

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

The Covington Township Board of Supervisors held their monthly meeting on Tuesday, November 7, 2023 at 7 p.m. 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 to the Flag.

There were present: Chairwoman/Secretary Melissa Kearney, Vice Chairwoman Vicki Williams, Supervisor Marshall Peirce, Supervisor Wanda Andreoli, and Supervisor William Willson.

Also present: Police Chief Robert Bastek, Building Inspector Dave Lamm, Roadmaster Tom Hall, and engineer Mary Lou Butler. Atty. Wolff arrived late.

Agenda: ON MOTION, duly made (Williams), seconded (Willson) and carried to approve the agenda as presented. During the meeting there were (3) additions to the approved, presented agenda. ON MOTION, duly made (Williams), seconded (Andreoli) and carried to add the authorization to sign the letters for the Statewide LSA grant under Administrative Actions. ON MOTION, duly made (Williams), seconded (Kearney) and carried to add the approval of the Kieselowsky minor subdivision with contingencies under Engineer. ON MOTION, duly made (Kearney), seconded (Williams) and carried to add the approval of the quote for a new dump body for the 2013 F550, if found to be necessary after inspection of the old dump box by DPW Director Peirce and Roadmaster Hall, under DPW Director.

Announcements: Chairwoman Kearney announced an executive session will be held, tomorrow afternoon, November 8th at 3:00 pm to discuss Eagle Lake and personnel (performance raises).

Public Comment: Karen Occhipinti and Jill Sweeney spoke about the speeding and dead trees on Union Mill Road. Chief Bastek advised on the speeding and Roadmaster Hall advised on the dead trees.

Minutes: ON MOTION duly made (Willson), seconded (Andreoli) and carried to accept the minutes of the October 3, 2023 monthly meeting, October 23, 2023 Budget Workshop and the October 31, 2023 work session.

Bills: Chairwoman/Secretary Kearney questioned the bill for the N.P. Library that is listed on the bill list. A letter was received requesting a donation of \$500, but there was no motion to make this donation. It was discussed and the payment was allowed to remain on the bill list with the payment being approved by motion to pay the bills. She also spoke about the bill for the Scranton Plan. She advised this was approved in 2021 when the township committed \$100 per year for the years 2021-2025, however this was missed last year which is why the payment for this year is \$200. ON MOTION, duly made (Willson), seconded (Andreoli) and carried to pay the bills as presented. Chairwoman Kearney approved all bills, but abstained from the bill for herself, for reimbursement from a PSATS class she took.

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

Administrative Actions:

Resolution #2023-14 ~ Statewide LSA grant for Fire Engine: Mary Lou Butler read Resolution #2023-14, requesting a Statewide LSA grant in the amount of 698,762.14 for the purchase of a new Fire Engine. ON MOTION, duly made (Willson), seconded (Andreoli) and carried to adopt Resolution #2023-14. Supervisor Peirce abstained from this vote.

Authorize Signing of Letters for Statewide LSA grant: This item was added to the agenda by motion prior to being voted on (previously mentioned under Agenda). ON MOTION, duly made (Williams), seconded (Andreoli) and carried to authorize the signing of the letters for the Statewide LSA grant.

Resignation of Richard Lanzoni, CTSA: Chairwoman/Secretary Kearney read the resignation letter from Richard Lanzoni of the CTSA. ON MOTION, duly made (Williams), seconded (Peirce) and carried to accept the resignation of Richard Lanzoni.

Advertise Driveway Improvement Ordinance: Chairwoman/Secretary Kearney advised, after speaking with Atty. Wolff, it was decided that an ordinance should be adopted to address any changes to

driveways within the township. It was decided that a hearing be held on Tuesday, November 28, 2023 at 6:30pm prior to the work session, this would allow for enough advertising time. ON MOTION, duly made (Williams), seconded (Peirce) and carried to advertise the public hearing for the consideration of Ordinance #2023-06, Driveway Improvements, for Tuesday, November 28, 2023 at 6:30pm.

Advertise proposed 2024 budget: ON MOTION, duly made (Andreoli), seconded (Williams) and carried to advertise the proposed 2024 budget for adoption at the December meeting. ON THE QUESTION, Supervisor Willson advised there is no tax increase with this proposed budget.

Estimate Ansul system in pavilion: An estimate was received from Safety Services & Consulting to complete the hook up of the Ansul system in the pavilion. A discussion ensued on when this should be completed, with the decision being made that it should be completed as soon as possible. ON MOTION, duly made (Andreoli), seconded (Kearney) and carried to accept the estimate of \$1,076.00 from Safety Services and Consulting.

Planning Commission: The planning commission's monthly report was reviewed. They are recommending approval of Joe Bonacci (Keystone Steel Erectors), lot improvement plans which includes a large addition to the existing building. Mary Lou Butler reviewed the items that are still outstanding. It was decided to table this until next month, allowing for additional time to complete the outstanding items. One other issue the planners spoke about was a sign located outside the Foleywood Development. Zoning Officer Dave Lamm will speak with the zoning secretary about this issue since it has been previously discussed in the zoning department. ON MOTION, duly made (Willson), seconded (Peirce) and carried to accept the Planning Commission's monthly report.

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

Zoning Officer: Dave Lamm reviewed the zoning officer's monthly report. He also reported he attended the zoning hearing board's hearing for the Kost Tire Sign Variance because he originally denied the zoning permit for this sign. He reported the zoning hearing board denied the application for the sign. The applicants have 45 days from the date of the hearing to appeal the decision. Supervisor Andreoli questioned the Florida rooms being allowed in Eagle Lake. ON MOTION duly made (Peirce), seconded (Williams) and carried to accept the zoning officer's report.

Code Enforcement Officer: Chairwoman/Secretary Kearney advised there was no report received. She advised that she reached out to the zoning code enforcement officer reminding him of the need for the monthly report but received no replies. A brief discussion ensued on how to rectify this issue. A hearing will be held on Tuesday, November 14th to consider adopting a Property Maintenance Code.

Engineer: Mary Lou Butler spoke about the Kieselowsky minor subdivision and advised that back in September, the planning commission recommended approval of the minor subdivision to the board of supervisors with contingencies. She also advised that they have completed most contingencies with the only remaining items being approval from the Lackawanna County Planning and the sewer planning modules. A discussion ensued and prior to the motion being taken, a motion was made amending the agenda to add the approval of the Kieselowsky minor subdivision (previously mentioned under Agenda). ON MOTION, duly made (Peirce), seconded (Willson) and carried to approve the Kieselowsky minor subdivision plans with the contingencies of the Lackawanna Planning Commission approval and receipt of the sewer modules. Mary Lou will keep track of the status of the contingencies. She also reported on the Nammo Pocal plans, advising that they are moving forward with their process. Chairwoman/Secretary Kearney informed Mary Lou there will be a meeting with PennDOT held on November 15th at 10:00 am, to discuss Road Bonding and Posting. ON MOTION, duly made (Williams), seconded (Andreoli) and carried to accept the Engineer's monthly report.

Director of Public Works: DPW Director Peirce explained the wing plow is being installed on the 2013 F550 at Powell's Sales and Service. Powell's called him to inform him the dump box is rusted and needs to be replaced. An estimate was received in the amount of \$14,096.40 to replace the dump box. A discussion ensued on repairing vs replacing the dump box. ON MOTION, duly made (Willson), seconded

(Andreoli) and carried to allow DPW Director Peirce and Roadmaster Hall to make the decision to inspect the dump box and accept the estimate received. Before this motion was made, a motion was passed to amend the agenda (previously mentioned under Agenda). Chairwoman/Secretary Kearney gave an update on the Road Department truck informing everyone that it will be approximately one more month before we see it. She advised the salesman told her that they are waiting on the wiring harness to come in as this part was changed for the 2024 trucks and they were not made aware. ON MOTION, duly made (Williams), seconded (Kearney) and carried to accept the DPW Director's monthly report as submitted.

Roadmaster: Roadmaster Hall reviewed his monthly report. Vice-Chairwoman Williams questioned the status of a washout she reported on Center Street. Roadmaster Hall reported it is being taken care of. ON MOTION, duly made (Peirce), seconded (Willson) and carried to accept the Roadmaster's monthly report.

Moffat Maintenance: No report received. Chairwoman/Secretary Kearney reported the pictures that have been hung in the meeting room.

Police Department: Police chief Bastek reviewed his monthly report. ON MOTION, duly made (Williams), seconded (Peirce) and carried to accept the police department's monthly report.

Recreation Committee: Chairwoman/Secretary Kearney reported the recreation committee held their monthly meeting in October. The annual Christmas at the Mansion event will be held on Saturday, December 9th and Sunday, December 10th from 12:00 noon until 3:00 pm both days. There is also a Holiday Tea scheduled for Sunday, January 7th. The details are still evolving for both events, but she is asking for a total budget of \$1,500 to be used on both events. ON MOTION, duly made (Williams), seconded (Andreoli) and carried to allow a budget of \$1,500 for the Christmas at the Mansion event and the Holiday Tea. ON MOTION, duly made (Peirce), seconded (Andreoli) and carried to accept the recreation committee's monthly report.

Sewage Enforcement Officer: Chairwoman/Secretary Kearney reviewed the monthly report. It was reported that the Sewage Enforcement Officer may be taking one resident to the magistrate for non-compliance. ON MOTION, duly made (Willson), seconded (Peirce) and carried to accept the Sewage Enforcement Officer's monthly report.

Solicitor: Atty. Wolff reported the lease has been drafted for the wind turbine (tower) with the county. The term of the lease is 50 years, and they will be repairing and maintaining the wind turbine for the duration of the lease. Chairwoman/Secretary Kearney emailed and spoke with Storke, Inc. to confirm he estimate has not changed, but she did not hear anything further. Atty. Wolff advised that he spoke with the solicitor for the county to make him aware of any cost changes and our attempt at confirming the cost. ON MOTION, duly made (Kearney), seconded (Williams) and carried to sign the lease with the county for the wind turbine. ON MOTION, duly made (Peirce), seconded (Williams) and carried to accept the solicitor's monthly report.

New Business:

Dual Use Roads (ATV/Automobile): A discussion on this was held at the work session. The police department provided the Board of Supervisors a list of roads they felt would be ok with making a dual use road. Chairwoman Kearney advised this was placed on the agenda to keep the conversation going.

In-Service Distribution: Chairwoman/Secretary Kearney advised this is a plan that would allow a retired employee to return to work with the township, part time (no benefits) if the BOS were to allow this. She advised a cost study would need to be completed to see what the additional cost would be and that she believed this could be done for both uniform and non-uniform employees. There is no cost for the cost study. A discussion ensued. It was decided that the cost study should be completed.

Old Business:

Independence Ridge Roads: This was placed on the agenda as Union Mills Roads when it

should have been “Independence Ridge Roads.” The roads in Independence Ridge have now been included in the township’s liquid fuels inventory. This increases the township’s liquid fuels mileage by 0.69 miles making the total liquid fuels mileage 25.89.

Knox Box Update: Fire Chief Brad Jones announced at the work session last week that there are 8 businesses that are non-compliant. He was advised that any violations will have to go before the magistrate.

Correspondence: Lackawanna County will be holding a Household Hazardous Waste Disposal Event on November 10th and 11th. Pre-registration is required. PennDOT advised that SR 435 Southbound at the Elmhurst Exit will be closed for a total of 332 days beginning on November 27th.

Supervisor’s Comments: Chairwoman/Secretary Kearney announced the (2) hearings that will be held on Tuesday, November 14th beginning at 6:30 pm to consider the adoption of (2) separate ordinances. The Emergency Response Payment Reimbursement ordinance will begin at 6:30 pm with the Covington Township Property Maintenance Ordinance beginning immediately following.

Public Comment: No public comment.

Adjournment: ON MOTION duly made (Williams) seconded (Andreoli) and carried to adjourn the meeting at 8:14 pm.

Respectfully submitted:
Melissa Kearney, Secretary

Approved: 12-5-2023

