COVINGTON TOWNSHIP SUPERVISORS MONTHLY WORK SESSION JULY 29, 2025

The Covington Township Board of Supervisors held their monthly work session on Tuesday, July 29, 2025, at 7:00 p.m. at the Covington Township Municipal building, Moffat Estate, 20 Moffat Drive, Covington Township, PA 18444. Vice-Chairman Peirce opened the work session at 7:00 p.m. with the Pledge to the Flag.

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

Also present: Police Chief Jeff Lamm and Building Inspector Dave Lamm.

Absent: Chairwoman/Secretary Melissa Kearney

Agenda: Accepted as presented.

Announcements: An executive session was held on July 15, 2025 to discuss personnel.

Public Comment: No public comment.

Minutes: The draft minutes of July 1, 2025, monthly meeting were given to the board for their review.

Bills: The bills will be available for the meeting.

Treasurer's Report: The treasurer's report will be available for the meeting.

Administrative Actions:

<u>Conditional Use Application ~ Lorusso</u>: An application for conditional use has been received from Anna Lorusso to convert her home garage into a hair studio. A discussion was held regarding holding the hearing on Tuesday, August 26, 2025 at 6:30 pm immediately before the August work session. The date will be voted on at the meeting next week.

<u>Terminating KBA Engineering as SEO and ZCEO</u>: This will be discussed at the meeting next week.

Hire SEO and ZCEO: This will be discussed at the meeting next week.

Zoning Code Enforcement Officer: This report will be available for the meeting.

Building Inspector: The report will be available for the meeting.

<u>Planning Commission</u>: A recommendation was received regarding the conditional use hearing for Anna Lorusso.

Engineer: The monthly report will be available for the meeting.

Solicitor: Nothing to report.

<u>Director of Public Works</u>: Vice-Chairman/DPW Director Peirce spoke with Covington Fire Co. about accepting our offer of the four (4) generators; he advised they are willing to accept the generators.

Roadmaster: The report will be available for the meeting.

Moffat Maintenance: No report.

<u>Police Department</u>: Chief Lamm asked that the following personnel items be added to the agenda: terminating Brandon Long as part-time officer due to his lack of working; promoting Officer Chriss Grube from part-time to full-time officer; hire Mike Carroll as a part-time officer; and hire Shane Schneider as a full-time officer. Chief Lamm will be on vacation for the monthly meeting and offered to call in but was advised that he would not have to. An officer will be at the meeting next week.

<u>Recreation Committee</u>: Supervisor Beavers commented on the fish delivery for the fishing derby which will be held this Sunday, August 3. The gate has been locked until after the derby is over due to people fishing in the pond even though signs have been placed advising of no fishing until after the derby.

Sewage Enforcement Officer: No report.

New Business: None.

<u>Old Business</u>: Information was given to the board members regarding the North Pocono Regional Comprehensive Plan and survey cards were placed on the tables for public input. The invitation is still open for the Lackawanna County COG dinner to be held on August 21st. Also, an invitation was received and given to the board of supervisors for the retirement party for Bernie McGurl which will be held on Thursday, August 7th at the Riverview Winery.

Correspondence: A letter was received from Michael Chmielewski, director of EMS/Asst. Fire Chief of Covington Independent Fire Co. regarding the decommissioned 14-3 (old gray dodge charger). The letter states that Covington Fire Co. would be interested in acquiring this vehicle for an EMS Supervisor vehicle to respond to EMS emergencies and backup in the event their other EMS vehicle is out of service. A brief discussion ensued and Chief Lamm advised the vehicle is not suitable for police work but would be useable as a training or backup vehicle. If the vehicle is to be donated to the Fire Co., he would like to change out the backseat of this vehicle.

<u>Supervisor Comments</u>: Supervisor Willson advised he will speak with Chairwoman Kearney about scheduling an executive to discuss legal matters regarding RTK's.

Public Comment: John Harvey, resident of Covington Township, questioned the data center. He asked about the next steps, whether the property was sold, and what about another company coming in for a data center in a different area. Atty. Wolff addressed Mr. Harvey's questions advising the reason for the hearing was simply because an application was received for a zone change, and a vote took place. There is nothing further to discuss at this time. Supervisor Andreoli also spoke about the possibility of them (data center) not wanting to come to the township because of the restrictions in our ordinance, and other issues regarding the data center and the hearing that was held. Mr. Harvey questioned if a validity challenge could be filed in the distant future and whether the township would be offering any type of tax breaks. Mr. Harvey questioned enforcement of the data center with Atty. Wolff asking Mr. Harvey if he read the ordinance. Mr. Harvey stated that he perused the ordinance, but he did not read it in its entirety. He was advised to read the ordinance in its entirety where he will see that there are a significant amount of regulatory and enforcement available for the township.

Adjournment: The work session was adjourned at 7:27pm.

Respectfully submitted: Melissa Kearney, Secretary

Approved: 9-2-25 Manda Amaleloli