

**COVINGTON TOWNSHIP SUPERVISORS
PUBLIC HEARING ~ ORDINANCE 2023-06
NOVEMBER 28, 2023 at 6:30 p.m.**

The Covington Township Board of Supervisors held a public hearing on Tuesday, November 28, 2023 at the Covington Township Municipal building, Moffat Estate, 20 Moffat Drive, Covington Township, PA 18444 for the purpose of considering Ordinance #2023-06, An Ordinance to Amend the Driveway Permits Ordinance (Ordinance #2012-03) to Require Permit(s) When Property Owners are Improving an Existing Driveway.

There were present: Chairwoman Melissa Kearney, Vice Chairwoman Vicki Williams, Supervisor Marshall Peirce, Supervisor William Willson (arrived late), Attorney Joel Wolff, and stenographer Michelle Smolskis.

Absent: Supervisor Wanda Andreoli.

Chairwoman Kearney opened the hearing with the Pledge of Allegiance and then turned the hearing over to Attorney Wolff.

Exhibits:

Township #1: Proof of notice sent to The Scranton Times for the legal advertisement along with a full text copy of the proposed ordinance for public review.

Township #2: Affidavit of publication on November 10, 2023 in The Scranton Times.

Township #3: Public Notice posted on front door of Municipal Office.

Township #4: Proposed Ordinance #2023-06.

Supervisor's Comment: There were no Supervisor comments at this time.

Public Comment: Brian Yeager, resident of the township, was sworn in and commented that he feels the ordinance is too broad. He also feels that the township does not have the authority to do this under the Pennsylvania Unconsolidated Statutes. Supervisor Peirce asked Atty. Yeager to read a portion of the current Ordinance (#2012-03). A discussion ensued. Roz Davis, resident of the township, was sworn in and also commented that she felt the proposed Ordinance is too broad.

Executive Session called: Chairwoman Kearney called for a 15-minute executive session so the Supervisors could discuss the concerns raised.

Vote: After returning from the executive session, the hearing was recalled. Chairwoman Kearney called for a roll call vote for Ordinance #2023-06. Chairwoman Kearney, no; Vice-Chairwoman Williams, no; Supervisor Willson, no; Supervisor Peirce, no. The Ordinance did not pass.

Adjournment: On motion duly made (Williams), seconded (Willson) and carried to adjourn at 6:53 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:
Melissa Kearney, Secretary

Approved:



This is not the official record of the public hearing. The stenographer's record is the official record of this hearing.

**COVINGTON TOWNSHIP SUPERVISORS
MONTHLY WORK SESSION
NOVEMBER 28, 2023**

The Covington Township Board of Supervisors held their monthly work session on Tuesday, November 28, 2023 at 7 p.m. at the Covington Township Municipal building, Moffat Estate, 20 Moffat Drive, Covington Township, PA 18444.

There were present: Chairwoman/Secretary Melissa Kearney, Vice Chairwoman Vicki Williams, Supervisor/DPW Director Marshall Peirce, Supervisor William Willson, and Attorney Joel Wolff.

Also present: Police Chief Robert Bastek

Absent: Supervisor Wanda Andreoli

Agenda: There were no changes to the agenda.

Announcements: An executive session was held during the public hearing, held earlier this evening, to discuss the concerns raised by the residents regarding the proposed Ordinance #2023-06.

Public Comment: Roz Davis questioned the Emergency Response Payment Reimbursement Ordinance asking for further clarification of the charges. A discussion ensued.

Minutes: The minutes of the November 7, 2023 monthly meeting, the Public Hearing held for Ordinance #2023-04, and the Public Hearing held for Ordinance #2023-05 were given to the Board of Supervisors for review.

Bills: The bill list will be available at next week's monthly meeting.

Treasurer's Report: The treasurer's report will be available at next week's monthly meeting.

Administrative Actions:

Resolution 2023-15, Adopt 2024 Budget: The 2024 proposed budget has been advertised and a resolution will be adopted if the proposed budget is to be approved at next week's meeting.

Resolution 2023-16, Set Tax Rate for 2024: This resolution states the tax rate for 2024. This will be adopted at next week's meeting, if the proposed budget is adopted.

Resolution 2023-17, Authorize Participation w/commitment of funds for County

Comprehensive Plan: This resolution will need to be adopted by the end of the year, to participate in the county comprehensive plan.

Advertise Reorganization Meeting dates of auditors and boards: Secretary Kearney would like to advertise the reorganization meeting dates. She stated she advertised the reorganization date for the Board of Supervisors at the beginning of the year, but she would like to readvertise this date along with the January monthly meeting and the reorganization dates of the auditors, planning commission, recreation committee and the zoning hearing board.

Sign contract for Bailor Road grant in the amount of \$79,250.00: The contract was received for the grant for Bailor Road. This will need a motion to allow for the signing of the contract for the grant.

Land Bank (1) Eagle Lake property: The land bank would like to acquire a property within Eagle Lake, on Bald Eagle Lane. The intended use of this property is recreational.

Planning Commission: The monthly report of the planning commission has been received. They are recommending approval of (2) projects: Santini/Black land subdivision project, located on Old Schoolhouse Road, and the Davailus sand pit subdivision project, located off Jubilee Road. George Parker was present to discuss the 2 projects in further detail. He explained the reason for the 2 names (Santini/Black) is that Black is the name on the deed of the property and Santini is the widow of Black. This subdivision will be deeded by annexation to the larger property that it is attached to. Roz Davis questioned where on Old Schoolhouse Road the properties are located. The Davailus project will be subdividing the sandpit property into three (3) parcels. Supervisor Peirce asked if the planning commission had any comments. George explained the questions raised by the planning commission and the results thereof.

Building Inspector: No report received prior to the work session.

Zoning Officer: No report received prior to the work session.

Code Enforcement Officer: No report received prior to the work session.

Engineer: No report received prior to the work session.

Solicitor: No report.

Director of Public Works: The road department is working on getting the plow trucks inspected and ready for the winter. At the last meeting, it was approved to purchase a new dump box for the F550. After looking at the current dump box, it was decided that the road department could repair the current dump box for much less money, so that is being handled now. Supervisor Peirce asked Secretary Kearney if she called around for prices of anti-skid. She had not but will take care of it tomorrow. The Board of Supervisors will be meeting with the road crew sometime in December. Supervisor Peirce also mentioned there has been some work being completed in the basement of the Dance Studio. He will also be reaching out to the contact person of the Little League to discuss the field situation. Supervisor Willson also commented on the North Pocono Youth Soccer League.

Roadmaster: No report received prior to the work session.

Moffat Maintenance: No report.

Police Department: Chief Bastek advised that he will have his report next week.

Recreation Committee: Chairwoman Kearney mentioned the Christmas event at the mansion, will be held this weekend from 12-3 on Saturday & Sunday.

Sewage Enforcement Officer: Chairwoman/Secretary Kearney advised that KBA will be taking one resident to the magistrate for noncompliance.

New Business:

Discuss Repealing Amusement Tax Ordinance: Chairwoman/Secretary Kearney stated she put this on the agenda to begin the conversation of repealing Ordinance #2005-01. This was brought to her attention last year and she was advised by Jennifer of DCED, that the township should repeal this Ordinance since the township has never collected an Amusement Tax. It was discussed that this ordinance was put in place because of the Grandview but that no taxes were ever received. A public hearing date will need to be set to adopt an ordinance to repeal the original ordinance.

Discuss Ordinance for Posting and Bonding of Township Roads: Chairwoman/Secretary Kearney and Supervisor/DPW Director Peirce met with a representative from PennDOT who gave them information on how the township can start the process of Posting and Bonding the Township Roads. Traffic studies will need to be conducted, but this is something that can be done in increments. A brief discussion ensued on reasons of why all roads within the township should be posted and bonded. Roz Davis asked the meaning of Posting and Bonding Roads.

Old Business: A discussion was held about cloud storage and the original quote received from Reynolds Business Systems for Laserfiche document storage and management. The Laserfiche document storage and management will also allow for electronic permit filing without any additional costs. The cost of this program is more than the standard cloud storage but offers more services.

Correspondence:

Renewal for Employee Health Insurance: The renewal for the township employee healthcare has been received and will be increasing for 2024. It will increase by \$39.81 per month for individual coverage and \$109.14 per month for family coverage.

COG Rate for Heating Fuel: The quote for the COG price for heating fuel is rack price plus \$.04.

PennDOT letter re: SR 435 Southbound closing: SR 435 Southbound will be closed starting on Thursday, November 30th for approximately 1 year.

Thank you from North Pocono Library: A thank you letter was received from the North Pocono Library for our donation of \$500.00

Supervisor Comments: Chairwoman/Secretary Kearney reminded the Board of Supervisors of the invitation for the Jefferson Township Police Department ribbon cutting which will be held tomorrow, November 29th at 3:00pm at their new police department.

Public Comment: No public comment.

Adjournment: ON MOTION duly made (Williams) seconded (Willson) and carried to adjourn the work session at 7:48 pm.

Respectfully submitted:
Melissa Kearney, Secretary

Approved:

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Wanda R. Andrus". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the "Approved:" text.