

**COVINGTON TOWNSHIP SUPERVISORS**  
**MONTHLY MEETING**  
**JULY 1, 2025**

The Covington Township Board of Supervisors held their monthly meeting on Tuesday, July 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 7:05 p.m. with the Pledge to the Flag.

Present were: Chairwoman/Secretary Melissa Kearney, Vice-Chairman/DPW Director F. Marshall Peirce, Supervisor Wanda Andreoli, Supervisor William Willson, Supervisor William Beavers, and Attorney Joel Wolff.

Also present: Police Chief Jeff Lamm, Building Inspector Dave Lamm, Engineer Mary Lou Butler, and Roadmaster Arthur Alt, Jr.

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

**Announcements:** An executive session was held earlier this evening to discuss personnel. Chairwoman Kearney advised the public there will be no discussion on the data center this evening. There is a hearing scheduled for July 24<sup>th</sup> at the pavilion at 6pm to discuss changing the zoning only. Copies of the draft ordinance were made available for the public. All discussions should be held until then. She also advised that public comments would be limited to 3 minutes. Atty. Wolff also advised of the public hearing and the subject of the hearing.

**Public Comment:** Diane Smith of Eagle Lake thanked the road crew for patching potholes on A.M. Hughes Blvd. Kathryn Benson, whose parents reside in Covington Township, questioned the planning commission's work session being held tomorrow evening (July 2, 2025) and whether the data center would be discussed. She also commented on the environmental concerns of data centers and the lack of this issue in the proposed data center ordinance. She commented on the height of the proposed data center buildings, the conductivity in the soil, and the water and sewer requirements for data centers. A brief discussion was held on the public hearing and the ability for the public to comment on the data centers by being sworn in at the hearing. John Saar, resident of Covington Township, asked if the planning commission meeting is open to the public.

**Minutes:** ON MOTION, duly made (Andreoli), seconded (Beavers) and carried (5-0) to approve the minutes of the June 3, 2025 monthly meeting and the June 24, 2025 work session.

**Bills:** ON MOTION, duly made (Beavers), seconded (Andreoli) and carried (5-0) to pay the bills as presented.

**Treasurer's Report:** The treasurer's report showed balances of \$500,131.57 in the General Checking account; \$779.66 in the payroll account; \$1,401,138.34 in the Investment account; \$12,375.66 in the capital funds account; and \$345.85 in the petty cash account. Chairwoman Kearney advised there were no deposits made prior to the bills being paid due to the treasurer being on vacation, a deposit will be made tomorrow. ON MOTION, duly made (Andreoli), seconded (Peirce) and carried (5-0) to approve the Treasurer's report.

**Administrative Actions:**

**Ordinance #2025-01 ~ Establish Supervisor Compensation:** Atty. Wolff advised this ordinance was advertised on June 18, 2025, in the Scranton Times and was posted on the door of the mansion and the website. He read the ordinance and advised this compensation is set by the Commonwealth. Supervisor Willson added that only newly elected supervisors will receive this compensation. ON MOTION, duly made (Willson), seconded (Peirce) and carried (5-0) to adopt Ordinance #2025-01. Chairwoman Kearney advised this ordinance will take effect 5 days after passage.

Ordinance #2025-02 ~ Prohibits placement of materials in township roadways: Atty. Wolff advised this ordinance was advertised on June 18, 2025, in the Scranton Times and was posted on the door of the mansion and the website. He read a summary of the ordinance. ON MOTION, duly made (Andreoli), seconded (Kearney) and carried (5-0) to approve Ordinance #2025-02. This ordinance will take effect in 5 days.

Resolution #2025-09 ~ Fee for Amendment of Zoning Ordinance for Data Centers, Data Center Campuses and Related Power Generation and Storage Uses: Atty. Wolff advised this resolution will set a fee for creating a data center zone. A brief discussion was held explaining the fee and the amount the fee should be. ON MOTION, duly made (Andreoli), seconded (Beavers) and carried (5-0) to adopt Resolution #2025-09 setting the fee for applying for a zoning amendment to the zoning ordinance for data centers, data center campuses and related power generation and storage uses at \$20,000.00.

Repository Tax Sale: ON MOTION, duly made (Beavers), seconded (Andreoli) and carried (5-0) to accept the bid from Yani Callahan in the amount of \$1,500.00 for a repository tax sale at Delbert Drive CC-91.

Light Tower donation to Fire Co: Vice-Chairman/DPW Director Peirce asked the board to consider donating the (4) light towers to the Fire Co., because the township does not use them and the fire company is the primary user of them. The township stores and maintains the light towers, and by donating them to the Fire Co. they would take over the maintenance and storage of the towers. He advised he is not sure the fire company will accept them, but he will ask, and, if they do, he will ask the Fire Co. to allow the track team and the lions club to use them for their events. ON MOTION, duly made (Andreoli), seconded (Beavers) and carried (4-0-1) to ask the Fire Co. if they would like the light towers with the stipulation of allowing the track team, Lion's Club, and township the use of them, as needed. Vice-Chairman Peirce abstained from the vote.

Paper Shredding of documents at the old police station and the municipal office: Quotes were received from All-Shred in the amount of \$95.00 for onsite shredding of a 64-gallon wheeled container, and Purple Paper Eaters in the amount of \$75.00 for onsite shredding of a 65-gallon container. ON MOTION, duly made (Willson), seconded (Andreoli) and carried (5-0) to accept the bid from Purple Paper Eaters.

Ad for County Convention book: ON MOTION, duly made (Kearney), seconded (Andreoli) and carried (5-0) to place a half-page ad in the county convention book as in the past years.

Legal representation for ALS services for the township: Chairwoman Kearney asked the board to consider retaining Atty. Wolff to represent the township in litigation against the county regarding Resolution #2025-07. Atty. Wolff explained the Fire Co. established an ALS service in March and shortly thereafter, the township adopted a Resolution appointing the Fire Co. as the primary service provider for EMS and ALS services. The county is not recognizing the resolutions of the township and other townships within the North Pocono region. The North Pocono COG has had a meeting with Commissioner Gaughan attempting to address this issue with no solution. A brief discussion was held. ON MOTION, duly made (Kearney), seconded (Beavers) and carried (4-0-1) to retain Atty. Wolff as counsel to represent the township in litigation, if need be, either individually as the township or with the North Pocono COG. Vice-Chairman Peirce abstained from the vote. It is yet to be determined whether the COG will be litigating as a whole or if individual townships will litigate on their own. Dave Lamm questioned the potential of Madison Township and Covington Township joining forces for this litigation. This will be discussed at the Madison Township meeting on Monday.

Zoning Code Enforcement Officer: No report was received.

Building Inspector: Dave Lamm reported he issued 7 permits; 2 Single Family Residences; 1 Change of Occupancy from a B to R3; 1 EV charger; 1 Single Family Residence addition; 1 Roof top mounted solar system; and 1 pole/storage barn. He also reminded the board of supervisors, the 2021 family of building codes and the 2021 NEC (electrical) code are probably going to be enacted on July 13, 2025.

*ON MOTION, duly made (Willson), seconded (Peirce) and carried (5-0) to accept the building inspectors monthly report.*

**Planning Commission:** *The planning commission held their monthly meeting on June 18, 2025. Anna Ceccacci Lorusso was present to discuss a conditional use application. The planning commission is making a recommendation for approval for conditional use, however, Secretary Kearney did not receive any information on this, so it will need to be tabled until the August meeting. Secretary Kearney will speak with the planning commission secretary about this. ON MOTION, duly made (Peirce), seconded (Kearney) and carried (5-0) to accept the planning commission's monthly report.*

**Engineer:** *Mary Lou Butler completed the multi-modal grant application for Union Mill Road. She read Resolution #2025-08 Allowing the Township to Apply for the Multi-Modal Grant for Union Mill Road in the amount of \$349,384.00 with a total project amount of \$499,120.00. ON MOTION, duly made (Andreoli), seconded (Willson) and carried (5-0) to adopt Resolution #2025-08. There is a 30% match for this grant. Mary Lou has set up a pre-construction meeting for Havenstrite Lane and Kosinski Road for July 15<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 am at the municipal office. Wayco is hopeful to begin work towards the end of July. ON MOTION, duly made (Andreoli), seconded (Beavers) and carried (5-0) to accept the Engineer's monthly report..*

**Solicitor:** *Atty. Wolff previously spoke about the data center zoning ordinance.*

**Director of Public Works:** *Vice-Chairman/DPW Director Peirce asked Mary Lou to look into the stormwater issue on Union Mill Road. He also asked her to look at the side of the road on Buena Vista Road that appears to be eroding due to the mailman riding the shoulder of the road. Chairwoman Kearney also advised the DPW Director that she showed Mary Lou video of stormwater issues on Center Street near Route 435. ON MOTION, duly made (Beavers), seconded (Andreoli) and carried (5-0) to accept the DPW Director's monthly report.*

**Roadmaster:** *Roadmaster Alt reported pothole patching on Mackenzie, Lehigh, and Freytown Roads and working on Havenstrite Road. Chairwoman/Secretary Kearney read an email commenting on the great job done for stormwater cleanup on Union Mill Road. ON MOTION, duly made (Andreoli), seconded (Beavers) and carried (5-0) to accept the Roadmaster's monthly report.*

**Moffat Maintenance:** *Henry Kakareka is working on repointing the stone wall near the parking area of the municipal office. He has been asked if he is replacing the wall because it looks so good.*

**Police Department:** *Chief Lamm reviewed the monthly police report which included 321 service calls. The service calls included: 4 arrests; 82 traffic citations; 41 traffic warnings; 3 non-traffic citations; and 26 parking citations. The department patrolled 4,493 miles for the month. The police department painted speed lines on Jubilee, Langan, and Union Mill Roads, and Center Street. Chief Lamm asked the board to approve a quote received by B&E's Sealcoating in the amount of \$3,250.00 to re-paint speed lines in 10 locations throughout the township due to the tar and chipping by PennDOT. ON MOTION, duly made (Willson), seconded (Andreoli) and carried (5-0) to approve the quote from B & E's Sealcoating. He also asked the board to approve Officer Grube's attendance at a training being held in Coatesville for baton and defense training. This is a 4-day training course and will require meals and hotel. He anticipates the cost to be approximately \$1,600.00. If approved, Officer Grube will train our officers and will be able to train other officers for a fee. This training will be good for 3 years. ON MOTION, duly made (Beavers), seconded (Andreoli) and carried (5-0) to allow Officer Grube to attend this training with hotel and meals for approximately \$1,600.00. ON MOTION, duly made (Willson), seconded (Peirce) and carried (5-0) to approve the police department's monthly report.*

**Recreation Committee:** *Supervisor Beavers reported the recreation committee is working on hosting a touch-a truck event. They have also scheduled the Fishing Derby for August 3, 2025 from 9-noon. He is requesting a budget of \$2,000 to buy trout for the event as there are multiple prizes upstairs from the police department. He advised JC Bait and Tackle made a generous donation last year, and the*

recreation committee will speak with them again this year. *ON MOTION*, duly made (Beavers), seconded (Andreoli) and carried (5-0) to approve a budget of \$2,000.00 for the fishing derby. Supervisor Beavers also commented on the water issue in the pavilion. A brief discussion was held on renting or purchasing floor fans. Chairwoman Kearney will speak with Jay about this. *ON MOTION*, duly made (Kearney), seconded (Andreoli) and carried (5-0) to accept the Recreation Committee's monthly report.

**Sewage Enforcement Officer:** No report.

**New Business:** None.

**Old Business:** Anna LoRusso was present to question the status of her conditional use. It was advised that the planning commission did not submit an official recommendation so nothing can be done at this time. It will be addressed at the July work session and the August meeting. Supervisor Willson voiced his disappointment in not being made aware of the conditional use recommendation from the planning commission.

**Community Re-Invest Grant:** The township was awarded the Community Re-Invest Grant in the amount of \$5,000.00 to apply towards the painting of the exterior of the police department.

**Correspondence:**

**Invitation to the County COG convention:** Chairwoman Kearney reminded the board of the invitation to the annual County COG dinner.

**Supervisor Comments:** Vice-Chairman Peirce would like the board to thank Missy for applying for the Community Re-Invest Grant. Chairwoman/Secretary Kearney spoke about a new program the county has put into place called Code Red. This is a program that our residents can sign up for to alert them of weather alerts, etc. Supervisor Beavers asked to have this information put on the website.

**Public Comment:** Mary Lou Butler advised of a Dirt Road training course being held in Wilkes-Barre on July 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>. She will be attending and asked that anyone who may be interested let her know.

**Adjournment:** *ON MOTION*, duly made (Andreoli), seconded (Beavers) and carried (5-0) to adjourn the meeting at 8:10pm.

Respectfully submitted:

Melissa Kearney, Secretary

Approved: Aug 5, 2025  
J. Marshall Peirce