

**COVINGTON TOWNSHIP SUPERVISORS
MONTHLY MEETING
MARCH 7, 2023**

The Covington Township Board of Supervisors held their monthly meeting on Tuesday, March 7, 2023 at the Covington Township Municipal building, Moffat Estate, 20 Moffat Drive, Covington Township, PA 18444. Chairwoman Kearney called the meeting to order with the Pledge of Allegiance at 7:00 p.m.

There were present: Chairwoman Melissa Kearney, Vice Chairwoman Vicki Williams, Supervisor William Willson, and Attorney Joel Wolff. Supervisor Wanda Andreoli came in during the discussion of setting the date for the public hearing for the Short-term rental ordinance revision.

Absent: Supervisor Marshall Peirce.

Also present: Police Chief Robert Bastek, Zoning Code Enforcement Officer David Hall and Building Inspector Dave Lamm.

Agenda: Chairwoman Kearney revised the agenda by adding the following items:

- (a) Set the date for the Short-term Rental Ordinance revision;
- (b) Discuss Hinkley subdivision;
- (c) Discuss Covington Lake Estates subdivision Lot #41;
- (d) Resolution #2023-03 to authorize enforcement of Ordinance #2022-01;
- (e) Resolution #2023-04 to authorize enforcement of Ordinance #2023-02.

Supervisor Willson commented on Fischer Brothers. Chairwoman Kearney stated there was nothing to vote on. ON MOTION duly made (Willson), seconded (Williams) and carried 3-0 to accept the amended meeting agenda.

Announcements: A Moment of Silence was held for past supervisor/chairman of the board, David Petrosky, who passed away on Monday.

Public Comment: Scott VanFleet questioned why there was a time limit set for public comment. Chairwomen Kearney explained it was set at the organizational meeting in January to keep the meeting moving forward and that there would be exceptions made.

Minutes: Chairwoman Kearney informed the board that the minutes to be approved were the minutes of the monthly meeting held February 7, 2023, the minutes from the work sessions dated January 31, 2023 and February 28, 2023 and the minutes from the public hearing held on February 28, 2023. She stated that the work session minutes from January 31, 2023 were being voted on this evening because there was a question raised prior to the adoption of those minutes at last month's meeting. The minutes from January 31, 2023 are correct with the exception of the typo (referring to the December 6 minutes that have already been approved) so all minutes will remain as typed. Roz Davis commented on the minutes of January 31, 2023 and December 6, 2022. ON MOTION, duly made (Willson), seconded (Williams) and carried to accept the minutes as presented.

Bills: ON MOTION, duly made (Williams), seconded (Willson) and carried to approve and pay the bills as presented. Chairwoman Kearney abstained from the bill for herself.

Treasurer's Report: ON MOTION duly made (Willson), seconded (Williams) and carried to accept the Treasurer's Report.

Administrative Actions:

Appoint Mac Walsh to Sewer Authority: ON MOTION, duly made (Williams), seconded (Willson) and carried to appoint Mac Walsh to the Sewer Authority.

Appoint Gwen Walsh to Zoning Hearing Board: ON MOTION, duly made (Willson), seconded (Williams) and carried to appoint Gwen Walsh to the Zoning Hearing board.

Advertise bidding at Moffat Mansion: Scott VanFleet questioned a scope of work for the paint bidders. ON MOTION, duly made (Williams), seconded (Willson) and carried to advertise for bids for painting at the Moffat Mansion.

Set date for Short-term Rental Ordinance: ON MOTION, duly made (Williams), seconded (Andreoli) to set the public hearing date of April 17, 2023 at 6:30 p.m. to consider revising the Short-term Rental Ordinance to incorporate Big Bass Lake and Eagle Lake.

Resolution 2023-03: ON MOTION, duly made (Willson), seconded (Andreoli) and carried to adopt Resolution 2023-03, A Resolution to Authorize Enforcement and Collection of Fees Associated with the Knox Box Ordinance (Ordinance #2022-01).

Resolution 2023-04: ON MOTION, duly made (Williams), seconded (Andreoli) and carried to adopt Resolution 2023-04, A Resolution to Authorize Enforcement and Collection of Fees Associated with the Nuisance Alarm Ordinance (Ordinance #2023-02). Fire Chief Brad Jones just wanted to be sure that it was clear, that the fire department will only handle the fire alarms portion of this ordinance. The police department will be responsible for the police alarms.

Planning Commission:

Hinkley Lot Subdivision: ON MOTION, duly made (Willson), seconded (Williams) and carried to sign the plans for the Hinkley Minor Subdivision.

Covington Lake Estates, Subdivision of Lot #41: Engineer Mary Lou Butler advised that the sewer module is still needed. ON MOTION, duly made (Williams), seconded (Andreoli) and carried to sign the plans and approve the subdivision of Lot #41 in Covington Lake Estates once the sewer module is received.

Fischer Brothers: Mary Lou Butler informed the board that she spoke with the developer's engineer and they will have the revisions to her prior to the next meeting. Jeff Fischer was present, questioning the sale of sheds on his property. The sheds are ok with zoning as long as no further impervious surfaces are expanded. These are the same sheds that are sold elsewhere in the township. ON MOTION, duly made (Williams), seconded (Andreoli) and carried to accept the Planning Commission report as submitted.

Building Inspector: Dave Lamm reviewed his monthly report. He also reported he spoke with DeScipio regarding Five C's, who has generated drawings and is just finishing them up. ON MOTION, duly made (Willson), seconded (Williams) and carried to accept the Building Inspector's monthly report.

Zoning Code Enforcement Officer: David Hall reviewed his monthly report. ON MOTION, duly made (Andreoli), seconded (Williams) and carried to accept the Zoning Code Enforcement Officer's monthly report.

Engineer: Mary Lou Butler reviewed her monthly report. ON MOTION, duly made (Willson), seconded (Williams) and carried to accept the Engineer's monthly report.

Solicitor: Nothing to report.

RoadMaster and DPW Director: Chairwoman Kearney reviewed the Roadmaster report. She also reported the new truck would be delayed but that we may be getting a 2024 with upgrades for the same quoted price. The township acquired a roller for \$45,000 and was the successful bidder for the 2008 GMC5500. ON MOTION, duly made (Williams), seconded (Andreoli) and carried to accept the Roadmaster and DPW Director's monthly report.

Moffat Maintenance: Chairwoman Kearney will speak with Jay and Tom about getting signs regarding the dog litter and cameras.

Police Department: Police Chief Bastek reviewed his monthly report. Chairwoman Kearney reported the new Chevy Tahoe is scheduled to be delivered later this week. ON MOTION, duly made (Andreoli), seconded (Williams) and carried to accept the resignation of Officer Frank Ciannella effective February 21, 2023. ON MOTION, duly made (Andreoli), seconded (Williams) and carried to advertise to hire a full-time police officer. ON MOTION, duly made (Williams), seconded (Andreoli) and carried to accept the Police department's monthly report.

Recreation Committee: Chairwoman Kearney reviewed the recreation committee's monthly report. President Bill Beavers was present to speak about the Community Easter Egg Hunt and ask for a budget

for the Egg Hunt. *ON MOTION*, duly made (Andreoli), seconded (Williams) and carried to give \$700 to the recreation committee for their budget for the Community Easter Egg Hunt. *ON MOTION*, duly made (Willson), seconded (Williams) and carried to accept the Recreation Committee's monthly report.

Sewage Enforcement Officer: Chairwoman Kearney reviewed the monthly sewage enforcement officer's report. A discussion was held on hiring KBA as the alternate Sewage Enforcement officer to handle larger septic projects within the township. This will be discussed at next month's meeting. *ON MOTION*, duly made (Williams), seconded (Andreoli) and carried to accept the Sewage Enforcement Officer's monthly report.

New Business: The Board of Supervisors approved Ordinance #2023-01, an Ordinance Regulating the Construction, Operation, and Decommissioning of Large-scale Solar Electric Energy Facilities at the public hearing held on February 28, 2023. The Board of Supervisors also approved Ordinance #2023-02, an Ordinance to Make Alarm Response More Effective for Police and Fire at the public hearing held earlier this evening.

Old Business: Chairwoman Kearney reported the minutes of December 6, 2023 have previously been approved, however there was a typo that she will fix, otherwise the minutes will remain as approved.

Correspondence: A flyer was received for a course in Community Planning being offered by Lackawanna County. The cost is \$45 pp. The North Pocono Library also sent their monthly newsletter.

Supervisor's Comment: No comments.

Public Comment: Mac Walsh thanked the board for the opportunity to serve on the sewer authority. Fire Chief Brad Jones thanked the zoning office for their work on the Knox Box letters and their assistance with sending the letters out.

Adjournment: *ON MOTION*, duly made (Williams), seconded (Andreoli) and carried to adjourn the meeting at 7:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:
Melissa Kearney, Secretary

Approved:

