

COVINGTON TOWNSHIP SUPERVISORS  
MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES – JULY 5, 2022

The July 5, 2022 Monthly 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 Chairwoman Vicki Williams, Supervisor Marshall Peirce (called in – on speaker phone), Supervisor William Willson, Supervisor Wanda Andreoli, Attorney Joel Wolff, and Secretary Melinda Musso.

Also present: Police Chief Robert Bastek, Engineer Mary Lou Butler, Treasurer Diana Patton, Building Inspector David Lamm, and Road Master Thomas Hall.

**AGENDA:**

There was a brief discussion to add advertising to sell items to the agenda. ON MOTION duly made (Williams), seconded (Andreoli), and carried to accept the agenda with the addition of advertising to sell items.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:** None

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** None

**MINUTES:**

Chairwoman Kearney listed the minutes for review. ON MOTION duly made (Willson), seconded (Williams), and carried to accept all minutes presented.

**BILLS:**

There was a discussion on no descriptions for some of the FNCFB items. ON MOTION duly made (Willson), seconded (Williams), and carried to pay the bills as presented. Supervisor Peirce abstained.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:**

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

**ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIONS:**

**Termination of Zoning Officer:** Chairwoman Kearney stated the Zoning Officer was placed on a paid administrative leave. ON MOTION duly made (Williams), seconded (Willson), and carried to terminate Zoning Officer Ronald Donati. Vote: Kearney – yes; Williams – yes; Peirce – no; Willson – yes; Andreoli – abstained.

**Advertise to hire new Zoning Officer:** ON MOTION duly made (Willson), seconded (Williams), and carried to advertise for a new Zoning Code Enforcement Officer, accept applications until July 22, 2022, interviews the following week and hire at the August meeting.

**Replace Zoning Code Enforcement Officer's Solicitor:** Supervisor Willson questioned what they were doing about the Zoning Solicitor and there was a brief discussion. ON MOTION duly made (Willson), seconded (Andreoli), and carried to amend the agenda by adding replace Zoning Code Enforcement Officer's Solicitor.

ON MOTION duly made (Willson), seconded (Williams), and carried to replace the Zoning Code Enforcement Officer's Solicitor. Supervisor Peirce voted no.

**Sell seven (7) pieces of tin from recycling building roof to Tom Hall:** Supervisor Peirce advised Mr. Hall offered \$100.00 for seven pieces of tin. ON MOTION duly made (Willson), seconded (Williams), and carried to sell seven pieces of tin to Tom Hall for \$100.00

**Budget change re: Langan Road project:** Diana Patton explained that once the budget changes 25% or more, it needs to be amended and advertised. This is due to the Langan Road project and she recommended taking \$200,000.00 into the budget from the capital reserve fund.

She discussed a new truck was quoted for \$63,000.00 plus trading in the current truck. Mrs. Patton advised since this wasn't in the budget, it should be amended in the budget also, and the money can be taken from the PLIGIT general investment.

ON MOTION duly made (Williams), seconded (Andreoli), and carried to advertise the amended budget to incorporate the changes that were just explained.

**PLANNING COMMISSION:** No report submitted

**BUILDING INSPECTOR:**

David Lamm reviewed his monthly report. ON MOTION duly made (Willson), seconded (Williams), and carried to accept the Building Inspector's report as submitted.

**ZONING CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER:**

Chairwoman Kearney reviewed the monthly report. ON MOTION duly made (Williams), seconded (Andreoli), and carried to accept the Zoning Code Enforcement Officer's report as submitted.

**ENGINEER:**

Mary Lou Butler reviewed her monthly report.

**Langan Road Project:** Mrs. Butler advised letters were sent out and waiting for bonds and insurance.

**2022 Multimodal Grant Application re: submission, resolution, and local share match approvals:** There are two letters and a resolution that need approval.

Mrs. Butler read Resolution 2022-10 for the Multimodal Transportation Fund Grant application on the A.M. Hughes Boulevard Improvements Project. The letter guaranteeing the township will meet a local share match of 30% equaling \$105,067.46.

ON MOTION duly made (Willson), seconded (Andreoli), and carried to sign the grant application for the 2022 Multimodal Transportation Fund Grant on A.M. Hughes Boulevard and have Mary Lou Butler submit it on the township's behalf.

ON MOTION duly made (Willson), seconded (Andreoli), and carried to adopt Resolution 2022-10.

Mrs. Butler discussed a LSA Grant that can possibly be used towards the new police car and would need to know by the August meeting to submit by the deadline of September 30<sup>th</sup>.

ON MOTION duly made (Williams), seconded (Andreoli), and carried to accept the Engineer's report as submitted.

**SOLICITOR:**

**Bracey assessment appeal:** Attorney Wolff explained the appeal and asked for authorization to sign on the township's behalf. There was a discussion on the refund that will need to be issued for 2021 and 2022.

Roslyn Davis asked if the tax base was 10.25 mils or if it's different for businesses. Attorney Wolff explained the fair market value and there was further discussion on millage. ON MOTION duly made (Willson), seconded (Williams), and carried to authorize Attorney Joel Wolff to sign the stipulation based on a fair market value of \$14,000,000.00.

Attorney Wolff advised the Board of the Children's Free Campground litigation has been continued to December.

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

**DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS:**

**Purchase truck:** Mr. Peirce discussed purchasing a 2023 Chevy Silverado. There was further discussion on the current cost of \$63,412.00 not being locked-in until the township signs the agreement, and trading in the current pickup truck.

ON MOTION duly made (Willson), seconded (Andreoli), and carried to order a 2023 Chevy Silverado 3500 crew cab with a plow, service body, and tow package.

There was a brief discussion on authorizing Mr. Peirce to sign the paperwork for this.

**Mansion re: painting windows and doors:** There was a discussion on hiring Bryan Williams to continue painting the mansion doors and windows.

**Roller rental:** Mr. Peirce received three quotes to rent a roller, the charge will be less than \$5,000.00, and asked for approval to rent one when they are available.

ON MOTION duly made (Williams), seconded (Andreoli), and carried to allow Mr. Peirce to rent a roller when they become available.

**Advertise to sell items:** Mr. Peirce would like to sell items on Municibid and stated the township will need to advertise this. The list of items are a 2013 police car that needs work, two older ford tractors (4610 & 515), an old generator, a thumb, kid's chairs, a few file cabinets, and a sprayer tank. Chairwoman Kearney discussed only needing to advertise if over \$2,000.00. Mr. Peirce stated he will work with Ms. Musso on the ad.

ON MOTION duly made (Peirce), seconded (Williams), and carried to advertise selling items on Municibid.

ON MOTION duly made (Willson), seconded (Andreoli), and carried to accept the Director of Public Work's report as submitted.

**ROADMASTER:** Monthly report was read by Chairwoman Kearney.

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

**MOFFAT MAINTENANCE:** Monthly report was read by Chairwoman Kearney. There was a discussion on a roof leak at the mansion and getting prices on a toddler swing.

ON MOTION duly made (Andreoli), seconded (Williams), and carried to accept the Moffat Maintenance's monthly report.

**POLICE DEPARTMENT:** Chief Bastek reviewed his monthly report.

**Naloxone policy:** ON MOTION duly made (Andreoli), seconded (Williams), and carried to accept the Naloxone policy.

**Order new police vehicle:** Chief Bastek is requesting to order a 2023 Ford Interceptor and it will take 6 months until delivery. Supervisor Willson requested the Chief get a price for a Tahoe.

ON MOTION duly made (Andreoli), seconded (Williams), and carried to allow Chief Bastek to order a police car.

Chief Bastek informed the Board that Eagle Lake is requesting an officer for an extra day per week due to increased issues in their community. He is waiting to hear from the Eagle Lake board for their final decision.

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

**RECREATION COMMITTEE:** No report submitted

**SEWAGE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER:** No report submitted

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**N.P. Senior Center wireless internet service and basic TV:** There was a discussion on an upcoming meeting with Comcast at 6:00 p.m. on July 26, 2022. Additionally, there will be a meeting with the Area on Aging for the Senior Center and they will be check to see if they can help with things like this. This will be tabled until after these meetings.

**Fire Company re: letter to PennDOT for parade:** The letter was already submitted to PennDOT for permission for the fire company to conduct a parade. There was a brief discussion on the fire company borrowing the township's light trees.

**Northeast Signal & Electric Co. Inc. re: 2022 preventative maintenance estimate:** ON MOTION duly made (Willson), seconded (Williams), and carried to allow Northeast Signal & Electric Company to complete the 2022 preventative maintenance on four traffic lights at \$3,000.00.

**Auditor's report re: annual audit:** Chairwoman Kearney read the Auditor's minutes from July 3, 2022. Supervisor Willson questioned if their meetings need to be advertised. Mrs. Patton discussed the need to advertise under the Sunshine Act when decisions are being made at a meeting. Chairwoman Kearney will reach out to the auditors to notify them their meeting was invalid since it wasn't advertised and the Board won't accept the minutes. There was a brief discussion on if the audit was completed.

**Pavilion Manager re: pay raise:** The auditors will need to set this rate.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**Nammo Pocal, Inc. re: land development application progress:** George Parker advised he submitted the land Development application and asked for the annexation plans to be signed as recommended by the Planning Commission.

ON MOTION duly made (Willson), seconded (Andreoli), and carried to sign the annexation plans for Nammo Pocal.

**Center Street re: truck traffic:** There was a lengthy discussion pertaining to multiple complaints from people residing on Route 435 and Center Street concerning issues with trucks speeding down Center Street, using jake breaks, and the hours in the middle of the night this takes place going to the sawmill. The zoning office has been notified. There was a lengthy discussion on having the township attorney send a letter to the sawmill and putting up signs for no trucks allowed on the one end of Center Street and also no jake brakes allowed so the police can do enforcement. Chief Bastek suggested sending an officer to get PennDOT certified to check trucks throughout the township.

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

**SUPERVISOR'S COMMENTS:** There was a brief discussion on a list of items the supervisors have completed.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

David Lamm asked about Roger Altemier and Union Mill Road. Attorney Wolff stated he is working on this.

Commissioner Shermack asked if any Board members had any questions for him. There was a discussion on a letter the township sent to the county commissioner asking for support in a grant the township applied for, the senior center, and the upcoming county reassessment on properties.

Roz Davis asked the name of the sawmill property. There was a brief discussion on it being Tanfield Lumber and possibly Bailey Lumber may be renting it.

Roz Davis inquired about the EMS reports. Ms. Musso explained it wasn't received before the meeting packets were finalized.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

ON MOTION duly made (Willson), seconded (Williams), and carried to adjourn at 8:23 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Melinda Musso, Secretary

Approved:

