

COVINGTON TOWNSHIP SUPERVISORS
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
APRIL 1, 2025

The Covington Township Board of Supervisors held their regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, April 1, 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 were: Chairwoman/Secretary Melissa Kearney, Vice-chairman F. Marshall Peirce, Supervisor William Willson, Supervisor Wanda Andreoli (arrived during Administrative Actions), Supervisor William Beavers and Attorney Joel Wolff.

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

Agenda: ON MOTION, duly made (Peirce), seconded (Willson) and carried (4-0) to accept the agenda as presented.

Announcements: None.

Public Comment: No public comment.

Minutes: ON MOTION, duly made (Peirce), seconded (Beavers) and carried (4-0) to accept the minutes of the March 4, 2025, monthly meeting, and the March 25, 2025, work session as presented.

Bills: Vice-Chairman Peirce questioned the delivery of only one order from American Rock Salt, when there were 3 separate orders placed. Chairwoman/Secretary Kearney will contact American Rock Salt to check on the additional orders to verify there is no penalty with our contract for next year. ON MOTION, duly made (Willson), seconded (Beavers) and carried (4-0) to pay the bills as presented.

Treasurer's Report: Chairwoman/Secretary Kearney advised there is no balance sheet for the township accounts this month. Our treasurer has just received authorization from the bank to access the bank accounts online, and there is a discrepancy between the online accounts and the QuickBooks account due to the additional deposits made into the accounts that she was unaware of. She will reconcile the accounts and have a balance sheet available at next month's meeting. The deposit list of all checks received, was made available to the supervisors and the public. ON MOTION, duly made (Willson), seconded (Beavers) and carried (4-0) to accept the treasurer's report as presented.

Administrative Actions:

FEMA grant for generator: Chairwoman/Secretary Kearney spoke about a FEMA grant that closes on Friday, April 4, 2025, she would like permission to apply for the grant to attempt to obtain a generator to supply power to the Police Station and the Municipal Office in the event of a power outage. ON MOTION, duly made (Willson), seconded (Beavers) and carried (4-0) to allow the secretary to apply for the FEMA grant.

Advertise for additional office staff: Vice-Chairman Peirce advised he would like to advertise for one more office staff to assist the current office staff. ON THE QUESTION: Supervisor Willson questioned whether the new hire would be full or part time; Chairwoman/Secretary Kearney advised some key points would be someone who can do H.R. (Human Resources), payroll, grant writing would be a plus, and general assistance for the current office staff. Advertising will be (1) time in the Scranton Times due to the cost, and any other free websites such as PA Career Link, etc. ON MOTION, duly made (Peirce), seconded (Beavers) and carried (4-0) to advertise for additional office staff.

Stonework at Estate: Chairwoman/Secretary Kearney spoke with Henry Kakareka who advised he is willing to work on the stonework at the estate again this year. ON MOTION, duly made (Peirce), seconded (Beavers) and carried (4-0) to continue the stonework at the estate with a budget of \$20,000.00 for this year. Henry will begin working in the middle of May when the weather starts to stay warmer.

Playground mulch and border: A brief discussion was held regarding the mulch at the playground. Jay has made some calls to get the price of certified playground mulch delivered to the township. A.M Logging came in the cheapest at \$1,983.60 delivered for a 80 yard load. We will need

approx. 282 yds to make the mulch 1' deep. We will also need to replace the wood barrier that surrounds the playground. Dirlam Lumber was the best price for 6"x6"x16' pressure treated lumber. ON MOTION, duly made (Peirce), seconded (Willson) and carried (5-0) to approve the purchase of (3) loads of certified playground mulch delivered from A.M. Logging and (23) 16' pressure treated 6"x6" boards delivered by Dirlam Lumber.

Resolution #2025-05: Attorney Wolff read Resolution #2025-05, An Intermunicipal Agreement between Covington Township and Madison Township for the paving of Kosinski Road. ON MOTION, duly made (Beavers), seconded (Andreoli) and carried (5-0) to approve Resolution #2025-05.

Proposed changes to the parking area of AutoZone: An email was received asking for permission from the board of supervisors to change the parking areas of the AutoZone from concrete to asphalt. A brief discussion was held with no objections by the board. ON MOTION, duly made (Kearney), seconded (Andreoli) and carried (5-0) to allow the change of the AutoZone parking areas.

Zoning Code Enforcement Officer: The monthly report of the ZCEO was reviewed which included (2) violation letters being served by the constable; the ZCEO spoke with a business owner regarding a sign; checked for violations in Quiet Pines; issued (7) permits within Eagle Lake for various items; and issued (4) zoning permits within the township. Supervisor Willson questioned Building Inspector Dave Lamm if there were any specific regulations regarding the installation of a salt shed, especially near where there was already salt contamination, a brief discussion ensued. ON MOTION, duly made (Peirce), seconded (Kearney) and carried (5-0) to accept the Zoning Code Enforcement Officer's monthly report.

Building Inspector: Dave Lamm reviewed his monthly report which included (2) permits being issued. (1) for the installation of a standby generator at a township residence and (1) for a comfort station within Eagle Lake. ON MOTION, duly made (Peirce), seconded (Beavers) and carried (5-0) to accept the building inspector's monthly report.

Planning Commission: The planning commission monthly report was reviewed. At their monthly meeting, a discussion was held regarding a land subdivision which is currently under review. ON MOTION, duly made (Beavers), seconded (Andreoli) and carried (5-0) to accept the planning commission monthly report.

Wawa land development (also known as 2025 Bochicchio Covington, LLC): Julie VonSpreckelsen, attorney for the developer spoke on the previous approvals and the sidewalk issue, informing the board that the sidewalk issue has been resolved. Cory Gosik spoke about where the sidewalk will be installed. It will stop at the property line and pick back up near the intersection of Bochicchio Blvd and Route 435 in the township's right of way. Armand Fiorani verified the location of the sidewalk and commented on his concerns regarding his property. He asked for assistance with paving. A brief discussion ensued regarding the additional lane on Bochicchio Blvd being installed in the township right of way. Vice-Chairman Peirce commented that between Mary Lou Butler, Atty. Wolff, Chief Lamm, the representatives of the school district and the board of supervisors, did the best they could to make this project work as safely as possible. He commented that he asked for a few things and that he got a few things, but there were also other things he asked for that he did not get regarding the safety of this project. He wished there could have been more done about the hours of operation of the store and about having additional police officers on duty during those hours, but he did the best he could do. Chairwoman Kearney thanked him and the others for their assistance with this project. Attorney Wolff reviewed the remaining contingencies; some of which involved the recording of the minor subdivision, owner(s) and engineer's signatures on the plans, well permit from PADEP, HOP from PennDOT, Developer's Agreement, along with a few additional other items. ON MOTION, duly made (Willson), seconded (Beavers) and carried (3-2) to approve the land development plan of the 2025 Bochicchio Covington, LLC. A roll call vote was taken with the following votes: Kearney, no, stating that she although she approves the Wawa itself, she cannot support the access road onto Bochicchio Blvd; Peirce, yes, Willson, yes, Andreoli, no, and Beavers, yes. The project is approved with contingencies.

Application for the Traffic Signal Approval: Rob Hoffman explained the application which is required by PennDOT to allow the upgrades to be made to the traffic signal at the intersection of Route 435 and Bochicchio Blvd. ON MOTION, duly made (Beavers), seconded (Willson) and carried (5-0) to complete the application for the Traffic Signal Approval.

Authorization for agent to apply for HOP: Rob Hoffman explained this application is for the stormwater structures within PennDOT's right of way. The township is responsible for the maintenance of the stormwater structures, however, as previously discussed, 2025 Bochicchio Covington, LLC will be maintaining the stormwater structures at this sight indefinitely, so this application will give the developer the right to apply for the HOP. ON MOTION, duly made (Kearney), seconded (Peirce) and carried (5-0) to approve the authorization for agent to apply for HOP.

Resolution #2025-06: Atty. Wolff read Resolution #2025-06 which must accompany a Traffic Signal Maintenance Agreement with PennDOT. Rob Hoffman explained this maintenance agreement must be agreed to by the municipality and sent to PennDOT to update and maintain the traffic signals within the township. Chairwoman Kearney asked if this would need to be completed for each traffic signal within the township but was advised this will cover all traffic signals within the township. This is a new requirement by PennDOT. ON MOTION, duly made (Willson), seconded (Kearney) and carried (5-0) to approve Resolution #2025-06.

Engineer: The Havenstrite Road project is being advertised in the paper and the invitations have been sent to all the contractors from last year. There will be a pre-bid meeting at the municipal office, on Tuesday, April 16th at 11:00am. Mary Lou has emailed the quantities for the Covington portion of the Kosinski Road project to Madison Township's Roadmaster. The PennDOT liquid fuels number has been received for the 2025 road project, and she will work on getting the number for the township's portion of the Kosinski Road project. The payment for the fire engine grant has been approved. The cancelled checks from both the township to the fire company and the fire company to the manufacturer will need to be sent to Mary Lou for submission to close out the grant. ON MOTION, duly made (Peirce), seconded (Andreoli) and carried (5-0) to approve the engineer's monthly report.

Solicitor: Nothing further to report.

Director of Public Works: Vice-Chairman/DPW Director Peirce questioned the status of the dumpsters for the Spring Clean-Up. A brief discussion ensued regarding the costs of dumpsters from Gotta Go Dumpsters and CCI Waste. Due to the difference in cost between the two (2) companies, it was decided to stay with CCI Waste for the dumpsters for this year once again. He also reported that our DPW department began working on Kosinski Road. Marshall also reviewed the Roadmaster's monthly report, which included routine maintenance, tire clean-up on Havenstrite Lane, downed tree clean-up, and pothole patching. He also reported that they bailed the shredded paper, and although it was challenging, Marshall believes it will work out ok. Chairwoman Kearney questioned the plastic bailing, to which Vice-Chair Peirce stated they have (2) bails of plastic to date. ON MOTION, duly made (Andreoli), seconded (Willson) and carried (5-0) to accept the DPW and Roadmaster's monthly reports.

Roadmaster: Previously reported under DPW Director.

Moffat Maintenance: Playground and stonework previously discussed. We are still to hear from the plumber regarding the heater in the 2nd floor bathroom.

Police Department: Chief Lamm reviewed his monthly report which included a total of 374 service calls for the month of March. The service calls included: (4) arrests, (94) traffic citations, (71) traffic warnings, (2) non traffic citations, and (25) parking tickets. The police department patrolled 4,446 miles for the month. This is the 1st month since Chief Lamm took over as chief that the police department provided more consistent coverage in the township. They are receiving more service calls because they are more visible and providing additional hours of coverage within the township. The police department conducted several aggressive driving and speed enforcement details. The officers have been trained on the new software, and they are working fully out of the new police station, but are still cleaning out the

evidence room in the old police station. A brief discussion was held on re-commissioning the old charger (14-3) as a car for Eagle Lake during the summer months. It was decided to take the car to Pocono Transportation to see if there are any major defects that would need to be repaired before dumping any money into it for lights and radio for a backup car. ON MOTION, duly made (Peirce), seconded (Andreoli) and carried (5-0) to accept the police department's monthly report. Chairwoman Kearney commended the police department on their hard work and the amount of traffic citations from March. Chief Lamm advised the police department is not nitpicking, they are simply ticketing the drivers who are breaking the law by passing school buses, passing in no passing zones, speeding, etc. Vice-Chairman Peirce spoke about witnessing a car passing a stopped school bus. He mentioned the car had a New York license plate and turned into Eagle Lake. He advised that he called Eagle Lake security about this incident to alert them. Chief Lamm will speak with Chriss Grube, chief of Eagle Lake's security about this incident.

Recreation Committee: The recreation committee will be hosting an Easter Event on Sunday, April 13th with a sensory awareness egg hunt at 11am and a regular egg hunt at 1pm. At this time, the Memorial Day event has been cancelled. The commander of the VFW has advised they have too much going on that day and won't be able to attend. The committee is planning a fishing derby for Saturday, August 9th from 9am-12pm. The police department and fire department will be asked to be there for public relations. ON MOTION, duly made (Andreoli), seconded (Peirce) and carried (5-0) to approve the recreation committee monthly report.

Sewage Enforcement Officer: No report. Dave Lamereaux sent a list of items that should be considered to update our wastewater ordinance. This can be discussed when we are addressing our other sewer, zoning and comprehensive changes.

New Business:

Land Bank: There are (2) properties being purchased by the Land Bank; (1) property is on Canoe Corridor located in Eagle Lake, this property will be used for recreation purposes and (1) property is located on Drinker Turnpike, to be used for a future home.

Flat Rate Business privilege/mercantile tax: Chairwoman Kearney spoke about imposing a tax on businesses located within the township. She provided documentation to the board for their review. This tax would allow the township to impose a tax on every business within the township so long as the tax rate imposed, is the same rate charged to all businesses. There are exceptions allowed as long as the rate set does not affect the uniformity of the application of the tax to the majority of the businesses located within the township. She asked the board to review the documents she gave to them for future discussion.

Old Business:

Painting of the exterior of the police station: A quote was received from Elite Pocono Painting in the amount of \$9,789.00. This is the only quote we received; Supervisor Willson was not able to contact with the painter he spoke of. This quote includes prepping the area, painting, sealing and painting the porch ceilings, painting the Bilko door, staining the front porch, and painting the handrails and steel columns. Chairwoman/Secretary Kearney will add this to the grant for the Moffat Trust. ON MOTION, duly made (Kearney), seconded (Beavers) and carried (5-0) to approve the quote received from Elite Pocono Painting.

Ordinance for debris in township roadways: Chairwoman/Secretary Kearney re-wrote the ordinance regarding debris in the township roadways. She asked the police chief and Atty. Wolff to review the ordinance for adoption at a future meeting.

Ordinance increasing Supervisor compensation: The state has approved an increase in supervisor compensation earlier this year, but unfortunately, this will only apply to newly elected supervisors. This ordinance can be adopted at an upcoming meeting with proper advertising.

Short-term rentals: Paperwork was given to the board regarding a new short-term rental company. This will be tabled until a later date as we will need to find an enforcement officer for short-term rentals.

Correspondence: A letter was previously received asking to add RLE to the towing rotation in the township. Representatives from both RLE Enterprises, and Pocono Towing and Recovery were present to discuss this issue. Mike Festa from RLE asked that RLE be put back on the towing rotation in the township stating that there was no reason given for why they were removed years ago. Mike feels it would be beneficial to have two towing companies within the township instead of just one. Chairwoman Kearney advised there is currently no towing rotation in the township. Mike suggested a one week on, one week off rotation, with the Police chief stating that would not be possible. A discussion ensued between the board of supervisors and the representatives of both towing companies. Chief Lamm advised that any towing company can tow within the township if requested by the responsible party of the vehicle. Since there is currently no rotation in the township, the board has decided to keep the towing situation the same as it was.

Supervisor Comments: Chairwoman Kearney gave condolences to the Lamm family in the loss of Janice. Vice-Chairman Peirce questioned Amos Vered (property owner in Eagle Lake) if the property owners within Eagle Lake were happy with the Lackawanna County tax assessment. Mr. Vered commented that he doesn't believe anyone is happy with it. A brief discussion ensued on the ability to be able to move the RV trailers within Eagle Lake. Atty. Wolff questioned Mr. Vered if the RVs were able to be rented on a Short-term basis. He replied they were, although he was unaware of exactly how many were rented out believing there are 35-40, with actual rentals being much higher. A brief discussion ensued.

Public Comment: None.

Adjournment: ON MOTION duly made (Beavers) seconded (Kearney) and carried (5-0) to adjourn the meeting at 8:35 pm.

Respectfully submitted:
Melissa Kearney, Secretary

Approved: 5-13-25

