

COVINGTON TOWNSHIP SUPERVISORS
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
JUNE 4, 2024

The Covington Township Board of Supervisors held their regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, June 4, 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 Wanda Andreoli, Supervisor/DPW Director Marshall Peirce, Supervisor William Willson, and Attorney Joel Wolff.

Also present were: Building Inspector David Lamm, Engineer Mary Lou Butler, and Roadmaster Donald Cook.

Agenda: A brief discussion was held on changing the agenda to add approving the signing of Bailor Road Change Order #1, adding Richland Road to this project. ON MOTION, duly made (Willson), seconded (Williams) and carried to change the agenda to add, under engineer, the approval to sign Change Order #1 for the Bailor Road project. ON MOTION, duly made (Williams), seconded (Andreoli) and carried to accept the revised agenda.

Announcements: Chairwoman/Secretary Kearney announced the Board is working with the police department to begin negotiations for a collective bargaining agreement. The Board is also working with Eagle Lake to discuss joint sewers.

Public Comment: None.

Minutes: ON MOTION, duly made (Willson), seconded (Andreoli) and carried to accept the minutes of the May 7, 2024 regular meeting and the May 28, 2024 work session, as presented.

Bills: ON MOTION, duly made (Andreoli), seconded (Willson) and carried to pay all bills as presented. Chairwoman/Secretary Kearney approved all bills but abstained from the bill for her reimbursement.

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

Administrative Actions:

Land Bank: ON MOTION, duly made (Williams), seconded (Andreoli) and carried to allow the land bank to acquire (1) property within Eagle Lake.

Multi-Modal grant: The board will have Mary Lou Butler prepare the multi-modal grant application for the Kosinski project. This will be voted on at next month's meeting.

Cybersecurity insurance: A brief discussion was held regarding the need and cost of cybersecurity insurance. ON MOTION, duly made (Willson), seconded (Andreoli) and carried to purchase cybersecurity insurance at a rate of \$2,392.00 for the year.

Patio area for Senior Center: A discussion was held regarding purchasing a gazebo for the senior center and creating a patio area for the seniors utilizing part of the parking area near the dumpster. ON MOTION, duly made (Peirce), seconded (Williams) and carried to purchase a gazebo for the senior center not to exceed \$2,500.00.

Bullet proof vest for police chief: ON MOTION, duly made (Andreoli), seconded (Williams) and carried to purchase a bullet proof vest for the incoming police chief.

Resignation letter B. Layland: ON MOTION, duly made (Willson), seconded (Williams) and carried to accept the resignation letter, with regret, of Brian Layland effective June 27, 2024. He will utilize his remaining PTO time.

Planning Commission: The monthly report of the planning commission was reviewed. It was also reported that a 90-day extension has been received for the Burnett/Capple minor subdivision.

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

Zoning Code Enforcement Officer: *The Zoning Code Enforcement Officer's monthly report was reviewed. He met with the solar company who will be installing solar panels for the Naro Trucking company and discussed placing shrubs. A brief discussion was held regarding the ongoing issues within the township and the fact that we need an attorney since the most recent attorney is not getting back to the office. ON MOTION, duly made (Kearney), seconded (Williams) and carried to accept the zoning code enforcement officers monthly report.*

Engineer: *Mary Lou Butler reviewed her monthly report. She reported that she has met with Universal Line Painters about painting the lines on the roads. We are awaiting a proposal for this work. She also mentioned that since the township has been awarded the multi-modal grant for Richland Road and Havenstrite Lane, she has reached out to DCED to see if we could add Richland Road to the Bailor Road project via a change order since it would be more cost effective. She is seeking permission to approve signing Change Order #1, which would add Richland Road project to the Bailor Road project, in the event DCED approves our request. ON MOTION, duly made (Peirce), seconded (Andreoli) and carried to authorize signing Change Order #1, add Richland Road to the Bailor Road project, which would increase the Bailor Road project by \$136,231.50, if approved by DCED. She also reported we are still awaiting the PennDOT permit for the Dollar General/AutoZone land development project. ON MOTION, duly made (Williams), seconded (Andreoli) and carried to approve the engineer's monthly report.*

Solicitor: *Atty. Wolff has completed the developer's agreement for Dollar General/AutoZone. He added a paragraph regarding the parking reduction the board approved at a previous meeting. ON MOTION, duly made (Williams), seconded (Andreoli) and carried to authorize the board's signature of the developer's agreement. Atty. Wolff will send this to the developer for their signature(s). We are still awaiting the escrow check and the bond. ON MOTION, duly made (Willson), seconded (Peirce) and carried to accept the solicitor's monthly report.*

Director of Public Works: *Supervisor/DPW Director Peirce advised we were not awarded the Monroe County LSA grant for Union Mill Road, but he asked Mary Lou to re-apply for this grant for the Union Mill Road project once again. ON MOTION, duly made (Peirce), seconded (Willson) and carried to allow Mary Lou Butler to re-apply for the Monroe County LSA grant for Union Mill Road. ON MOTION, duly made (Williams), seconded (Kearney) and carried to approve the DPW director's monthly report.*

Roadmaster: *Donald Cook, roadmaster, reported they have been working on Richland and Leggs Roads, patched potholes and worked spring clean-up. A brief discussion was held regarding recycling, businesses bringing documents for shredding, and residents using the shredder. Signs will be placed on the shredder advising no commercial shredding allowed and only township employees are allowed to use the shredder, although residents may watch their documents being shredded. Roadmaster Cook will order road work signs and bases. A discussion was held regarding hiring part-time summer help for both the road department and the estate. ON MOTION, duly made (Williams), seconded (Willson) and carried to authorize the advertisement, interviewing, and hiring of up to 2 part-time summer help workers, with a pay rate of between \$15-\$17 per hour. Advertisements will take place on the website, front door, and through word of mouth for these positions. Roadmaster Cook was also advised to purchase a fuel tank and running boards for the new DPW truck. Once again, there have been reports of tires being dumped on Lehigh Road. A discussion was held about placing cameras to discourage dumping. This was tabled until the new police chief begins. ON MOTION, duly made (Andreoli), seconded (Kearney) and carried to accept the Roadmaster's monthly report.*

Moffat Maintenance: *A quote, in the amount of \$2,300.00 was received from Garage Doors by Joe Kishel to replace the (4) garage door openers on the Moffat garage. If approved, the openers can be installed at the same time the garage doors are installed. ON MOTION, duly made (Kearney), seconded (Andreoli) and carried to accept the quote for (4) new garage door openers at the Moffat garage in the amount of \$2,300.00.*

Police Department: A discussion was held regarding advertising for Full and Part-time police officers. ON MOTION, duly made (Williams), seconded (Andreoli) and carried to begin advertising for Full and Part-time police officers.

Recreation Committee: No monthly report received.

Sewage Enforcement Officer: The monthly sewage enforcement officer's report was received. A waiver was received from Scott Van Fleet (on recommendation of the SEO) asking the Board of Supervisors to grant a waiver to approve the use of a holding tank on his property at Van Fleet's grove. Per Mr. Van Fleet's request, the holding tank will be utilized by a bridal shed that will be used approximately 15-20 times per year. He also advised he will comply with all conditions set by the township which includes, but is not limited to, having an alarm installed. ON MOTION, duly made (Andreoli) seconded (Williams) and carried to grant the waiver for Scott Van Fleet's holding tank.

New Business: None.

Old Business: A brief discussion ensued on the work that had been started but needs to be completed on the Estate. Some items that were started but not completed are the stone wall and painting of the exterior windows and doors. Chairwoman/Secretary Kearney will reach out to Henry Kakareka about finishing the stone wall. Vice-Chairwoman Williams reported Bryan Williams can finish the exterior painting in July; he will be given until July 31st to complete the painting.

Correspondence: An update was received from Onvo stating they are still awaiting approval from DEP for their water testing; they will update when approval is received. A judicial tax sale list was received and given to all Supervisors.

Supervisor Comments: Supervisor Willson commented about another incident involving unleashed dogs going after other dog walkers on the estate grounds. It was reported that a police report was filed. A brief discussion ensued. Chairwoman/Secretary Kearney advised the Lackawanna County convention will be held on August 22nd at Colarusso's Coal Fired Pizza in Dickson City.

Public Comment: None.

Adjournment: ON MOTION duly made (Williams) seconded (Willson) and carried to adjourn the meeting at 8:08 pm.

Respectfully submitted:
Melissa Kearney, Secretary

Approved: 7-2-24

