

**COVINGTON TOWNSHIP SUPERVISORS
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
NOVEMBER 5, 2024**

The Covington Township Board of Supervisors held their regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, November 5, 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 F. Marshall Peirce and Attorney Joel Wolff.

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

Agenda: The agenda was amended to add the SADG III/Rite-Aid real estate tax assessment settlement under Solicitor. Mary Lou also questioned if submitting the Statewide LSA grant was included with the signature and application of the grant. ON MOTION, duly made (Andreoli), seconded (Williams) and carried (5-0) to approve the agenda as amended.

Announcements: Executive sessions were held on Tuesday, October 29th immediately following the work session to discuss personnel discipline and again earlier this evening at 6:15 pm to discuss legal issues and personnel.

Public Comment: Representatives of the Covington Independent Fire Company were present. Fire Chief Brad Jones asked the supervisors to consider enacting an ordinance to empower the fire chief to set burn bans within the township and allow penalties for violators. A brief discussion ensued; the supervisors will look into this further. ON MOTION, duly made (Willson), seconded (Andreoli) and carried (5-0) to issue a burn ban for the township with an end date to be determined. Chief Jones, along with representatives of the Fire Company, thanked the Supervisors, and especially Mary Lou Butler, for their hard work in securing a grant in the amount of \$500,000 for the purchase of a new fire engine.

Minutes: ON MOTION, duly made (Williams), seconded (Andreoli) and carried (5-0) to accept the minutes of the October 1, 2024 monthly meeting, October 29, 2024 public hearing to adopt Ordinance #2024-03, and October 29, 2024 work session as presented.

Bills: Chairwoman/Secretary Kearney stated the bill list includes a check for the N.P. Library in the amount of \$500.00. She reminded the board that a check was approved at last month's meeting in the amount of \$500.00, so this would make the total donation to the library \$1,000.00. The bill list also includes a check for the chassis for a 2025 Freightliner (this will be discussed under the DPW Director's report). Vice-Chairwoman Williams also questioned the bill for the gate. Chairwoman/Secretary Kearney advised the damaged gate has been replaced and the township will need to pay the invoice for the gate and then submit paperwork for reimbursement of the recycling grant for the gate and the remaining items. Vice-Chair Williams also questioned the status of the KBA invoices, and Chairwoman/Secretary Kearney reported they are still a work in progress. She will be holding their check to do a review of the invoices with the treasurer. ON MOTION, duly made (Williams), seconded (Andreoli) and carried (5-0) to pay the bills, as presented.

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

Administrative Actions:

(4) Repository Sales: Mark Holochuck has placed bids for a property located at Tamarack Trail (Eagle Lake) and Birch Terrace (Eagle Lake) and Sylvia Castellanos has placed bids for (2) properties located in the Golden Oaks Development. ON MOTION, duly made (Andreoli), seconded (Kearney) and carried (5-0) to approve the bids for all (4) repository sales. ON THE QUESTION, Mary Lou Butler questioned the location of the properties in Golden Oaks. It was reported the (2) lots being sold have

detention basins on them. A brief discussion ensued with Atty. Wolff stating the purchaser will be receiving title only to the properties.

Hauling fees for Madison Township: ON MOTION, duly made (Willson), seconded (Peirce) and carried (5-0), to decrease the fees to \$200 per haul, as needed for Madison Township. This was decided because it was determined that Madison Township pays the county directly for their recycling, and the township hauls their recycling.

Terminate Donald Cook: ON MOTION, duly made (Peirce), seconded (Williams) and carried (5-0) to terminate Donald Cook, effective immediately, who is currently serving as Roadmaster.

Appoint Roadmaster: ON MOTION, duly made (Williams), seconded (Willson) and carried (5-0) to appoint Arthur Alt, Jr. as Roadmaster with a rate of pay of \$26.50 per hour and a (6) month probationary period.

Resolution #2024-06 Providing for Supplemental Appropriations of the 2024 Budget:

Chairwoman/Secretary Kearney read Resolution #2024-06 which allows for supplemental appropriations of the 2024 budget to increase the 2024 budget line item #430.74 from \$25,000 to \$154,413. ON MOTION, duly made (Willson), seconded (Williams) and carried (5-0) to adopt Resolution #2024-06.

Present and advertise Proposed 2025 Budget: The proposed budget for 2025 is \$2,272,270.00. After review by the public for 20 days, the proposed budget may be adopted at the December meeting. ON MOTION, duly made (Williams), seconded (Andreoli) and carried (5-0) to advertise the proposed 2025 budget.

Resolution #2024-07 Statewide LSA Grant for Center Street: Mary Lou Butler read Resolution #2024-07 which will allow for the application and submission of the Statewide LSA grant for Center Street. ON MOTION, duly made (Andreoli), seconded (Williams) and carried (5-0) to adopt Resolution #2024-07. ON THE QUESTION, Chairwoman Kearney clarified this roadwork will include repairing and paving one half of Center Street, from Route 435 to the lumber yard and tar and chipping the other half, from Jubilee Road to the lumber yard. If awarded, this project will not take place until at least 2026. Chairwoman/Secretary Kearney also asked if the road can be made a little wider where the trucks pull out of the lumber yard since the shoulder is being damaged. She also reported that she spoke with Mark Cordelli of the county who contacted Larry of the Roads and Bridges department regarding the bridge on Center Street. We are still awaiting further information.

Apply for and submit Statewide LSA Grant for Center Street: ON MOTION, duly made (Williams), seconded (Andreoli) and carried to allow Mary Lou Butler to apply for and submit the Statewide LSA grant.

Quote to repair the Moffat garage: A quote was received from West Branch Construction to repair the damage on the Moffat garage. The quote is for \$7,200.00 but may incur further expenses because they are not sure what they will find once they start the work. This repair will include replacing the LVL beam, rewire, parge with scratch quote, and then finish coat. Dave Lamm questioned the LVL beam being pressure treated, but felt the quote was reasonable. ON MOTION, duly made (Peirce), seconded (Willson) and carried (5-0) to approve the quote for the repair.

Zoning Code Enforcement Officer: The monthly report was reviewed which reported 2 violation letters have been sent; (1) sign has been removed as a result of a previous violation letter. The report also included (11) Eagle Lake permits, (2) sign permits, and (5) zoning permits which included single family homes, garage, sunroom, and bank. They are also looking into a county GIS mapping software that they feel would be helpful for them with property lines, etc. The cost of this program is \$1,300.00. A brief discussion ensued, and it was decided that it will be tabled until next month to allow Mary Lou to speak with her partner regarding this program versus a different program. ON MOTION, duly made (Willson), seconded (Andreoli) and carried (5-0) to accept the monthly report as submitted.

Building Inspector: Dave Lamm reviewed his monthly report which reported (1) permit for an addition; (1) permit for a pool; (2) permits for single family residence; and (1) permit for a demolition of a burned single-family home. Supervisor/DPW Director Peirce asked if the property located on Dorantown Road

was straightened out with the subdivision; it was discussed that a parcel number was issued. ON MOTION, duly made (Andreoli), seconded (Williams) and carried (5-0) to approve the building inspector's monthly report.

Planning Commission: Being there were no meetings held in the month of October, there was no planning commission report.

Engineer: Mary Lou Butler reviewed her monthly report advising that Bay Drive has been fixed. She also reported on the ineligibility of the EECBG grant. It was also advised that the Peoples Security bank has never brought their land development plans in for signatures and recording. Dave Lamm advised they are looking for a building permit, so he will advise them that the plans need to be signed and recorded prior to their receiving a building permit. ON MOTION, duly made (Williams), seconded (Andreoli) and carried (5-0) to accept the engineer's monthly report.

Solicitor: Atty. Wolff advised a stipulation of settlement has been received for the real estate assessment tax appeal for the SADG III Limited Partnership (aka Rite-Aid). The newly appraised fair market value of the property is \$2.2 million dollars. This does result in a refund of the prior year's taxes (2021-2024) and the township will issue credits for this reduction. Dave Lamm asked why it took so long for this appeal to take place, with Atty. Wolff advising it was started back in 2020, but there had been no action on it until now. Atty. Wolff also advised the county and the school district, are also in agreement with this new assessment. ON MOTION, duly made (Williams), seconded (Andreoli) and carried (5-0) to authorize Atty. Wolff to sign the stipulation on behalf of the township. Supervisor/DPW Director Peirce questioned the current assessed value of the township compared to the amount of tax revenue we receive. It was discussed that the newly assessed value of the township has increased from \$56 million to \$69 million in the last 3 years, but the township is receiving the same amount of tax revenue as we had when our assessed value was less. A brief discussion ensued, and it was discussed that it may be because of the LERTA on the Portman building in the industrial park. Chairwoman/Secretary Kearney will speak with the county to seek an answer.

Director of Public Works: Supervisor/DPW Director Peirce reported on the following items:

2025 Freightliner Chassis ~ the purchase of a 2025 Freightliner chassis was approved on the bill list. Supervisor/DPW Director Peirce advised we will purchase the chassis this year for a total of \$129,413.00 from Sherwood Trucks, a costars dealer. A quote for the upfitting of this chassis was received from Bradco Supply, also a costars dealer, in the amount of \$136,108.38. The chassis will be purchased this year, per the resolution adopted earlier, and the upfitting will be purchased next year because it will take approximately 1-year to arrive. This has been budgeted in next year's proposed budget. ON MOTION, duly made (Williams), seconded (Andreoli) and carried (5-0) to allow Supervisor/DPW Director Peirce to contact Bradco Supply to order the upfitting package for the Freightliner chassis.

Freytown Road ~ the company PPL has contracted to fix Freytown Road is doing a great job. Once it rains, our road crew will roll the stones on Freytown Road to pack them in more. Per Chairwoman/Secretary Kearney, they are also supposed to pave a portion of Freytown Road to complete the repairs.

Havenstrite Lane Driveway ~ A discussion was held on installing a driveway on the property owned by the township on Havenstrite Lane prior to the paving of this road next year. A driveway permit application will be completed for the issuance of a driveway permit for the township.

Gate at Moffat Estate ~ The road department will begin installing the old recycling gate at the entrance to the side parking lot at the Moffat Estate. Large rocks will also be placed on either side of the gate to deter vehicles from driving around the gate.

The guide rails were installed on Bochicchio Blvd earlier today. The total cost of the install with labor and materials will need to be given to the police chief for reimbursement. ON MOTION, duly made (Williams), seconded (Willson) and carried (5-0) to accept the DPW Director's monthly report.

Roadmaster: No report. Chairwoman/Secretary Kearney advised that a compliment was received from Angie Musgrave, Union Mill Road, complimenting Justin and Artie on the great work they are doing clearing the sides of the roadways. Also, a service request was received and completed for a sink hole that had opened up on Alts Lane.

Moffat Maintenance: No report.

Police Department: Chief Lamm reviewed his monthly report, which summarized 273 service calls for the month. He also reported on the following:

Replacing the patrol rifles ~ a quote was received in the amount of \$5,225.55 to replace (3) patrol rifles. These rifles are on backorder and will take 3-4 months to receive. Donations have been received in the amount of \$2,100.00, and with the sale of the current rifles we no longer need, we could recognize \$1,900.00. The total out of pocket for the (3) new rifles would be \$1,225.55. ON MOTION, duly made (Williams), seconded (Andreoli) and carried (5-0) to allow Chief Lamm to sell (5) current firearms and order (3) new patrol rifles with an out-of-pocket cost of \$1,225.55.

Vehicle upgrade replacement program ~ A discussion was held at the budget workshops and previous meetings regarding upgrading our current police vehicles with a 7-10-year plan. Chief Lamm has found a 2020 Dodge Charger which he would like to purchase to replace the current Dodge Charger (14-3). This Charger has 14,000 miles and is selling for a total of \$31,328.99 with a blue book cost of \$38,000. This vehicle will have a 6-month warranty with it and will be shipped from North Carolina for free. The cost to strip the current Charger will be \$600 and the cost to re-install the equipment on the new vehicle and purchase a few additional items to upfit the new vehicle will be \$2,750.00. The total cost of the 2020 Dodge Charger, including upfitting and lettering will be \$35,453.99. After the decommission of the current Dodge Charger, it can be sold on Municibid or kept. ON MOTION, duly made (Willson), seconded (Williams) and carried (5-0) to purchase the 2020 Dodge Charger from Jacky Jones Ford of Hayesville, NC.

Review of items requested by police chief for the police department ~ A review of the list of items needed for the police department was discussed, which included (4) in-car computers with printers for \$29,734.68 (Costars supplier), finish upfitting the Tahoe for \$4,363.39, and painting the Ford Interceptor black for \$4,400. At the last budget workshop, it was discussed that we place the order for the computers and the upfitting of the Tahoe and Durango before the end of the year since there will be a surplus in the police budget due to the lack of payroll. ON MOTION, duly made (Andreoli), seconded (Williams) and carried (5-0) to allow the police chief to order the (4) in-car computers with printers in the amount of \$29,734.68. ON MOTION, duly made (Andreoli), seconded (Williams) and carried (5-0) to allow the police chief to finish upfitting the Tahoe and Durango for \$4,363.39.

A brief discussion was held regarding the drug paraphernalia ordinance. Atty. Wolff would like to speak with Chief Lamm in further detail regarding this ordinance. This will be tabled until next month. ON MOTION, duly made (Willson), seconded (Williams) and carried (5-0) to accept the police chief's monthly report.

Recreation Committee: Supervisor Andreoli advised the recreation committee is requesting a budget of \$5,000 for food, decorations, events, favors, etc. She reported they will be hosting a hall of trees once again with donations being received for the trees. They will also be making bird feeders and have a tractor and hayride in place of the horse and buggy. They have recruited (6) new volunteers. A discussion was held regarding the budget and event as a whole. Vice-Chairwoman Williams advised, her employer will be donating 300 Christmas activity books for this event. ON MOTION, duly made (Williams), seconded (Peirce) and carried (5-0) to approve a budget of \$2,000 for the Christmas at the Mansion Event.

Sewage Enforcement Officer: No report received.

New Business: A law has been passed to increase the Supervisor's compensation to \$3,145.00 per year, for a township of our size. An ordinance will need to be adopted. The increase will not take effect for any supervisor until they are re-elected for a new term.

Old Business: The library donation was addressed under the bill section. An additional \$500 was donated to the N.P. Library, making the total donation for this year \$1,000.00.

Correspondence:

Land Bank ~ The township has been notified the Land Bank will be acquiring one property in Eagle Lake Development for recreational purposes.

Upset Tax Sale Disbursement ~ (2) properties were recently sold at the Upset Tax Sale, (1) property located in Eagle Lake, and (1) property located on Richland Road.

Supervisor Comments: Supervisor/DPW Director Peirce questioned funds the Daleville United Methodist Church has for the Daleville Cemetery, which the township took ownership of last year. The church is asking if the monies can be given to the Laurel Hill cemetery, which is located on Dorantown Road. This is a church issue that the township should not get involved in.

Public Comment: None.

Adjournment: ON MOTION duly made (Williams) seconded (Kearney) and carried (5-0) to adjourn the meeting at 8:53 pm.

Respectfully submitted:

Melissa Kearney, Secretary

Approved: 12.3.24

