

**COVINGTON TOWNSHIP SUPERVISORS
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
AUGUST 6, 2024**

The Covington Township Board of Supervisors held their regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, August 6, 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 7:00 p.m. with the Pledge to the Flag.

Present were: Chairwoman/Secretary Melissa Kearney, Vice-Chairwoman Vicki Williams, Supervisor Wanda Andreoli, Supervisor William Willson, Supervisor/DPW Director Marshall Peirce, and Attorney Joel Wolff.

Also present were: Building Inspector David Lamm, Engineer Mary Lou Butler, and Police Chief Jeff Lamm.

Absent: Roadmaster Donald Cook.

Agenda: Chairwoman/Secretary Kearney advised she made a mistake on the agenda and would like to make (2) revisions. Under police department, she would like to remove “purchase needed supplies for cars” and add “discuss new computers for the police office”. She would also like to add, under Administrative Actions, a quote that was received today for the line painting at the intersection of Routes 435 & 502. Supervisor Willson questioned the newly purchased computer at the police station; it was clarified this computer was for the police chief. ON MOTION, duly made (Kearney), seconded (Williams) and carried (5-0) to revise and accept the agenda as revised.

Announcements: None.

Public Comment: Diane Cehelsky, resident of Bay Drive Covington Township, questioned the status of her complaints from last month’s meeting and asked if discussion was held regarding going further up Bay Drive because part of the pavement is missing. Chairwoman/Secretary Kearney advised this will be addressed later in the meeting, but only the swale will be repaired. Brian Layland, resident of Covington Township, commented on emails he sent to the township secretary that went unanswered and his resignation from the township. He also questioned comments, allegedly made by a few board supervisors and the current police chief, about him. A brief discussion ensued. Mark Cordelli of Lackawanna County reported on upcoming events being held within the county.

Minutes: ON MOTION, duly made (Andreoli), seconded (Williams) and carried (4-0-1) to accept the minutes of the July 2, 2024, regular meeting, and the July 30, 2024, work session as presented. Supervisor/DPW Director Peirce did not vote because he was not present during the July 2nd monthly meeting.

Bills: Vice-Chairwoman Williams questioned the recycling bill, asking how often we paid it since it was over Seven Thousand Dollars. It was advised this bill was from the Spring-Clean Up Event. Chairwoman/Secretary Kearney also spoke on a recent newspaper article that stated the commingle recycling will be going from \$40 per ton to \$120 per ton. As of our last invoice, we are still at \$40, however, if it should go up, she will notify everyone. ON MOTION, duly made (Peirce), seconded (Willson) and carried (5-0) to pay the bills as presented. Chairwoman/Secretary Kearney approved all bills but abstained from the bill for Jim Toy Welding and Sandblasting for the work being completed on the Freightliner.

Treasurer’s Report: ON MOTION, duly made (Peirce), seconded (Williams) and carried (5-0) to accept the Treasurer’s report as presented.

Administrative Actions:

Repository Sale bid: ON MOTION, duly made (Williams), seconded (Andreoli) and carried (5-0) to accept the bid in the amount of \$3,941.10 from Mark Holochuck for a property located at Bald Eagle Lane in Eagle Lake.

Estimate to remove dead trees at Estate: Chairwoman/Secretary Kearney asked Supervisor/DPW Director Peirce if we would need permission from the conservancy to remove the dead

trees: his reply was no. *ON MOTION*, duly made (Willson), seconded (Williams) and carried (5-0) to approve the estimate in the amount of \$2,800 from Mattern Logging and Tree Service to drop between 24 and 30 dead trees on the Estate property. The road department and Moffat maintenance will remove the debris once the trees are dropped. It was decided to wait until later in the year to complete this work.

Terminate contract with NPSD for SRO services: A letter was received from Superintendent Powell of the North Pocono School District advising they (NPSD) were terminating the contract with the township to provide an SRO to the North Pocono High School, effective August 16, 2024. No action was taken as this is allowed per the original agreement.

Proposal for maintenance and cleaning of (2) HVAC systems: A proposal was received from Preferred Management for the annual maintenance and cleaning of (2) HVAC systems (1 at the dance studio and 1 at the new police station). It was advised there are 2 systems at the new police station, so this bid would increase. A discussion ensued on receiving a quote from Advanced HVAC, since they have previously worked on the unit at the dance studio. The acceptance of this proposal was tabled until the next meeting.

Proposal for electrical work for recycling gate: A proposal was received from Preferred Management in the amount of \$2,406.66 for electrical work needed for the installation of the new gate near the recycling center/garage area. The gate is scheduled to be installed on August 14th. *ON MOTION*, duly made (Kearney), seconded (Willson) and carried (5-0) to accept the bid from Preferred Management.

Proposal for ring doorbell at mansion: A proposal was received from Preferred Management for the installation of a ring doorbell for the mansion in the amount of \$572.20. Chairwoman/Secretary Kearney advised she had asked for this quote to assist the office staff when there is someone at the door. A brief discussion ensued on how an intercom/camera would assist both the office staff and public. *ON MOTION*, duly made (Peirce), seconded (Williams) and carried (5-0) to move forward with the purchase and installation of a ring doorbell up to \$572.20

Appoint (2) representatives for the NP Planning Association: A discussion was held regarding appointment of 2 representatives for the newly formed NP Planning Association. It was decided since Chairwoman Kearney and Supervisor Peirce have been attending the quarterly COG meetings, they should represent Covington Township in this planning association. Supervisor Peirce will be the Representative and Chairwoman Kearney will be the alternate. The 1st meeting will be held at the Moscow Borough Building on Wednesday, September 11th at 7:00 pm.

Quote for line painting at the Intersection of SR 435 and SR 502: Engineer Butler and Police Chief Lamm met with B&E's Sealcoating, LLC to discuss the painting of the lines, arrows, and crosswalks at the intersection of State Routes 435 & 502. A quote in the amount of \$10,853.67 was received. This amount is under the bidding threshold. *ON MOTION*, duly made (Kearney), seconded (Williams) and carried (5-0) to accept the bid from B&E Sealcoating, LLC. Engineer Butler is requesting to be sure the paint contains glass beads, and the painting is done in accordance with the approved highway occupancy permit issued by PennDOT.

Planning Commission: The monthly report of the planning commission was reviewed. They have recommended conditional approval for the Peoples Security Bank land development project with (6) outstanding contingencies. Engineer Butler spoke of the contingencies. Atty. Wolff is working on the developer's agreement and advised Joe Rominski (architect for the project) of the requirement of an escrow deposit for professional fees, security guarantee, and certificate of insurance naming the township as an additional insured. Mr. Rominski presented plans for the Supervisors to review, and discussions were held regarding the additional parking spaces and demolition of the FNCB bank. *ON MOTION*, duly made (Peirce), seconded (Andreoli) and carried (5-0) to approve the Peoples Security Bank land development with the same 6 contingencies the planning commission had. Engineer Butler questioned the status of the Dollar General plans and was advised that they have not been received yet. *ON MOTION*, duly made (Williams), seconded (Willson), and carried (5-0) to accept the planning commission's monthly report.

Building Inspector: Dave Lamm, building inspector, reviewed his monthly report. ON MOTION, duly made (Willson), seconded (Williams) and carried (5-0) to accept the building inspector's monthly report.

Zoning Code Enforcement Officer: No monthly report was received. The zoning secretary met with Attorney Donald Karpowich to discuss the possibility of him becoming the new attorney for the zoning code enforcement officer. Atty. Karpowich, prior to becoming an attorney, served as a zoning code enforcement officer, so he is aware of the position and has knowledge of municipal law. His hourly rate for municipalities is \$150/hour. ON MOTION, duly made (Kearney), seconded (Williams), and carried (5-0) to appoint Atty. Donald Karpowich as the zoning code enforcement attorney at a rate of \$150/hour with no retainer.

Engineer: Mary Lou Butler spoke earlier in the meeting on the Peoples Security Bank project. She also reported that a proposal was received from Wayco, Inc. to address the swale issue on Bay Drive at Route 502. The proposal is in the amount of \$9,360.00, which is below the bidding threshold. She reviewed the components of the proposal and recommended the board approve the proposal, stating the reason the township went to Wayco, was because PennDOT did not want the township to use cold patch. ON MOTION, duly made (Peirce), seconded (Willson), and carried (5-0) to approve the proposal from Wayco, Inc. in the amount of \$9,360.00 to repair Bay Drive. This project will be paid for using Liquid Fuels, if allowed. Mary Lou has completed (2) applications for the Low Volume/Dirt Road grant for the Glen Meadows development. The applications have been separated as follows: Pinewood Drive and Rock Moss Court grant request, \$111,337.50 with a local share of \$75,134.96; McEsther Drive grant request, \$111,987.50 with a local share of \$71,584.96. ON MOTION, duly made (Andreoli), seconded (Williams) and carried (5-0) to sign and submit the (2) Low Volume/Dirt Road grant applications for Pinewood Drive/Rock Moss Court and McEsther Drive. ON MOTION, duly made (Peirce), seconded (Willson) and carried (5-0) to approve the engineer's monthly report.

Solicitor: Atty. Wolff spoke of the developer's agreement for the Peoples Security Bank earlier in the meeting.

Director of Public Works: Supervisor/DPW Director Peirce reported for the roadmaster also. He reported the road department has been mowing alongside the roadways and patching potholes on Lehigh Road. They have also been working on the trucks and equipment in the DPW department. He brought samples of rust and paint to show how bad the Freightliner is, which is currently being repaired. He reported they have been prepping the area for the gate installation and have painted new parking lines here at the estate along with preparing to do the current police department. ON MOTION, duly made (Andreoli), seconded (Williams) and carried (5-0) to accept the DPW Director/Roadmaster's monthly report.

Roadmaster: Reported earlier by the DPW Director.

Moffat Maintenance: Chairwoman/Secretary Kearney reported the tile work in the Master Bathroom has been completed. She also reported that the Historical Society has begun their move.

Police Department: Chief Lamm reviewed the monthly reports from April through July. He reported we are right near where we were last year, with less manpower. He is taking inventory of the equipment the department has and what will be needed. He is recommending the purchase of (2) portable breathalyzer tests, for a total of \$1,285.56, utilizing the \$1,000.00 donation received by Eagle Lake to assist with the purchase. Supervisor Willson questioned the need for straws for the tests, and it was reported we will have enough with the inventory currently at the station. ON MOTION, duly made (Andreoli), seconded (Williams) and carried (5-0) to allow the police chief to order (2) portable breathalyzer tests in the amount of \$1,285.56. Chief Lamm also reported he is speaking with a township resident to assist with writing grants for the police department. He updated the board on the vehicles and their maintenance. He is asking, and was granted, the board's permission to begin looking into trading in some of the older firearms owned by the township, on a few new firearms. Chief Lamm thanked the board for the purchase of a new computer for his office and is asking if the board would consider purchasing new computers for

the police department because the ones currently being used are very old and not capable of upgrades. A brief discussion was also held on leasing a copy machine like the one currently at the township office for the police department since their copier is not currently faxing or emailing. New computers and a new copy machine will be ordered. Chairwoman/Secretary Kearney reported Preferred Management sent a proposal for the electrical work needed for the new police station. This proposal was broken down into what was needed with a few additional options. The total proposed amount, with all options included, is \$17,388.87. A discussion ensued and it was decided that additional quotes were needed since this amount is over the bidding threshold. ON MOTION, duly made (Williams), seconded (Willson) and carried (5-0) to accept the police department's monthly report.

Recreation Committee: Supervisor Andreoli reported the monthly meeting was held yesterday (August 5th) and that everything is in order for the Fishing Derby. She asked that the road to the pond be repaired prior to the derby so an ambulance and/or handicap parkers can get to the pond. Supervisor/DPW Peirce will look at the road and make any arrangements for repairs, if needed. The committee is currently working on an End of Summer event, with further details to follow next month. ON MOTION, duly made (Williams), seconded (Kearney) and carried (5-0) to accept the recreation committee's monthly report.

Sewage Enforcement Officer: The monthly report was received. The SEO has been working on complaints and malfunctions, along with new permitting and tests. ON MOTION, duly made (Williams), seconded (Andreoli) and carried (5-0) to accept the SEO's monthly report.

New Business: None.

Old Business: The public hearings for Ordinances #2024-01 and #2024-02 were held earlier this evening. Both ordinances have been adopted.

Correspondence: There are (3) properties going up for Judicial sale. All (3) properties are in Eagle Lake. An electrical inspection report was received for the wind turbine. The turbine company asked for this inspection prior to working on the repair and upgrade of the wind turbine. There were a few minor recommendations made. The report for the Zoning Hearing Board variance hearing was received. The hearing was held on July 11, 2024 and the zoning hearing board approved the sign variance for 2025 Bochicchio Covington LLC.

Supervisor Comments: None.

Public Comment: None.

Adjournment: ON MOTION duly made (Williams) seconded (Kearney) and carried (5-0) to adjourn the meeting at 8:34 pm.

Respectfully submitted:
Melissa Kearney, Secretary

Approved: 9-3-24

J. Marshall Peirce