

**COVINGTON TOWNSHIP SUPERVISORS  
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING  
JULY 2, 2024**

The Covington Township Board of Supervisors held their regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, July 2, 2024, at 7:00 p.m. at the Covington Township Municipal building, Moffat Estate, 20 Moffat Drive, Covington Township, PA 18444. Chairwoman Kearney opened the meeting at 7:03 p.m. with the Pledge to the Flag.

There were present: Chairwoman/Secretary Melissa Kearney, Vice-Chairwoman Vicki Williams, Supervisor Wanda Andreoli, Supervisor William Willson, and Attorney Joel Wolff.

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

Absent: Supervisor/DPW Director Marshall Peirce.

**Agenda:** ON MOTION, duly made (Willson), seconded (Williams) and carried (4-0) to accept the agenda as presented.

**Announcements:** A hearing of the zoning hearing board will be held on July 11<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 pm for a sign variance; executive sessions were held on Monday, June 17<sup>th</sup> at 4:30 pm and Tuesday, July 2<sup>nd</sup> at 6:15 pm to discuss the police union and Eagle Lake; Tyler Technologies Data Collectors will be moving into Covington Township in about 2 weeks as part of the reassessment effort of Lackawanna County.

**Public Comment:** Diane Cehelsky, resident of Covington Township asked if a "No Outlet" sign can be placed at the bottom of Bay Drive and questioned the status of fixing the swale at the end of Bay Drive where it meets Route 502. Roadmaster Cook advised a sign will be placed and the swale will be addressed early next week. Michelle Layland, resident of Covington Township, spoke about the resignation of her husband, Brian Layland, former police officer in Covington Township. Sara Trygar, resident of Covington Township, asked about having pavement done in front of her driveway in Glen Meadows as hers is the only home without pavement and there are issues with stormwater runoff and rocks. Supervisor Willson stated residents who would like to speak only need to state they are a resident of the township. He also stated the board appreciates their comments.

**Minutes:** ON MOTION, duly made (Andreoli), seconded (Williams) and carried (4-0) to accept the minutes of the June 4, 2024, regular meeting, as presented.

**Bills:** Vice-Chairwoman Williams questioned the Jalvo bill, asking what it was for (new police radios). ON MOTION, duly made (Williams), seconded (Andreoli) and carried (4-0) to pay all bills as presented.

**Treasurer's Report:** ON MOTION, duly made (Williams), seconded (Andreoli) and carried (4-0) to accept the Treasurer's report as presented.

**Administrative Actions:**

**2024 Preventative maintenance:** ON MOTION, duly made (Williams), seconded (Willson) and carried (4-0) to approve the quote received in the amount of \$3,000.00 for Northeast Signal and Electric to complete the 2024 preventative maintenance of the (4) traffic signals in the township. Mary Lou Butler advised to be sure that they (Northeast Signal and Electric) update the PennDOT reporting after the maintenance is completed.

**Lackawanna County Association of Township Officials ad book:** This was included on the bill list and already approved. It is for a half page ad in the convention book.

**Schedule date for public meeting for (2) ordinances:** The ordinance for participation in the NP Comprehensive plan has been received and needs to be adopted by the end of August. A public meeting date will need to be scheduled for consideration to adopt this ordinance. Chairwoman/Secretary Kearney would also like to consider adopting an ordinance to repeal the Amusement Tax Ordinance since no amusement taxes have ever been collected. ON MOTION, duly made (Willson), seconded (Williams) and carried (4-0) to hold a public meeting on Tuesday, August 6, 2024, at 6:00 pm to consider repealing the Amusement Tax Ordinance (original ordinance #2003-06 and then amended with ordinance #2005-01) and Tuesday, August 6, 2024, at 6:15pm to consider the adoption of the NP Comprehensive Plan.

**Planning Commission:** The monthly report of the planning commission was reviewed. The proposed property plan was submitted for Peoples Bank. This will be a land development plan where the current FNCR bank is currently located. Vince Stranch, of DesignBld, was present to discuss the Capple Subdivision. Mary Lou discussed the (3) contingencies, that were originally in place when the planning commission made their recommendation, were all addressed. A brief discussion was held regarding the county's question on the driveway, but it was determined (per Atty. Hailstone's email) that a waiver would not be needed per our zoning code 603.7(a). ON MOTION, duly made (Willson), seconded (Andreoli) and carried (4-0) to approve the subdivision and sign the maps. ON MOTION, duly made (Williams), seconded (Andreoli) and carried (4-0) to accept the planning commission's monthly report.

**Building Inspector:** Dave Lamm, building inspector, reviewed his monthly report. Supervisor Willson questioned the building inspector on 2 properties located in Skyline Acres. ON MOTION, duly made (Andreoli), seconded (Williams) and carried (4-0) to accept the building inspectors monthly report.

**Zoning Code Enforcement Officer:** The Zoning Code Enforcement Officer's monthly report was reviewed. A brief discussion was held regarding the replacement of the current zoning code enforcement attorney. The zoning department has met with Joseph McDonald of Stroudsburg who is interested, at a rate of \$250 per hour. A meeting is scheduled with Attorney Donald Karpowich for July 23, 2024. It was decided to table the hiring of an attorney until the August meeting. ON MOTION, duly made (Williams), seconded (Andreoli) and carried (4-0) to accept the zoning code enforcement officers monthly report.

**Engineer:** Mary Lou Butler read Resolution #2024-03, A Resolution for the 2024 Multimodal grant in the amount of \$197,839.95 for Covington Township's portion of Kosinski Road. The cost estimate for this project is \$282,628.50. ON MOTION, duly made (Willson), seconded (Andreoli) and carried (4-0) to approve Resolution #2024-03, and authorize signing and sending of the grant application to DCED. A recommendation for approval of the application for payment in the amount of \$237,638.29 for both Bailor and Richland Roads was received. ON MOTION, duly made (Williams), seconded (Andreoli) and carried (4-0) to approve payment to Wayco in the amount of \$237,638.29 for the Bailor and Richland Road projects. A recommendation for approval of the application for payment in the amount of \$104,683.00 was received for the Leggs's Road project. ON MOTION, duly made (Andreoli), seconded (Williams) and carried (4-0) to approve payment to Wayco in the amount of \$104,683.00 for the Legg's Road project. Mary Lou reported the township received an additional \$15,850.00 for Bailor Road. She explained Bailor Road came in under budget by \$114.00; Richland Road came in under budget by \$10,654.21; and Legg's Road came in under budget by \$12,284.50. She also reported that she has spoken with the line painters but has had no further contact. She suggests an email from the township to the line painters to see if they will respond directly to the township. Chairwoman/Secretary Kearney asked if there were any updates on the NAMMO Pocal project. Mary Lou spoke with the representatives who said they were very close on the PennDOT permit. The Dollar General/AutoZone may be receiving approval of the HOP on July 6<sup>th</sup>. The Low Volume/Dirt Road grant is due by August 31, 2024, so the board should begin thinking of a road to apply for. ON MOTION, duly made (Andreoli), seconded (Kearney) and carried (4-0) to approve the engineer's monthly report.

**Solicitor:** The developer's agreement for the Dollar General/AutoZone project has been received along with the check, the bond, and the insurance certificate and can be signed by the board.

**Director of Public Works:** No report.

**Roadmaster:** Donald Cook, roadmaster, reported they have been cleaning ditches, filling potholes on Lehigh and Freytown and beginning maintenance on the equipment. The cutting of the sides of roads has also begun. Lukas Koch has been hired as a seasonal part-time worker at a rate of \$15.00 per hour. One additional application has been received for seasonal part-time work for the supervisors and roadmaster to review. Donnie will look for a "No Outlet" sign for Bay Drive and will order if needed. ON MOTION, duly made (Andreoli), seconded (Williams) and carried (4-0) to accept the Roadmaster's monthly report.

**Moffat Maintenance:** No report.

**Police Department:** No report.

**Recreation Committee:** Supervisor Andreoli reviewed the recreation committee report. The committee has changed their monthly meeting nights and times to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of each month at 5:30pm. They are planning a fishing derby for August 24, 2024, at 9:00 am. ON MOTION, duly made (Andreoli), seconded (Willson) and carried (4-0) to allow a budget of \$1,200.00 for the fishing derby to purchase fish and prizes for the derby. They have also approved Sean Nelson as a new member of the recreation committee. ON MOTION, duly made (Williams), seconded (Andreoli) and carried (4-0) to appoint Sean Nelson to a 4-year term on the recreation committee. ON MOTION, duly made (Williams), seconded (Kearney) and carried (4-0) to accept the recreation committee's monthly report.

**Sewage Enforcement Officer:** No report.

**New Business:** Chairwoman Kearney would like the board to consider adopting an ordinance regarding grass clippings and debris on township roads. A brief discussion ensued. Jeff Lamm spoke about this. Chairwoman Kearney will get the information to Attorney Wolff for his review and development of an ordinance to allow the police department to cite offenders who put grass clippings or debris on township roads.

**Old Business:** Applications have been received for the position of part-time office assistant/assistant secretary. Chairwoman Kearney will speak with Dawn and ask if she will be willing to review the applications with Vice-Chair Williams and sit in on interviews for any qualified candidates. Payment has been received for the pond breach that damaged A.M. Hughes Blvd back in January. The payment included fees incurred by Eagle Lake, so the township will reimburse Eagle Lake. A reminder was given for the County Association of Township Officials annual conference which will be held on August 22, 2024. Any delegate of the township wishing to attend will be covered by the township and should advise the secretary of their attendance.

**Correspondence:** SADG II (Rite Aid) has requested a conference. Atty. Wolff will be advised of the conference date. A resident of Glen Meadows complimented road department employees, Justin Musgrave and Art Alt, of their good work accomplished in Glen Meadows.

**Supervisor Comments:** None.

**Public Comment:** Mark Cordelli of Lackawanna County thanked the township for allowing the commissioners meeting to be held here last month. He also reviewed the upcoming events of the County.

**Adjournment:** ON MOTION duly made (Williams) seconded (Kearney) and carried (4-0) to adjourn the meeting at 8:12 pm.

Respectfully submitted:  
Melissa Kearney, Secretary

Approved: 8-6-24

