

COVINGTON TOWNSHIP SUPERVISORS
MONTHLY MEETING
JULY 6, 2023

The Covington Township Board of Supervisors held their monthly meeting on Thursday, July 6, 2023 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, Supervisor Wanda Andreoli, Supervisor William Willson, and Attorney Joel Wolff.

Also present: Police Chief Robert Bastek, Building Inspector Dave Lamm, Roadmaster Tom Hall engineer Mary Lou Butler, and Treasurer Diana Patton.

Agenda: ON MOTION, duly made (Williams), seconded (Peirce) and carried to add the following to the engineer portion of the agenda and accept the agenda as follows:

- o add Resolution #2023-10 Multimodal grant for Havenstrite Lane and Richland Road
- o Authorize signing of two letters for the Multimodal grant
- o Nammo Pocal approval.

Announcements: There were no announcements.

Public Comment: There were no public comments made.

Minutes: ON MOTION, duly made (Andreoli), seconded (Williams) and carried to accept the minutes of the June 6, 2023 monthly meeting and the June 27, 2023 work session. Supervisor Willson abstained from the vote because he was not present at the meeting or work session.

Bills: Chairwoman Kearney advised at the last meeting a question was raised about the Jack William's tire bill; she confirmed that the bill was for (4) tires for the Ford police vehicle and the purchase was thru a costars supplier. ON MOTION, duly made (Willson), seconded (Andreoli) and carried to pay the bills as presented.

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

Administrative Actions:

Resignation of Bill Beavers, auditor: A resignation letter was received from Bill Beavers as the auditor due to his recent hiring as pavilion manager. The resignation letter was read. ON MOTION, duly made (Andreoli), seconded (Williams) and carried to accept the resignation letter of Bill Beavers as auditor with regret. Supervisor Williams asked if we would advertise the vacancy. A discussion ensued regarding the vacancy and it was decided to put the vacancy on the website only at this time.

Resignation of David Hall, zoning officer: Due to health reasons, David Hall, zoning officer, submitted his letter of resignation letter, which was read by Chairwoman Kearney. ON MOTION, duly made (Willson), seconded (Williams) and carried to accept the resignation of David Hall, with regret.

Appoint Dave Lamm, alternate zoning officer: Chairwoman Kearney advised in the absence of David Hall, Dave Lamm has been handling the permits for the zoning department. She would like to officially appoint him as the alternate zoning officer so he can continue helping the zoning department until we find a new zoning officer. ON MOTION, duly made (Peirce), seconded (Willson) and carried to appoint Dave Lamm as the alternate zoning officer with a payrate of \$27.50 per hour (the same as David Hall).

Zoning officer/Zoning code enforcement officer: Chairwoman Kearney would like to split the zoning positions into (1) zoning officer to handle permits and planning commission questions, items related to zoning and (1) zoning code enforcement officer to handle enforcing the code(s) of the township. A discussion ensued on hiring a company to handle the code enforcement. Atty. Wolff suggested just having a code enforcement officer who can enforce all codes of the township, not just the zoning codes. Missy will contact BHW Construction Consultation Services, Inc to schedule a meeting with them to discuss code enforcement. She will also post the zoning officer position vacancy on the website.

Traffic Study, Center Street: Per PennDOT, it is the township's responsibility to conduct the traffic study for Center Street since it is a township road. A discussion was held for the purpose of conducting the study for traffic count and safety of the road. Questions were raised on posting and bonding the road for weight. Per PennDOT, if the road was posted, we would not need to have a scale to weigh the trucks, we would need to call one of two numbers and they would send a scale to weigh the truck. Chairwoman Kearney stated a meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, July 11th @ 9:00 am with the Posting and Bonding Representative of PennDOT to discuss the townships options. After some discussion, it was decided the township would approve the traffic study, but only after the meeting with PennDOT, in the event more can be done. ON MOTION, duly made (Willson), seconded (Williams), and carried to go forward with the traffic study on Center Street in the amount of \$3,600, but not until after the meeting with PennDOT.

Resolution #2023-08 ~ Road dedication of Constitution Drive and Freedom Way: Per an audit of the roads the township is paid for with Liquid Fuels, it was discovered that Constitution Drive and Freedom Way are not on the list, although the township has been maintaining these roads for the past 18 years. PennDOT requires a resolution or ordinance by the township accepting the roads, along with other items, to add them to the Liquid Fuels list. It appears, after review by the secretary, that a resolution or ordinance has never been adopted. Chairwoman Kearney read Resolution #2023-08. ON MOTION, duly made (Willson), seconded (Williams) and carried to adopt Resolution #2023-08.

Resolution #2023-09 ~ Disposal of Electronic Tape Recordings of Public Meetings of the Board of Supervisors: Resolution #2023-09 allowing for the disposal of Electronic Tape Recordings of Public Meetings after the minutes are approved was read. ON MOTION, duly made (Williams), seconded (Andreoli) and carried to adopt Resolution #2023-09.

Repository Sale of (2) Eagle Lake Properties: ON MOTION, duly made (Willson), seconded (Kearney) and carried to allow the repository sale of the two (2) Eagle Lake properties.

Estimates for repair/teardown of Wind Turbine: Three quotes were received from Storke, LLC. for the wind turbine. The first estimate is to replace the alternator for a total of \$27,000; the second estimate is to replace the alternator and practically replace the wind turbine with a new, more efficient model in the amount of \$50,592, after incentives; the final estimate is to tear down the wind turbine in the amount of \$7,600, with Storke, LLC. offering to purchase any useable parts and leave the scrap metal for the township. A discussion was held on tearing it down and removing the 911 equipment from the turbine. Questions were raised on how much this turbine saved the township in electric use, although it would take hours to review the electric bills of when it was first installed to find the savings, if any. Supervisor Andreoli made a motion to allow Storke, LLC. to tear the wind turbine down, seconded by Supervisor Willson. During the discussion, it was decided that our road crew would be able to tear the turbine down, and Supervisor Willson rescinded his motion. The motion failed due to no second, so Supervisor Andreoli revised her motion. ON MOTION, duly made (Andreoli), seconded (Willson) and carried to allow the road department to tear the wind turbine down.

Planning Commission: Chairwoman Kearney advised the Planning Commission held their work session on June 7th. They were not able to have their regularly scheduled meeting on June 21st because they did not have a quorum, so they had a work session then. It was decided that they would turn their July 5th work session into a meeting and advertised the same. She reviewed the Planning Commission report. They are recommending approval to the Board of Supervisors, including some contingencies, to be discussed with Mary Lou, engineer later in the meeting. ON MOTION, duly made (Williams), seconded (Peirce) and carried to accept the Planning Commission report as submitted.

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

Zoning Code Enforcement Officer: Dave Lamm reported he signed 2 zoning permits in the absence of David Hall.

Engineer: Mary Lou discussed the Multimodal Grant for Havenstrite Lane and Richland Road which is due by July 31st. The total estimated project amount is \$419,698.13 and the amount requested for the grant will be 70% of the total or \$293,788. The balance of \$125,910 will be the township's 30% match. Two letters will need to be authorized for signatures to be submitted for the grant. ON MOTION, duly made (Willson), seconded (Andreoli) and carried to allow the signing of the two letters for the Multimodal grant. Mary Lou Butler read Resolution 2023-10 ~ A Request for a Multimodal Grant in amount of \$293,788 for Havenstrite Lane and Richland Road. ON MOTION, duly made (Andreoli), seconded (Peirce) and carried to adopt Resolution #2023-10. Supervisor Peirce suggested we send a copy of the submitted application to Senator Brown for her review also. Treasurer Patton questioned what budget year this grant will be applied to. It is anticipated to be for the 2024 budget (at the least). Fischer Brothers plans have been dropped off and can be signed, as they were approved by the Board of Supervisors at the April meeting. Nammo Pocal has been recommended by the Planning Commission for approval by the Board of Supervisors. There are a few contingencies due to outside agencies. A discussion was held on approvals with contingencies. ON MOTION, duly made (Peirce), seconded (Willson) and carried to approve the Nammo Pocal plans with contingencies. Mary Lou asked for the board's opinion on whether we should hold off on the bidding for Legg's Road until early next year. She feels that we might get a better price by holding off and there is the potential that it might not get completed this year. It was decided that the board will hold off on the bidding for this project until later in the year, the first of next year. ON MOTION, duly made (Peirce), seconded by (Williams) and carried to accept the Engineer's monthly report as discussed.

Solicitor: Atty. Wolff has started the Developer's agreement for Nammo Pocal, but he needs to verify some additional fees to complete. ON MOTION, duly made (Williams), seconded (Andreoli) and carried to accept the Solicitor's report as submitted.

Director of Public Works: Supervisor Peirce will give Missy the contact number 911 regarding the wind turbine. He also reported that he received notification from DEP that the township has been awarded \$68,070.00 for the 902 grant. A big thank you to all who helped with getting that grant submitted. ON MOTION, duly made (Willson), seconded (Andreoli) and carried to accept the Director of Public Works monthly report as submitted.

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

Moffat Maintenance: Chairwoman Kearney mentioned a complaint came from Kenosky regarding dust when traffic goes up the driveway to the playground. A discussion ensued on the use of calcium to help with the dust problem. Tom Hall has spoken with Jay about this. He will look into using calcium to help with the dust problem.

Police Department: Chief Bastek reviewed his monthly report. He asked that the board authorize the purchase of a bullet proof vest for Destiny Frisbie. ON MOTION, duly made (Peirce), seconded (Willson) and carried to allow the purchase of a bullet proof vest not to exceed \$700 for Destiny Frisbie. Supervisor Willson spoke about the amount of traffic citations the police wrote this past weekend and the fact that some people are saying they will be fighting the tickets. A discussion ensued with Supervisor Willson suggesting the purchase of dash cams. After the discussion, it was decided dash cams were not needed. ON MOTION, duly made (Williams), seconded (Andreoli) and carried to accept the police department's monthly report.

Recreation Committee: Chairwoman Kearney reported the Fishing Derby will be held this Saturday at the Moffat pond from 9am to noon.

Sewage Enforcement Officer: No report.

New Business: None.

Old Business: Missy advised she met with another company about digitizing the office records. She is awaiting the quote on this to compare it to the last quote. Once the quotes are received a decision will be made.

Correspondence: An email was received from the County regarding the County Comprehensive Plan. They will be present at the COG meeting next Wednesday at the Moscow Boro Building to discuss this in further detail. As of right now, we are looking at a cost of around \$10,108.22.

Supervisor Comments: None.

Public Comment: No public comment.

Adjournment: ON MOTION duly made (Williams) seconded (Kearney) and carried to adjourn the meeting at 8:21 pm.

Respectfully submitted:
Melissa Kearney, Secretary

Approved:

