

**COVINGTON TOWNSHIP SUPERVISORS  
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING  
DECEMBER 3, 2024**

The Covington Township Board of Supervisors held their regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, December 3, 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, Roadmaster Arthur Alt, and Police Chief Jeff Lamm.

**Agenda:** ON MOTION, duly made (Willson), seconded (Williams) and carried (5-0) to accept the agenda as presented.

**Announcements:** None.

**Public Comment:** Mark Cordelli, representative of Lackawanna County, was present to review the upcoming events in the County. A brief discussion was held regarding available grants for vehicles. Mr. Cordelli also wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

**Minutes:** ON MOTION, duly made (Andreoli), seconded (Williams) and carried (5-0) to accept the minutes of the November 5, 2024 monthly meeting and November 26, 2024 work session as presented.

**Bills:** The bill list includes (2) separate invoices for PMRS, the township retirement plan. These bills are the township's contribution to the retirement plan for the township employees. These will be considered approved upon approval of the bills. The uniform portion is \$11,687.00 and the non-uniform portion is \$64,091.00. Supervisor Peirce questioned if this would get the retirement plan caught up, with Chairwoman/Secretary Kearney reporting she believed the plan is current, however the treasurer could report better on that. Chairwoman/Secretary Kearney also reported that a catch up of full-time employees, who were not enrolled on their 1<sup>st</sup> day of employment will need to be done. There was a misunderstanding at some point, where the employees were not enrolled on their 1<sup>st</sup> day, but were enrolled after their initial 3 months. At the recent meeting held with the employees and representatives from PMRS, it was discovered that all full-time employees are to be enrolled on the 1<sup>st</sup> day of employment with the township. Supervisor Willson also questioned a \$3.00 mistake for a bill to the union attorney. This was a mistake on the part of the township, which is being rectified. ON MOTION, duly made (Peirce), seconded (Williams) and carried (5-0) to pay the bills, including the PMRS payments, as presented.

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

**Administrative Actions:**

**Resolution 2024-08 ~ Adopt the 2025 Budget:** Resolution 2024-08, a Resolution Adopting the 2025 Budget was read. The budget amount for 2025 is \$2,272,720.00. ON MOTION, duly made (Williams), seconded (Willson) and carried (5-0) to adopt Resolution 2024-08.

**Resolution 2024-09 ~ Fixing the Tax Rate for the Year 2025:** Atty. Wolff read Resolution 2024-09, a Resolution Fixing the Tax Rate for the Year 2025. The tax rate for 2025 is 8.25 mills for general purposes, and 2.00 mills for fire protection purposes. There will be no tax increase for the year 2025. ON MOTION, duly made (Willson), seconded (Andreoli) and carried (5-0) to adopt Resolution 2024-09.

**Health Insurance Plan Change:** The township has been working with Cummings Insurance Agency with regards to our health insurance plans. A quote was received from Geisinger Health Insurance which will offer the same benefits with a broader network at a lower cost to the township. The current HRA will continue with the Geisinger plan. ON MOTION, duly made (Williams), seconded

(Andreoli) and carried (4-0-1) to authorize Cummings Insurance agency to contract with Geisinger Health Insurance. Chairwoman/Secretary Kearney abstained from the vote.

**Estimate for exterior lighting in rear of current police station:** An estimate was received from Swartz Electric in the amount of \$6,735.00. This quote includes (2) outdoor outlets for the gazebo at the senior center, (1) wall pack to light the parking area near the dance studio, replacing the sub panel in the senior center, and upgrading the lighting in the senior center to LED lights. Supervisor/DPW Director Peirce explained the work to the board and how the quote was created. A brief discussion was held regarding the sub panel with a decision being made to have the electrician add a main disconnect to the subpanel. Chairwoman/Secretary Kearney advised she also spoke with Garrett Swartz (Swartz Electric) regarding the wire that is down; he will get to it next week. ON MOTION, duly made (Peirce), seconded (Willson) and carried (5-0) to approve the estimate from Swartz Electric in its entirety.

**Bids for police car:** At last month's meeting, a vote was taken to purchase a 2020 Dodge Charger for the police department to replace 14-3. After the meeting, it was discovered that the dealer the vehicle was being purchased from was not Costars. Upon this discovery, a legal ad was placed in the newspaper advertising for sealed bids for this same type of vehicle. The sealed bids were to be received at the office by noon today. One bid from Jacky Jones of Hayesville Ford, in the amount of \$31,228.99, was received for a 2020 Dodge Charger with 14,210 miles, free delivery, and a 6-month warranty. ON MOTION, duly made (Williams), seconded (Andreoli) and carried (5-0) to approve the bid of \$31,328.99.

**Lease for Occhipinti:** A lease renewal has been drafted for the Occhipinti Dance Company with the following terms: (3) year lease with yearly rent increases to begin in July 2025. The rent in July 2025 will be \$1,800.00; July 2026 it will increase to \$1,900.00; and in July 2027 it will increase to \$2,000.00. All other items will remain the same as in the current lease. A section was added to the lease regarding snow removal. ON MOTION, duly made (Andreoli), seconded (Willson) and carried (5-0) to approve the lease renewal for Occhipinti Dance Company.

**Advertise meeting dates for January 2025:** Secretary Kearney would like to advertise the re-organization dates for January 2025. ON MOTION, duly made (Peirce), seconded (Williams) and carried (5-0) to approve the advertising of the re-organization meeting dates.

**Planning Commission:** The planning commission's monthly report was reviewed. They are making no recommendations at this time. ON MOTION, duly made (Andreoli), seconded (Williams) and carried to accept the planning commission's monthly report as submitted.

**Building Inspector:** Dave Lamm reviewed his monthly report which reported (1) 3 season room, (1) single family residence, and (1) bank. Supervisor Andreoli questioned what was happening on Route 502. At this time, there is nothing into the township. Dave also reported that he spoke with the assessor's office regarding the reassessment. He reported that in-ground pools are being assessed, above grounds are not. Sheds that are 250 S.F. or less will not be assessed unless they (assessors) see wires going to them or they have plumbing. A question was raised regarding the sheds in Eagle Lake. A discussion was held on the re-assessment forms that were received by property owners. ON MOTION, duly made (Williams), seconded (Kearney) and carried (5-0) to accept the building inspector's monthly report.

**Zoning Code Enforcement Officer:** The monthly report was reviewed which reported (13) permits were issued for Eagle Lake; (1) sign permit; & (3) zoning permits which included (1) solar panel, (1) new home, and (1) fence. At last month's meeting, the ZCEO was asking for a GIS mapping system in the amount of \$1,300.00 with a \$100.00 training fee. ON MOTION, duly made (Kearney), seconded (Peirce) and carried (5-0) to approve the purchase of the County GIS mapping system. ON MOTION, duly made (Andreoli), seconded (Williams) and carried (5-0) to accept the ZCEO's monthly report as submitted.

**Engineer:** Mary Lou Butler submitted the grant application for Center Street. She will also begin working on the bid specs for Havenstrite Lane. ON MOTION, duly made (Williams), seconded (Peirce) and carried (5-0) to accept the engineer's monthly report.

**Solicitor:** Atty. Wolff asked for permission to enter his appearance in the LBA NCC-XXIII Company LLC tax appeal so he will receive the information regarding this appeal. ON MOTION, duly made (Peirce), seconded (Williams) and carried (5-0) to authorize Atty. Wolff to enter his appearance in this tax appeal. Vice-Chairwoman Williams questioned the status of the RGM property. A few months ago, we received notice they were moving forward with testing the water. Chairwoman/Secretary Kearney will send an email for an update.

**Director of Public Works:** Supervisor/DPW Director Peirce reported he spoke with Duane Burkholder who replaced the roof on the garages regarding the snow rail that had come off with the recent snow. He will be up to repair the snow rails and leaks once there is no longer snow on the roof. Supervisor/DPW Director Peirce also spoke on the assessed value of the township with \$7.7 million being untaxable property. He also advised that we need to transfer our ARPA balance into the general fund as replacement revenue. A brief discussion was also held on the weather and the effects of snow squalls overnight when the road department is not on, and the snow gets ahead of the DPW department. Chairwoman/Secretary Kearney reported that she received (2) compliments on the work the DPW department did with the recent snowstorm.

**Roadmaster:** Roadmaster Alt had nothing to report.

**Moffat Maintenance:** The mansion has been decorated for the holidays. The work is continuing at the new police station.

**Police Department:** Chief Lamm reviewed his monthly report, which summarized 242 service calls for the month. This total did not include the calls that could not be officially reported due to the recent power/internet outage. He asked for, and was granted permission, to sell (2) tasers the department no longer needs, to other police departments within the area. He also reported there are 5 or 6 portable radios the police department have that are no longer needed and maybe the road department could use them. Supervisor/DPW Director Peirce will investigate this and see if they could be used by the road department. Cobblestone Real Estate donated \$500.00 for the purchase of a gun safe, which has already been purchased. ON MOTION, duly made (Williams), seconded (Kearney) and carried (5-0) to accept the police chief's monthly report.

**Recreation Committee:** Supervisor Andreoli asked if the insurance had been received for the hayride/tractor. She reported the recreation committee is ready for the event this weekend. There are approximately 27 trees in the Hall of Trees. Vice-Chairwoman Williams asked if waivers would be signed for the hayride; it was reported no and that was what the insurance is for. ON MOTION, duly made (Williams), seconded (Willson) and carried (5-0) to accept the recreation committee's monthly report.

**Sewage Enforcement Officer:** No report received.

**New Business:** None.

**Old Business:** The county will be going forward with the repair of the wind turbine. Ryan Storke contacted the secretary and advised that he spoke with the county, and they have approved the repairs to the wind turbine. If the weather holds out the repairs could happen soon, but if not, it will be on schedule for April.

**Correspondence:** (2) thank you letters were received from the N.P. Public Library for our (2) donations of \$500.00. A letter was received from Berkshire Hathaway Homeservices regarding the potential of leasing or selling the property located at 20 Moffat Drive for commercial solar development. A brief discussion was held, with the supervisors advising they are not interested. A letter was also received from the Commander of VFW Post 5207, Daleville inquiring about a donation to assist the post in purchasing a generator to allow the residents of the community a warm place where they could enjoy heat, charge electronics, and enjoy fellowship in the event of a large power outage. The commander advised there will

be no alcohol served while the post is being utilized as a community shelter. He advised they will have non-alcoholic beverages and may provide food during an outage. A brief discussion ensued regarding the cost of the generator. ON MOTION, duly made (Andreoli), seconded (Williams) and carried (5-0) to donate \$1,000 to the VFW for their generator fund upon proof of purchase of the generator.

**Supervisor Comments:** Chairwoman/Secretary Kearney advised there will be no work session in December, and the re-organization meeting will be held on January 6, 2025 with the regular meeting being held the next day on January 7, 2025. Supervisor/DPW Director Peirce commented on the upcoming re-organization meeting and the employee holidays. He feels Good Friday and Veterans Day should not be floating holidays. Good Friday is a religious holiday and Veterans Day is a holiday for Veterans. He also feels that Columbus Day is a federal holiday just so the federal employees can have a day off since the government has removed all statues of Columbus; Supervisor Andreoli agreed. He also commented that he would like to give up the DPW Director position and asked that one of the fellow board members consider taking the position. Supervisor Andreoli advised no one else has the knowledge he has; Roadmaster Alt stated that he and Justin feel that he (Supervisor/DPW Director Peirce) is doing a good job.

**Public Comment:** None.

**Adjournment:** ON MOTION duly made (Williams) seconded (Willson) and carried (5-0) to adjourn the meeting at 8:25 pm.

Respectfully submitted:  
Melissa Kearney, Secretary

Approved: 1-7-2025

