

**COVINGTON TOWNSHIP SUPERVISORS
WORK SESSION MEETING
OCTOBER 25, 2022**

The Covington Township Board of Supervisors held their work session on Tuesday, October 25, 2022 at 7 p.m. at the Covington Township Municipal building, Moffat Estate, 20 Moffat Drive, Covington Township, PA 18444.

There were present: Chairwoman Melissa Kearney, Vice Chairwoman Vicki Williams, Supervisor Marshall Peirce, and Attorney Joel Wolff. Supervisors William Willson and Wanda Andreoli were absent. Also present was Chief Robert Bastek.

The work session was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance led by Chairwoman Kearney.

Agenda: Chairwoman Kearney asked that all supervisors review the agenda for next week's meeting.

Announcements: An executive session was held on Monday, October 24, 2022 at 11 a.m. to discuss personnel issues with the budget. Chairwoman Kearney asked Atty. Wolff if the executive sessions that were held during the public hearings needed to be announced. He replied that he didn't believe so because they were announced on the record and that they were about the subject(s) of the public hearings.

Public Comment: No public comment

Minutes: Chairwoman Kearney announced the supervisors were emailed the minutes from the October 4, 2022 meeting. She asked them to review the minutes and let her know of any changes prior to the meeting. The work session and two (2) public hearing minutes will be sent to the supervisors within the next few days.

Treasurer's Report: The treasurer's report will be available for the meeting next week.

Bills: The bill list will be available for the meeting next week.

Administrative Action:

County Comprehensive Plan: Supervisor Peirce explained the county comprehensive plan and how it would be a benefit to the township. He explained Mary Liz Donato, Regional Planning Manager for Lackawanna County, was at the COG meeting and explained the County Comprehensive plan and the advantages of it. There are two advantages of doing it as a group (all North Pocono area excluding Gouldsboro because they are in Wayne County). Item # 1: All townships would save money by doing it as a group. Because we are all in one school district, we would get state money and Lackawanna county money. She said it should cost each township (and Moscow Borough) no more than ten thousand dollars because it is based on your size and population. Item # 2: All of the North Pocono area (excluding Gouldsboro) would then become one when it comes to land development and zoning. By all townships and Moscow Borough becoming one under land development and zoning, we would not have to save land for something if it is already in another township or borough under the comprehensive plan, i.e. library, industrial park, campground, etc. Supervisor Peirce would like to recommend at the meeting that the board move forward with this plan, and then have the board of supervisors and Mary Liz Donato attend the next Planning Commission meeting so she can explain the plan in greater detail to the board and planning commission at the same time. Roz Davis asked if this would help with the Senior Center. Supervisor Peirce said it might.

Repository Land Sales: There are two (2) repository land sales that we will need to vote on at the regular meeting. Both properties are in Eagle Lake, one on Adventure Drive and one on Fiesta Drive.

Update Zoning: Chairwoman Kearney stated that she heard from Jack Veraldy but unfortunately he is no longer accepting new clients. Attorney Wolff recommended Tom Shepstone from Honesdale. Chairwoman Kearney will reach out to him before the next meeting. Supervisor Peirce believes he worked with the township in the past. Chairwoman Kearney stated the secretary from Jefferson Township mentioned they received some names from Mary Liz Donato of Lackawanna County. If Chairwoman Kearney doesn't get anywhere with Tom Shepstone, she will reach out to the county for additional names.

Advertise Budget: The budget was balanced on Monday, October 24, 2022. We will need to have a motion to advertise this at the meeting, so we can adopt at the December meeting.

Planning Commission: No report submitted.

Building Inspector: No report submitted

Zoning Code Enforcement Officer: No report submitted

Engineer: A letter was received from Mary Lou regarding Lot 5 in the Industrial Park. The letter states that the project has been completed and she recommends that we release the remainder of the financial guarantee. Treasurer Patton will be at the office on Monday so Missy will speak with her about this and get the final balance. Supervisor Peirce reported that Mary Lou said the only thing was not completed was the guard shack, but she is not going to hold them to this because the buyer may not want a guard shack.

Solicitor:

LBA update: There is an agreement on the LBA NCC Company XXIII, LLC property (Lot 4) in the Industrial park. A stipulation has not been received yet, but it looks like the fair market value will be Nineteen Million Five Hundred Thousand dollars. Atty. Wolff feels this is a fair number. He is hopeful to have the stipulation by the meeting.

Altemier letter: A check in the amount of Six Thousand Two Hundred Fifty dollars was received and turned over to the township. A letter verifying payment has been drafted and will be sent to Roger Altemier.

Director of Public Works:

Furnace for Recycling Center: A bid was entered for Four Thousand dollars for the replacement of the furnace in the recycling center. This bid was needed for the recycling grant. The furnace has been ordered.

Recycling grant: The recycling grant has been submitted. Joyce Hatala will be here in the middle of November to work on the 904 grant.

Langan Road project: This project is coming along. They have paved one half of the road, the part that has been torn out. They have only put the bottom coat down, not the top coat.

Roadmaster: No report submitted

Moffat Maintenance: No report submitted

Police Department: We will need to have a motion to set the pay rate for part time, per diem officer David Burrier. Chief Bastek announced the Clarks Summit police department has received a grant to replace the computers in their police cars. With this they have decided to donate their old computers to us for use in our police cars. This will make the police officers more aware of what is going on before they receive the call from Comm Center, and it will also allow them to check for warrants, run driver's licenses, registrations, etc. directly from their cars. In the future they may even be able to print citations from the cars. The only expense would be for a data plan to run the computers. Mary will look into the cost of the data plans.

Recreation Committee: Supervisor Williams reported the recreation committee held their re-organizational meeting. There were four members present. She is working on the minutes and will have them for the regular monthly meeting.

Sewage Enforcement Officer: No report submitted

New Business:

Zoning Hearing Board Minutes: The minutes from the ZHB were provided to the supervisors from the April 7, 2022 quarterly meeting.

Zoning Hearing Board Secretary recommendation: A letter was received from the ZHB with the recommendation for a secretary and a few additional items they are requesting. This will be discussed at the regular meeting.

Auditor's report: The auditor's held a meeting on October 24th. The report has not been submitted yet.

Old business:

DCED single audit: Chairwoman Kearney explained there were two proposals received for the single audit because there were two grants at that time, Bocchicchio Blvd. and Moffat Drive. This is something that needs to be completed. The total for the audit is Four Thousand One Hundred Dollars. The accounting firm will have the audit complete by the end of December.

MMO: Chairwoman Kearney stated she will speak with Diana about the MMO on Monday.

Correspondence:

USI Insurance packet: Missy met with Mike Ryan, a representative from USI Insurance to see about getting a quote for our general liability/risk management insurances. She didn't believe worker's compensation was included.

Supervisor's Comments: Supervisor Peirce would like the Board to consider sending a letter to the owners of the property on Hope Drive informing them of the recent activity at the property. The owner of the property lives out of state and may not be aware of what is going on there. Chief Bastek spoke about the "Three Strike Rule". He mentioned that other municipalities have this and it gives the municipality some leverage. Roz Davis asked the nuisance ordinance. Atty. Wolff was unsure if the nuisance ordinance would cover this situation.

Public Comment: Roz Davis questioned the posting of the audit. Chairwoman Kearney stated that she spoke with the auditors and was informed that they did everything that needed to be was completed. Roz commented that the audit needs to be posted. Chairwoman Kearney stated she will speak with them and get the audit from them.

Adjournment: ON MOTION, duly made (Williams), seconded (Peirce) and carried to adjourn the work session at 7:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:
Melissa Kearney, Secretary

Approved:

William John Wilson