

COVINGTON TOWNSHIP SUPERVISORS
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
FEBRUARY 6, 2024

The Covington Township Board of Supervisors held their regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, February 6, 2024 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, Supervisor Wanda Andreoli, Supervisor/DPW Director Marshall Peirce, Supervisor William Willson, and Attorney Joel Wolff.

Also present were: Officer Destiny Frisbie, Building Inspector David Lamm, Roadmaster Tom Hall and Engineer Mary Lou Butler.

Absent: Vice-Chairwoman Vicki Williams.

Agenda: ON MOTION, duly made (Andreoli), seconded (Peirce) and carried to accept the agenda as presented.

Announcements: An executive session was held earlier this evening to discuss the police department.

Public Comment: Norm Hoover, a resident of Dorantown Road, voiced concerns over the increased traffic on Dorantown Road and cars running the school bus stops. He asked that "school bus stop" signs be placed at the Route 435 entrance to Dorantown Road and the Route 307 entrance to Dorantown Road. He stated numerous cars are running the red lights of the school buses. This is a state road, so the secretary will reach out to PennDOT to see what can be done about getting these signs erected. We may need to involve the school district for this situation also.

Minutes: ON MOTION, duly made (Andreoli), seconded (Willson) and carried to accept the minutes of the January 9, 2024 regular meeting and the January 30, 2024 work session as presented.

Bills: Supervisor/DPW Director Peirce advised that Roadmaster Hall has a concern over the Eureka Stone Quarry bills and recommended holding the Eureka Stone Quarry bills until the Roadmaster has a chance to review them. Supervisor Willson questioned the electric bills for the dance studio; Chairwoman/Secretary Kearney reported they are being paid. ON MOTION, duly made (Kearney), seconded (Andreoli) and carried to pay the bills as presented, including the Eureka Stone Quarry bills if ok'd by the Roadmaster after review.

Treasurer's Report: Chairwoman/Secretary Kearney reported the monies that are remaining in the ARPA account will need to be spent or allocated to a project, under contract, by the end of the year. ON MOTION, duly made (Peirce), seconded (Andreoli) and carried to accept the Treasurer's report as presented.

Administrative Actions:

Keystone Steel Fabricators Land Development: Joe Bonacci, Keystone Steel Fabricators presented revised maps for their project at 308 Drinker Turnpike. Mary Lou Butler showed how the storm water drainage has been changed to keep the stormwater on the property of Keystone Steel Fabricators. She feels this is adequate and advises all other contingencies, except the sewer, have been addressed. Mr. Bonacci showed the Supervisors the revised plans showing where the new building will be placed and explained where and how the septic system is laid out. John Mandarano and Dave Lamereaux of KBA Engineering were present to review the plans and ask questions of Mr. Bonacci. A discussion ensued. Upon completion of the discussion, Mr. Bonacci has agreed to replace the septic tank, and advise KBA of any issues that may be discovered once construction begins. No certificate of occupancy will be issued unless any, and all issues are resolved and approved. ON MOTION, duly made (Andreoli), seconded (Peirce) and carried to approve and sign the plans for the land development of Keystone Steel Fabricators.

Approve purchase of V-Cloud storage: Treasurer Patton is asking for the purchase of V-Cloud storage for the township computers. This is cloud storage which will allow for the additional backup of the township computers for three (3) users and will also allow for remote access. The cost of the plan is \$80 per month. Chairwoman/Secretary Kearney advised this is separate from the Laserfiche document

storage she is pursuing for the document scanning project. ON MOTION, duly made (Kearney), seconded (Andreoli) and carried to purchase V-Cloud for the township computers.

Approve purchase of shredder: A recycling grant was awarded which included the purchase of an industrial shredder for the recycling center. Due to the cost of the shredders, and not being received through Costars, three (3) written and/or telephone quotes have been received. The quotes are as follows: \$17,638 for a Kobra shredder, (this quote is from October, so it may be outdated); \$17,368.75 for a Kobra shredder; and \$14,857.97 for a Whittaker shredder. Secretary Kearney advised she is waiting on one more quote. ON MOTION, duly made (Peirce), seconded (Andreoli) and carried to approve the review of the three (3) or four (4) quotes and purchase of the shredder.

Advertise for Police Chief: ON MOTION, duly made (Kearney), seconded (Andreoli) and carried to advertise for a police chief. Chairwoman/Secretary Kearney will create an ad for police chief and send it to the paper for advertisement along with posting it on the website and the front door of the mansion. She will also look into other areas to advertise since there haven't been many applications received for the Roadmaster position.

Planning Commission: Nothing to report.

Building Inspector: David Lamm reviewed his monthly report. ON MOTION, duly made (Andreoli), seconded (Willson) and carried to accept the building inspectors monthly report.

Zoning Code Enforcement Officer: No report. Chairwoman/Secretary Kearney spoke with Attorney William Jones who will submit a commitment letter with a rate of \$185.00 per hour. ON MOTION, duly made (Willson), seconded (Andreoli) and carried to hire Attorney William Jones as the Zoning Code Enforcement Officer's attorney.

Engineer: Mary Lou Butler has been working on the Legg's Road and Bailor Road projects; she is anticipating having them ready within the next couple of weeks and is asking for the board's approval to advertise when ready. ON MOTION, duly made (Peirce), seconded (Andreoli) and carried to allow the engineer to advertise the Bailor Road project for bid. ON MOTION, duly made (Willson), seconded (Andreoli) and carried to allow the engineer to advertise the Legg's Road project for bid. The engineer will review the dates for opening with the Chairwoman prior to advertising. She will also review the Bailor road project with the DPW Director and the Roadmaster prior to advertisement.

Release of construction bond for MDH F2 PA First Avenue Owner: The only contingency remaining on this construction bond was the Notice of Termination for the NPDES permit. Mary Lou had a concern with road erosion and wanted to be sure this was not due to this project, so when the company asked for a release of the construction bond, 10% was held until the Notice of Termination was received for the NPDES permit. This Notice of Termination has since been received. The developer will need to submit a letter to the township requesting the release of the balance of the construction bond.

Mary Lou mentioned she spoke with the traffic engineer about the traffic study being requested by PennDOT for posting and bonding of the township roads. Chairwoman/Secretary Kearney will forward the PennDOT traffic study requirements to Mary Lou to see exactly what is necessary and if her traffic engineer is willing to complete the requested study.

Supervisor Andreoli questioned the flooding of Route 435 above Nammo Pocal. It was discussed that this issue had been taken care of, although Supervisor Andreoli reported she had recent complaints about it. She was asked to notify Mary Lou when she receives a call so she (Mary Lou) can investigate. ON MOTION, duly made (Andreoli), seconded (Peirce) and carried to accept the engineer's monthly report.

Solicitor:

Veneski Tax Appeal: An agreement has been reached between the Veneski's and the county and school district with a new assessed value of \$52,500. Attorney Wolff is asking for permission to sign on behalf of the township accepting this new assessment. ON MOTION, duly made (Peirce), seconded

(Andreoli) and carried to allow Attorney Wolff to sign the acceptance documents on behalf of the township.

SADG III tax appeal: This appeal is for the Rite Aid property and has been around for almost 4 years. The school district and the county would like to have an appraisal done for this property. The cost of the appraisal will be split three (3) ways with the school district paying 50%, the county paying 25% and the remaining 25% being paid by the township. ON MOTION, duly made (Andreoli), seconded (Willson) and carried to allow payment up to \$2,500 for the appraisal of the SADG III property.

A.M. Hughes Blvd repair: Chairwoman/Secretary Kearney reported that a pond, located on private property outside of Eagle Lake, breached its walls and flooded A.M. Hughes Blvd and undermined the road. Our road department spent almost here (3) full days, with the assistance of Eagle Lake workers and machines, to repair the road. A letter will need to be sent to the property owner notifying them of the pond breach and damage as it will be their responsibility for reimbursement to the township and Eagle Lake. Chairwoman/Secretary Kearney has an email into Paula Perry at Eagle Lake to get their expenses and once received she will forward this information to Attorney Wolff.

Freytown/Lehigh Road: PP&L Electric is installing a new pole line near the substation located on Freytown Road, and has been having large trucks haul materials in therefore damaging Freytown Road. Freytown Road has been closed since January 26th due to the damage. Chairwoman/Secretary Kearney has been in touch with a representative of PP&L Electric who oversees the substation on Freytown to alert him of the problem. They have been bringing stones in to attempt to fix Freytown Road, but since this road has been closed, Lehigh Road is now being utilized and is being damaged due to the increased traffic. A brief discussion ensued. This will be discussed at a later meeting when the weather is warmer and a permanent fix can be applied. ON MOTION, duly made (Willson), seconded (Andreoli) and carried to accept the Solicitor's monthly report.

Director of Public Works: Nothing further to report.

Roadmaster: Tom Hall, reviewed his monthly report. Chairwoman/Secretary Kearney advised the position of Roadmaster is still being advertised on Monster.com, at Shoprite, on the website and township front door. Two (2) qualified applications have been received to date, so she will be scheduling the interviews in the next week. ON MOTION, duly made (Peirce), seconded (Andreoli) and carried to accept the Roadmaster's monthly report.

Moffat Maintenance: No report was submitted.

Police Department: The monthly report was reviewed; Officer Frisbie reported there was one (1) theft for the month of January that was forgotten in the report. The quote for the police radio(s) was reviewed. ON MOTION, duly made (Willson), seconded (Andreoli) and carried, 3-0-1 to purchase four (4) police radios with remote speaker microphones in the amount of \$5,929.60. Supervisor Peirce abstained from the vote. A brief discussion was held on the Vascar training to be held on March 7th. ON MOTION, duly made (Willson), seconded (Andreoli) and carried to allow Officer Bastek, Jr., and Officer Frisbie to attend Vascar training at a rate of \$185 per person. At the work session held on January 30th, a discussion was held on purchasing stop signs for when there is a power outage at certain intersections within the township. This will be tabled until further information is received. ON MOTION duly made (Willson), seconded (Andreoli) and carried to accept the police department's monthly report.

Recreation Committee: Chairwoman/Secretary Kearney reviewed the report from the re-organization meeting. The recreation committee would like to appoint two (2) new members and change their monthly meeting day and time to the second (2nd) Wednesday of each month at 5:00 pm. The new meeting day and time will need to be advertised. They are planning a High Tea event to be held on April 20th, flyers are available for advertising. ON MOTION, duly made (Andreoli), seconded (Peirce) and carried to appoint Brandy Krzan and Moriah McCracken to the Recreation committee. ON MOTION, duly made (Kearney), seconded (Andreoli) and carried to advertise the meeting day and time change for the recreation

committee. *ON MOTION*, duly made (Andreoli), seconded (Willson) and carried to accept the recreation committee monthly report.

Sewage Enforcement Officer: *The Sewage Enforcement officer report was reviewed. Earlier in the meeting, Dave Lamereaux, of KBA, asked if there was any way to prove that a home is being occupied. A discussion ensued questioning how occupancy can be determined. Some suggestions were: a certificate of occupancy, utility bills, or school district attendance.*

Mary Lou Butler questioned the status of the Davailus Sand Pit project and sewer module. Chairwoman/Secretary Kearney advised she emailed a copy of the sewer module to KBA when she received it and then she hand-delivered the originals, with the check, to Dave Lamereaux on January 31st. Mary Lou advised the plans can now be signed by the board. A brief discussion then ensued on the Nammo Pocal project. ON MOTION duly made (Willson), seconded (Andreoli) and carried to accept the Sewage Enforcement Officer's monthly report.

New Business: *None.*

Old Business: *None.*

Correspondence: *Chairwoman/Secretary Kearney advised Roadmaster Hall that an email was received complimenting the road department on keeping A.M. Hughes Blvd clear of snow and ice.*

Supervisor Comments: *None.*

Public Comment: *None.*

Adjournment: *ON MOTION duly made (Willson) seconded (Kearney) and carried to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 pm.*

*Respectfully submitted:
Melissa Kearney, Secretary*

Approved: 3-5-2024

Wanda Andreoli