

**COVINGTON TOWNSHIP SUPERVISORS
MONTHLY WORK SESSION
MARCH 26, 2024**

The Covington Township Board of Supervisors held their monthly work session on Tuesday, March 26, 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, Vice Chairwoman Vicki Williams, Supervisor/DPW Director Marshall Peirce, and Attorney Samantha Hazen.

Also present were: Mary Lou Butler, Engineer, Officer Robert Bastek, Jr.

Absent: Supervisor Wanda Andreoli, Supervisor William Willson, and Attorney Joel Wolff were absent.

Agenda: The agenda was accepted as presented.

Announcements: An executive session was held earlier this evening at 6:30pm to discuss personnel, hiring and discipline.

Public Comment: William and Barbara Havenstrite of Center Street commented on the increased truck traffic going to the lumber yard owned by Tanfield Lumber and Veneer. She is concerned for the safety of the residents on Center Street along with the deteriorating condition of Center Street due to the increased truck traffic. Baillie Lumber and Wagner Lumber are renting the property from the Tanfield family and have expanded their operations at the lumber yard because they have closed their location in Clifton Township, so all lumber is coming into the Center Street yard. A lengthy discussion was held on how this should be addressed. Mrs. Havenstrite also commented on a large hole that has opened in front of her daughter's home, and a home-based business being operated on Center Street, questioning the permitting of home-based businesses within the township. Al Dixon, of Jubilee Road, commented on the use of "jake brakes" coming down from Center Street to Jubilee Road. A brief discussion was held on why the township could not prohibit the use of "jake brakes". The Board of Supervisors will look into possible solutions for the issues on Center Street including the hours of operation. Supervisor/DPW Director Peirce advised that the roadmaster and Officer Frisbie spoke with the operators of Baillie Lumber about keeping Center Street clear of mud from the trucks that are exiting the lumber yard. Later in the evening, it was reported that Baillie/Wagner Lumber are loading trucks to prepare them for trucks to pick them up in the middle of the evening.

Minutes: Chairwoman/Secretary Kearney asked all board members to review the draft monthly meeting minutes of March 5, 2024, and let her know of any revisions or corrections prior to the meeting.

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

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

Administrative Actions:

Open bids for Legg's Road: Chairwoman/Secretary Kearney opened and read the bids as follows: H&K Group, Inc. base bid \$187,070.45; American Asphalt base bid \$127,125.00; New Enterprise Stone and Lime Co., Inc. \$147,180.00; Pennsy Supply, Inc. \$125,957.50; Fehlinger Construction Group, LLC. \$181,740.00; Wayco, Inc. \$116,967.50; Pioneer Construction Company, Inc. \$169,694.00; and Kobalt Construction, Inc. \$165,200.00. All bidders have proposed a 10% bid bond. She reported the winning bid will be awarded next week giving Mary Lou time to review the bids.

Open bids for Bailor Road: Engineer Butler advised that she added an alternate bid for this project to allow for additional base and shoulder work. She also advised that the Conservation District may have additional monies for this project, so after the bid is awarded, she will reach out.

Chairwoman/Secretary Kearney opened and read the bids as follows: H&K Group, Inc. base bid \$103,756.18, alternate bid \$148,153.18; American Asphalt base bid \$95,270.00, alternate bid \$141,470.00; New Enterprise Stone and Lime Co., Inc. base bid \$114,458.75, alternate bid \$161,225.00; Pennsy Supply, Inc. base bid \$78,263.50, alternate bid \$124,923.50; Fehlinger Construction Group, LLC.

base bid \$121,446.50, alternate bid \$153,746.50; Wayco, Inc. base bid \$73,973.75, alternate bid \$112,175.00; Joseph Blacktopping, LLC. base bid \$98,873.75, alternate bid \$142,271.75; Pioneer Construction Company, Inc. base bid \$129,564.75, alternate bid \$201,486.50; and Kobalt Construction, Inc. \$99,570.00, alternate bid \$169,320.00. All bidders have proposed a 10% bid bond. This will be awarded at next week's monthly meeting to allow Mary Lou time to review all bids.

Sell Safe and Varidesk: Chairwoman/Secretary Kearney advised she will be asking the board of Supervisors for permission to sell the safe which currently houses the tax collector payments and (1) Varidesk that is no longer being used. The tax collector has obtained a post office box so payments will no longer be coming to the township office.

Full-time Road workers: Interviews have been held for full-time road workers. There were (2) candidates that were being considered, (1) with a CDL license and (1) without. The CDL candidate has decided to remain with his current employer, but the non-CDL candidate has accepted an offer of employment with the township, so this will be voted on at the meeting next week. The candidate is Arthur Alt, Jr. who has worked with the township, part-time, in the past.

Full-time police chief: Interviews were held for the position of full-time police chief. A total of (4) candidates were interviewed, and a decision is pending. The board will reach out to the chosen candidate and if accepted, this will also be voted on at the meeting.

Legg's Subdivision: Chairwoman/Secretary Kearney explained this minor subdivision had previously been approved by both the planning commission and the board of supervisors back in 2018. The maps had been signed, however, the property owners failed to have the maps recorded in the time allotted with the county, so they are looking for new signatures. They were advised to present, once again, to the planning commission for their recommendation. Mary Lou advised she reviewed the "new map" and her file from 2018 and everything was the same. She stated the planning commission is recommending approval. This will be voted on by the board at the meeting next week. Chairwoman/Secretary Kearney advised no additional fees were charged to the property owners for this resubmission.

Quote for recycling signs: A quote was received for the new signs for the recycling center. Monies have been awarded through the recycling grant for the purchase of the new signs. This will be discussed and potentially voted on at next week's meeting.

Quote for recycling gate: A quote was also received for a new gate for the recycling center. Monies have been awarded for this gate through the recycling grant. This gate will include remote transmitters along with a keypad entrance.

Planning Commission: Mary Lou Butler mentioned the planning commission has recommended the Beavers minor subdivision. She also commented on the parking reduction for the Dollar General/Auto Zone project. It has been reported that the planning commission is recommending approval of the reduction and Chairwoman/Secretary Kearney advised a letter has been received by the ZCEO also recommending approval of the reduction. She also reported there will be a class teaching the roles of a planning commission. Chairwoman/Secretary Kearney will be taking this class and will ask when the 90-day timeline begins for the submission of an application as there is still some controversy on when it begins. A brief discussion ensued on when the 90-day started for the Dollar General/Auto Zone project and asking them for an extension of this.

Building Inspector: The report will be available at next week's meeting.

Zoning Code Enforcement Officer: The report will be available at next week's meeting.

Engineer: The report will be available at next week's meeting.

Solicitor: Nothing to report.

Director of Public Works: Supervisor/DPW Director Peirce announced that the road crew has been working on Legg's Road and Bailor Road to prepare for the road project. He cannot recall any other time where the road department was working on rebuilding roads in February and March.

Roadmaster: The roadmaster's report will be available next week.

Moffat Maintenance: No report. Chairwoman/Secretary Kearney reported the back office has been painted.

Police Department: The report will be available at next month's meeting.

Recreation Committee: The recreation committee report has been received and will be reviewed next week.

Sewage Enforcement Officer: The report will be available at next week's meeting.

New Business:

NexTrex Grassroots Recycling Program: The township has recently been approved to participate in the NexTrex Grassroots Recycling Program. This recycling program will allow the township to begin collecting plastic bags for recycling. The township will receive \$0.14 per pound for the plastic. Also, Recycling Coordinator, Dawn Coco, has recently attended a training class on the recycling grant and reported that participants of the class commented on the township purchasing a shredder for recycling purposes. She also reported that the county will soon begin recycling Keurig K-cups and once the containers are received to begin collecting the K-cups, the township will receive them. The cups do not need to be emptied or rinsed.

Old Business: No old business.

Correspondence: A letter of interest was received from Jonathan Swartz for the vacancy on the Sewer Authority Board. The letter from Miller Bros. Construction regarding the parking reduction for the Dollar General/Auto Zone project was discussed earlier in the work session. Lackawanna County will be hosting a class titled "The Course in Zoning". A letter was also received from the County informing the township that they will be participating in the C-PACE program.

Supervisor Comments: Chairwoman/Secretary Kearney advised she received a call from Senator Rosemary Brown on Monday who informed her that she (Senator Brown) has made her recommendations and, barring any issues at the Multi-Modal committee meeting being held early today, the township will be receiving \$292,516.00 for the milling and paving of Havenstrite Road and Richland Road. A huge Thank you to Mary Lou for her grant writing.

Public Comment: Al Dixon commended the board for their good work.

Adjournment: The work session adjourned at 8:06 pm.

Respectfully submitted:

Melissa Kearney, Secretary

Approved: 4.2.2024

