

**COVINGTON TOWNSHIP SUPERVISORS
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
OCTOBER 1, 2024**

The Covington Township Board of Supervisors held their regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, October 1, 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, and Attorney Samantha Hazen.

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

Absent: Supervisor/DPW Director F. Marshall Peirce.

Agenda: A motion was made during the Engineer's report to amend the agenda to apply for the Statewide Local Share Grant. ON MOTION, duly made (Williams), seconded (Willson) and carried (4-0) to approve the agenda as presented.

Announcements: None.

Public Comment: Chris Kelly, development director for the North Pocono Public Library, was present to discuss upcoming events and provide updates for the library. He also advised there is a new director at the library, thanked the board for their previous donations and asked for their continued support. Also present with Chris were Carina Havenstrite and Gretchen Semsick. Carina spoke about the farmer's market and gardening programs held at the library. Gretchen spoke about the importance of having the library in our community. Supervisor Willson also read a text in support of the library from resident Diane Croom. Chris gave a special thanks to Supervisor Willson for donating his time as the driver for the garden gala held for the North Pocono Library.

Minutes: ON MOTION, duly made (Andreoli), seconded (Williams) and carried (4-0) to accept the minutes of the September 3, 2024 monthly meeting, September 23, 2024 budget workshop, and September 24, 2024 work session as presented.

Bills: A bill was received after the printing of the bill list for Jim Toy Welding and Sandblasting in the amount of \$2,500.00 as payment towards the work (replacing the hoist, welding, sandblasting, painting) being completed on the Freightliner. Included on the bill list was a donation to the North Pocono Public Library in the amount of \$500.00; Chairwoman Kearney asked that we hold the check, if approved, for the library and see if we can increase the donation amount after we have our next budget workshop. Vice-Chairwoman Williams questioned the work completed on the F-550 (the turbo was replaced). Chairwoman/Secretary Kearney also advised the bill for the 2017 charger was much less than previously approved; the original quote received was for approximately \$5,000 to replace the catalytic converter, but the garage was able to repair the converter which brought the bill down to \$560. ON MOTION, duly made (Willson), seconded (Williams) and carried (4-0) to pay the bills, to include the additional bill of \$2,500 for Jim Toy Welding and Sandblasting. Chairwoman Kearney abstained from paying the bill to Jim Toy Welding and Sandblasting but approved all other bills.

Treasurer's Report: Vice-Chairwoman Williams questioned the undeposited funds in the amount of \$15,046.89 from the North Pocono School District. Chairwoman/Secretary Kearney reported that was the Q2 payroll from the SRO reimbursement, and advised she wasn't sure why this deposit was categorized that way. ON MOTION, duly made (Williams), seconded (Andreoli) and carried (4-0) to accept the Treasurer's report as presented.

Administrative Actions:

Donation to N.P. Public Library: A donation of \$500 was included in the approval of the bills but will be further discussed next month to see about increasing this donation amount.

Recycling fees hauling increase: A discussion was held regarding increasing the hauling fees for Springbrook and Madison Townships recycling. Due to the increase in fees from \$40 to \$120 at the

county recycling center, we will need to increase the hauling fees for the townships we haul recycling for. Currently Springbrook Township pays \$400 per month and Madison Township pays \$150 as needed. A brief discussion was held on increasing the fees to cover the additional cost to Covington along with overhead for manpower and the vehicle(s). ON MOTION, duly made (Williams), seconded (Willson) and carried (4-0), to increase the fees to \$500 per month for Springbrook Township and \$280, as needed, for Madison Township.

Electrical quotes for new police station: Three quotes were received for the electrical work to be completed at the new police station. The quotes received were: Preferred Management \$17,388.87; Larry Moss Electrical \$13,600; and Swartz Electric \$7,400. ON MOTION, duly made (Williams), seconded (Andreoli) and carried (4-0) to approve the quote for Swartz Electric in the amount of \$7,400.00.

Resolution #2024-05, A Resolution Adopting a Fee for an Appeal to the Board of Appeals from a Code Violation Notice: The resolution was read by Chairwoman/Secretary Kearney adopting a fee of \$750.00 for an appeal application requesting a public hearing before the Covington Township Board of Appeals under the International Property Maintenance Code, 2021 Edition. ON MOTION, duly made (Andreoli), seconded (Williams) and carried (4-0) to adopt Resolution #2024-05.

Set date for Ordinance #2024-03, Amendments to Ordinance #2023-05 to Provide for Civil Penalties or Summary Fines for Enforcement Proceedings for Violations of the Code and Adopt the Boarding Standards of Appendix A of the Code: This ordinance was drafted by the Zoning Code Enforcement Officer's attorney and recommended for adoption by the Board of Supervisors. A date will need to be set for a public hearing to consider adoption of the ordinance. A brief discussion ensued on holding the hearing immediately prior to our next work session. ON MOTION, duly made (Kearney), seconded (Williams) and carried (4-0) to advertise the public hearing for Tuesday, October 29, 2024 at 6:30pm.

EECBG Grant: A discussion was held on the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG), and the potential of applying for the grant to assist with upgrading the traffic signals within the township. This grant is due by October 31, 2024. Mary Lou will investigate this grant and apply for the grant if it will work for the township. ON MOTION, duly made (Andreoli), seconded (Williams) and carried (4-0) to allow Mary Lou to apply for the EECBG grant, if time allows and the project will work for the township.

Zoning Code Enforcement Officer: The monthly report was reviewed which reported violation letters have been sent to 4 property owners, and inspections are being conducted on these properties regularly. ON MOTION, duly made (Andreoli), seconded (Williams) and carried (4-0) to accept the monthly report as submitted.

Building Inspector: Dave Lamm reviewed his monthly report which reported 2 permits were issued for single family residences. ON MOTION, duly made (Willson), seconded (Andreoli) and carried (4-0) to approve the building inspector's monthly report.

Planning Commission: The monthly report was reviewed. It included a discussion regarding land development at A.M. Hughes Blvd and lot improvement on Drinker Turnpike. The planning commission is recommending conditional approval of the lot improvement for Brian and Elizabeth Yeager on Drinker Turnpike. George Parker was present to review the maps for this. All contingencies have been met. ON MOTION, duly made (Willson), seconded (Andreoli) and carried (4-0) to approve the lot improvement for Brian and Elizabeth Yeager. Mary Lou questioned if the Peoples Security Bank maps had been signed, but Chairwoman/Secretary Kearney advised they were not received yet. ON MOTION, duly made (Williams), seconded (Kearney) and carried (4-0) to approve the planning commission's monthly report.

Engineer: Mary Lou Butler reviewed her monthly report. She advised the date for the announcement of the Monroe County Local Share grant will be October 17th. The Statewide Local Share grant application is due by November 30th. Last year, the Statewide Local Share grant application was for a fire engine, and we are still waiting to hear if we will be granted any monies for this, but Mary Lou asked if the board

had something they wanted to apply for this year. A brief discussion was held on possibly applying for additional monies for the fire engine. ON MOTION, duly made (Williams), seconded (Willson) and carried (4-0) to amend the agenda to include applying for the Statewide LSA grant. ON MOTION, duly made (Williams), seconded (Andreoli) and carried (4-0) to apply for the Statewide LSA grant for the fire engine with an amount based on the outcome of the current Statewide LSA grant round. Mary Lou reported a cost estimate was received for the repairs of Freytown Road. We are still waiting to hear from PPL regarding the repairs of this road due to damage done by their contractors. This cost estimate was received in the event PPL offers the township money in lieu of labor and materials to repair the road. The repairs to Bay Drive should be completed before the cold weather sets in. ON MOTION, duly made (Williams), seconded (Andreoli) and carried (4-0) to accept the engineer's monthly report.

Solicitor: Nothing to report.

Director of Public Works: Supervisor/DPW Director Peirce was absent from the meeting.

Roadmaster: Roadmaster Donald Cook reported they have been working on the repairs of the trucks, cutting brush from the roadsides, filling potholes on Lehigh and Freytown. Supervisor Andreoli commented on a mailbox problem on Bailor Road. This will be addressed by the DPW department tomorrow. Vice-Chairwoman Williams commented on a complaint she received about Center Street. The roadmaster is hoping to begin work on installing the culvert boxes and potholes within 2 weeks. A brief discussion was held on trucks entering Center Street from Route 435 and posting and bonding of the road. A quote was received from Wayco, Inc. for the replacement of the guiderail on Bochicchio Blvd due to an automobile accident. The DPW department will install the new guiderail, purchased by Wayco, Inc. The quote was broken down into labor (\$2,250), equipment (\$2,700), and materials (\$4,900). ON MOTION, duly made (Andreoli), seconded (Willson) and carried (4-0) to purchase the guiderail from Wayco, Inc. and have our DPW Department install. Supervisor Willson asked the Roadmaster to order and install a "T" sign for the top of Sanko Road on Winship Road. ON MOTION, duly made (Williams), seconded (Andreoli) and carried (4-0) to accept the Roadmaster's monthly report.

Moffat Maintenance: The old yellow recycling gate will be installed at the entrance to the side driveway heading to the parking lot for the playground. No Trespassing after dark signs will be placed around the estate. We are looking for recommendations for a mason to stucco areas of the new police station where windows have been removed.

Police Department: Chief Lamm reviewed his monthly report, which summarized 251 service calls for the month. He publicly recognized Officer Robert Bastek, Jr. for assisting PSP with apprehending suspects who were being sought in connection with arson in Gouldsboro over the weekend. Officer Bastek was able to stop the vehicle and contact PSP. Chief Lamm received the quote for the purchase of patrol rifles with an estimated cost of \$1,700 each. The money for one has already been received by Pocono Transportation. He would like to table this discussion until next month to allow for more solid numbers of donations and costs. A discussion on office furniture will also be tabled until next month. Amazon was very generous in donating many items to the police department for the new station. A brief discussion was also held regarding the in-car computers being donated by Dickson City. It was decided that we will politely decline this donation since the computers will not be compatible with new security updates next year. Two quotes were received from Computer Visionaries for the security system at the new police station: (1) in the amount of \$1,872.00 for the movement of 2 existing cameras and the purchase of 2 new cameras, and the other for the installation of a separate camera system for the interrogation room in the amount of \$3,151.00. Both quotes include labor and materials for the installation. ON MOTION, duly made (Willson) seconded (Andreoli) and carried (4-0) to approve the quote in the amount of \$1,872.00 for the moving of 2 cameras and the purchase and installation of 2 additional cameras. ON MOTION, duly made (Kearney), seconded (Williams) and carried (4-0) to approve the quote in the amount of \$3,151.00 for the installation of a separate camera system for the interrogation room. Chairwoman/Secretary Kearney reported the air quality test results were received

for the new police station, and it showed there were no airborne mold issues. ON MOTION, duly made (Williams), seconded (Willson) and carried (4-0) to accept the police chief's monthly report.

Recreation Committee: Supervisor Andreoli spoke about the End of the Summer Event held in September. She advised there was food left over and they were originally going to host a children's Halloween party but decided against it in fear of a small showing, so they decided to donate the leftover food to the Fire Company for their upcoming fundraiser. She is looking for recommendations for a horse and buggy for the upcoming Christmas Event which will be held on December 7th and 8th. ON MOTION, duly made (Williams), seconded (Kearney) and carried (4-0) to accept the recreation committee's monthly report.

Sewage Enforcement Officer: The monthly report was reviewed. The SEO has filed motions with the magistrate for 2 properties. The secretary and treasurer have met with KBA to discuss their billing, and they are hopeful this is straightened out. ON MOTION, duly made (Andreoli), seconded (Williams) and carried (4-0) to accept the SEO's monthly report.

New Business: None.

Old Business: Chairwoman/Secretary Kearney and Supervisor/DPW Director Peirce will be attending the PSATS Regional Forum held in Tannersville on October 15th.

Correspondence: A check was received from Lackawanna County for the senior center. This check was originally to go to the Jefferson Township Senior Center, but since they have closed and we have joined the county, they allotted the money to come to our center. The amount of the check was \$2,551.00. An inspection report was received from DEP on the Dollar General/AutoZone project; Mary Lou reported there is nothing out of the ordinary in this report. A service request was received asking that the board consider revising the permit fee for short-term rentals by pro-rating the fees or changing the validity date, to a full year, for the permit regardless of when they are issued. A brief discussion ensued, and it was decided the fees will remain the same, with no changes being made.

Supervisor Comments: None.

Public Comment: Mark Cordelli of Lackawanna County was present and reviewed the upcoming events being held by the county.

Adjournment: ON MOTION duly made (Williams) seconded (Andreoli) and carried (4-0) to adjourn the meeting at 8:21 pm.

Respectfully submitted:
Melissa Kearney, Secretary

Approved: 11-5-24

