

**COVINGTON TOWNSHIP SUPERVISORS
MONTHLY WORK SESSION
SEPTEMBER 24, 2024**

The Covington Township Board of Supervisors held their monthly work session on Tuesday, September 24, 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 F. Marshall Peirce, Supervisor Wanda Andreoli, and Attorney Joel Wolff.

Also present: Police Chief Jeff Lamm.

Absent: Supervisor William Willson

Agenda: There were no changes to the agenda.

Announcements: Executive sessions were held on September 15, 2024 and September 23, 2024 for personnel reasons to discuss police union negotiations.

Public Comment: Several residents of the Skyline Acres Development were present questioning the new home being constructed in the development. They are concerned that the residence being constructed has been listed as a rental and may turn into a short-term rental. A list of questions submitted by resident Denise Hokien was addressed. Anna LoRusso commented on short-term rentals being a business located in a residential development. Ken Stivala commented that leases are not allowed in the development per their deed restrictions. Chairwoman Kearney advised the township does not enforce deed restrictions. A lengthy discussion was held regarding their concerns and the enforcement of deed restrictions, the added strain on our police, fire, and EMS services by allowing a rental, EDU's and septic for this property, homeowner's associations, etc. At the end of the discussion, it was noted that the township has a short-term rental ordinance in place and that the rental of this property is allowed.

Minutes: Chairwoman/Secretary Kearney asked all board members to review the draft minutes of the September 3, 2024 monthly meeting and the September 23, 2024 budget workshop. She asked that the board 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:

N.P. Public Library: A representative from the North Pocono Public Library will be present at the monthly meeting next week to discuss events at the library and ask for a donation.

Recycling hauling fees: A discussion will be held at the monthly meeting to address potentially increasing the hauling fees for Springbrook and Madison Townships. Springbrook currently pays \$400 per month and Madison Township pays \$150 as needed, but the cost for the recycling center has increased from \$40 to \$120 per truckload. It was discussed that we increase the fees to \$600 per month for Springbrook and \$280, as needed, for Madison Township. This will be further discussed and decided on at the monthly meeting.

New police station electrical quotes: Three quotes were received for electrical work at the new police station. The quote for the lowest bidder will be awarded at next week's monthly meeting.

Resolution 2024-05: This resolution will adopt a fee of \$750.00 for an appeal application requesting a public hearing before the board of appeals under the International Property Maintenance Code. The resolution was recommended and drafted by the zoning code enforcement attorney. Anna LoRusso commented on the cost of the hearing. This will be discussed and considered for adoption at the meeting next week.

Ordinance #2024-03: Atty. Karpowich, zoning code enforcement attorney, also drafted an ordinance amending the Property Maintenance Code Ordinance (#2024-01), which will provide for civil penalties or summary fines for enforcement proceedings for violations of the Property Maintenance Code. A date will need to be established to consider adoption of this ordinance.

Planning Commission: The planning commission's monthly report will be available next week. They will be making a recommendation to approve the lot combination for Brian Yeager. Anna LoRusso questioned this and stated that she was not allowed to do the same thing a few years ago. She was advised it may have been because of zoning.

Building Inspector: The monthly report will be available next week.

Zoning Code Enforcement Officer: The monthly report will be available next week.

Solicitor: Nothing to report.

Director of Public Works: Supervisor/DPW Director asked the board to consider taking the old recycling gate and placing it at the Moffat Estate to block the road to the playground in the winter to avoid traffic from going up that road when it is not plowed or muddy. Chairwoman/Secretary Kearney advised a postcard was received from Lopatofsky Auction regarding an upcoming auction, and asked if the township could take the tar buggy to it since the Roadmaster feels we no longer need it.

Roadmaster: The monthly report will be available next week.

Moffat Maintenance: "No Trespassing After Dark" signs have been ordered and will be placed at the estate when they arrive. The shutters are currently being hung on the mansion and the township sign has been replaced at the front of the estate. Lights will be installed to shine on the sign.

Police Department: Chief Lamm has asked for a few items to be added to next week's meeting agenda, including quotes for office furniture, patrol rifles, and in-car computer installation. He advised Amazon was very generous in gifting office supplies to the police department, so only a few items will need to be ordered. A donation of 3 car computers has been received from Dickson City. Chief Lamm advised he also believes he has 2 patrol rifles being donated to the police department and with the trade in of the rifles the township currently has, the township should be able to receive one more. A quote was also received to install 2 cameras and move 2 existing cameras in the new police station, and a separate quote was received to install a separate camera system in the interrogation room of the new police station. The air quality results were received for the new police station and were found acceptable. Denise Hokien questioned the police chief on their working hours and what happens if a resident calls 911 when the officers are not on duty. Chief Lamm explained that state police do not enforce township ordinances and went on to explain what happens when a call is received while the officers are not on duty. Ed Stivala complimented the chief on the police presence in Skyline Acres.

Recreation Committee: Supervisor Andreoli commented on the End of Summer event recently held at the pavilion. She also mentioned the recreation committee would like to host a Children's Halloween Party to utilize the left-over food from the End of Summer event. The suggested date for the Halloween Party will be October 19th. She advised they did not spend all their budget, so they will utilize those funds for the Christmas event. The recreation committee would also like to bring the Hall of Trees back and reach out to the school district to have the trees donated to needy families.

Sewage Enforcement Officer: The monthly report will be available next week.

New Business: Chairwoman Kearney would like the board to consider adopting an ordinance for licensing businesses in the township. She has given the board a sample ordinance from a township in Blair County who has adopted this ordinance and asked that they review and comment on it. Denise Hokien also commented on an ordinance for rental properties (long-term) in the township.

Old Business: PSATS Regional Forum will be held in Tannersville on October 15th. Chairwoman/Secretary Kearney will be attending and questioned if any other supervisor would like to attend.

Correspondence: A service request was received regarding pro-rating the Short-term Rental annual licensing fee. Chairwoman Kearney advised she is not in favor of reducing the fees. This will be further discussed at the meeting next week.

Supervisor Comments: None.

Public Comment: Anne Harvey questioned the organization of the North Pocono Planning Association. Chairwoman/Secretary Kearney explained the formation of this new planning association and advised the meetings of this committee are open to the public. The next meeting for this association will be held in December, at the Moscow Borough Building, and will be advertised on the township website.

Adjournment: The work session adjourned at 8:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted:
Melissa Kearney, Secretary

Approved: 10-1-2024

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Wanda Andreoli".