

COVINGTON TOWNSHIP SUPERVISORS
MONTHLY WORK SESSION
JANUARY 28, 2025

The Covington Township Board of Supervisors held their monthly work session on Tuesday, January 28, 2025, 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: 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: Police Chief Jeff Lamm.

Agenda: The agenda was accepted as presented.

Public Comment: An executive session was held earlier this evening at 6:00pm to discuss personnel discipline.

Minutes: The draft minutes of the January 6, 2025, re-organization meeting and the January 7, 2025 monthly meeting were presented to the supervisors for their review prior to next week's meeting.

Bills: The bills will be available at next week's monthly meeting.

Treasurer's Report: The treasurer's reports will also be available at next week's monthly meeting.

Administrative Actions:

Covington Independent Fire Company: Fire Chief Brad Jones and Director of Emergency Medical Services, Michael Chmielewski were present to discuss the addition of an ALS (Advanced Life Support) truck to the current ambulance division of the fire company. They asked the Board of Supervisors to consider updating the current resolution to appoint the Covington Independent Fire Company as the primary BLS (Basic Life Support) and ALS provider(s) for the township. Chief Jones explained what being designated as the "primary" BLS and ALS units for the township mean. A discussion was also held on the security parameters that will be put in place along with the advantage of having an ALS truck in our township. They have met with officers of the Moscow Ambulance, who are in favor of this. They will also be presenting this to all municipalities in the North Pocono Area. Supervisor Peirce questioned annual fundraising for the ambulance and ALS services; he asked for an explanation on how the ALS will be paid for their services; and how the fire company will work with other companies to receive payment when another fire company is involved. The supervisors will consider adopting the resolution at next week's monthly meeting. Chief Jones also thanked the supervisors for their assistance in applying for and securing the LSA grant in the amount of \$500,000 for the purchase of a new fire engine.

Resignation of Vice-Chairwoman Vicki Williams: A resignation letter was received from Vice-Chairwoman, Vicki Williams, with a resignation date effective February 1, 2025. This letter will be accepted at the monthly meeting.

Treasurer Vacancy: Chairwoman/Secretary Kearney reported the replacement for treasurer Diana Patton has decided against taking the position with the township. We will need to advertise for a replacement. Secretary Kearney has reached out to a few payroll companies, and accountants, and will have a report for the next meeting.

Resolution to authorize payment for Sewer Authority members: The sewer authority would like to receive compensation for their meetings and time. Atty. Wolff has reviewed the Municipal Authorities Act with Atty. Neyhart, the sewer authority attorney, which allows the board of supervisors to set the rate for the sewer authority members. The sewer authority will pay their members out of their general fund. The members are looking for One hundred dollars (\$100.00) per month. This can be accomplished by resolution which will be considered for adoption at next week's meeting.

Zoning Code Enforcement Officer: The ZCEO's report will be available next week.

Building Inspector: This report will be available next week.

Planning Commission: The planning commission's report will be available next week. They are making a recommendation of the Webb Lot Improvement. Kathryn Webb, of Bay Drive, is seeking a lot improvement to combine 2 parcels of land; one parcel is non-conforming, with no buildings on it. All requirements have been met. Three (3) letters of interest have been received for the vacant position on the planning commission. The 3 letters are from: Thomas Oltmann, Paula Perry, and Supervisor William Willson. The board will make an appointment at next week's meeting, being no recommendations have been made by the planning commission. A brief discussion was held regarding the Wawa minor subdivision and land development plans. The planning commission will be making a recommendation for approval, with contingencies, for both the minor subdivision and the land development. Chairwoman Kearney and Supervisor Peirce were present at the planning commission meeting to hear the recommendation which includes five (5) contingencies for the minor subdivision and twenty-nine (29) contingencies for the land development plans. Some contingencies are based on outside agency reports and permits, and some are minor, but there are a few that need to be addressed prior to approval. Representatives of Wawa will be present at next week's meeting. Supervisor Willson asked Secretary Kearney to speak with Mary Lou Butler and have her reach out to the engineer of Wawa to advise that some of the minor contingencies will need to be addressed prior to any consideration of approval being taken. Supervisor Peirce will be questioning the turning lane on Route 435 into the Wawa; upgrading the traffic signals at Routes 435 and 502 and Routes 307 and 502; taking over the maintenance of the traffic signal at Route 435, Bochicchio Blvd and Route 502; and maintenance of the Wawa driveway and Bochicchio Blvd, including the driveway curbs, the divider and the delineators. He will also ask about the sale of adult beverages; a discussion was held regarding the sale of adult beverages and the police department. Chief Lamm spoke as a taxpayer asking if the board could ask the Wawa to develop the entire intersection with sidewalks, etc. for the safety of the children and pedestrians walking to the intersection. The discussion ensued on the HOP application.

Engineer: The report will be available next week.

Director of Public Works: Supervisor/DPW Director Peirce reported on the condition of the furnaces at the dance studio. A quote was received from Advanced Heating and Air Conditioning to replace just the furnaces, and a separate quote was received to replace the entire HVAC systems. There are (2) systems at the dance studio. The board will need to decide how they would like to proceed.

Roadmaster: No report.

Moffat Maintenance: No report.

Police Department: Chief Lamm asked the board to add the purchase of a records management system to the agenda for next week's meeting. He spoke about the program and informed the board the cost will be around Two Thousand Dollars (\$2,000). This system will eliminate all paper reports and will classify as a capital improvement purchase of his budget. He also spoke about a meeting he had with Senator Brown, and advised he is also speaking with the police departments in the North Pocono area to form a police association, which will be like a Council of Governments, only with the police departments. Senator Brown will assist with funding police equipment if the police departments form this association. Chief Lamm also explained that he originally received a quote for 2 new computers for the police station, but after speaking with our IT company and Senator Brown, it was decided that only one (1) computer will be required at this time. This will be voted on at next week's meeting.

Recreation Committee: The recreation committee submitted their re-organization meeting minutes. They have also included a roster of their members with their respective terms.

Sewage Enforcement Officer: No report received.

New Business: None.

Old Business:

Supervisor Compensation Ordinance: Chairwoman/Secretary Kearney spoke on the increase allowed in the supervisor's compensation. This will need to be done by ordinance and will only be effective at the beginning of a new term of office. There is a vacancy on the board, and Chairwoman Kearney is up for election this year. If this ordinance is passed, the two (2) candidates elected in November will receive the raise at the start of their terms.

Pavilion Rental Rate for Non-profits: A discussion was held once again on charging a nominal rental fee for non-profits. Chairwoman/Secretary Kearney advised the calls are starting already and a decision needs to be made. Supervisor Willson advised the North Pocono Cultural Society is asking about hosting a concert every Monday at the pavilion during the summer months, and Chairwoman/Secretary Kearney advised she received a call from Little Acres about hosting a day camp, two (2) days a week during the summer months. A discussion was held on how much the charge would be and that we have already received two (2) calls, one (1) from a non-profit and one (1) from a for-profit. A decision should be made at next week's meeting.

Correspondence: A letter was received from the Foleywood HOA president. A brief discussion was held, the township does not enforce HOA covenants.

Supervisor Comments: Chairwoman/Secretary Kearney received a call from Senator Brown informing the township that the sewage planning grant has been awarded in the amount of One Hundred Thousand dollars (\$100,000).

Public Comment: None.

Adjournment: The work session was adjourned at 8:26pm.

Respectfully submitted:
Melissa Kearney, Secretary

Approved: 2.4.2025

