwoman Melissa Kearney, Supervisor Marshall Peirce, Police Chief Robert Bastek, Fire Chief Brad Jones, and EMA Coordinator/Supervisor William Willson on the Emergency Management Committee.

OLD BUSINESS:

Wonderful Lease: Chairwoman Kearney stated this was discussed earlier.

CORRESPONDENCE:

1/3/2022 Lackawanna County Conservation District re: Kost plan revision/extension:

This was found to be adequate for the project.

1/4/2022 Lackawanna County Conservation District re: Request for Low Volume Road Grant

Applications:

There was a discussion on possible roads in the township that would qualify. ON MOTION duly made (Willson), seconded (Williams), and carried to have Mary Lou Butler look into the details.

SUPERVISOR'S COMMENTS:

William Willson told Chairwoman Kearney that he spoke to Brad Jones and he's willing to meet with them regarding short term rental management.

Marshall Peirce stated there are 48 stumps to get ground up, he's reached out to some contractors for prices, and is working on it.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Roz Davis asked how much did the CDL license cost the township because the Board was going back and forth. Chairwoman Kearney replied that it cost nothing.

Roz Davis asked if having a burn pit, would the township need to reach out to Yvette Whettland for permission. Chairwoman Kearney stated it may have something to do with the conservancy and they would need to look into it.

Roz Davis asked if the website can be updated because it still says masks are not mandatory. Chairwoman Kearney stated it will get updated.

ADJOURNMENT:

ON MOTION duly made (Willson), seconded (Williams), and carried to adjourn at 8:22 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Melinda Musso, Secretary

Approved: