

**COVINGTON TOWNSHIP SUPERVISORS
MONTHLY MEETING
AUGUST 5, 2025**

The Covington Township Board of Supervisors held their monthly meeting on Tuesday, August 5, 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/DPW Director F. Marshall Peirce, Supervisor William Willson, Supervisor William Beavers, and Attorney Joel Wolff. Also present: Officer Chriss Grube, Building Inspector Dave Lamm, and Engineer Mary Lou Butler.

Absent: Supervisor Wanda Andreoli

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

Announcements: *Chairwoman Kearney announced there would be no discussion on the data center this evening as it is not on the agenda and there is nothing to discuss at this time.*

Public Comment: *Chairwoman Kearney called for public comments on agenda items only at this time, there were none.*

Minutes: *ON MOTION, duly made (Peirce), seconded (Beavers) and carried (4-0) to accept the minutes of the July 1, 2025 monthly meeting as presented to the board.*

Bills: *Vice-Chairman Peirce questioned the B&E Sealcoating asking what it was for. Chairwoman Kearney advised this was the balance for the speed line painting. Supervisor Willson questioned the name Cowbell insurance; this is the cyber security insurance. ON MOTION, duly made (Peirce), seconded (Willson) and carried (4-0) to pay the bills as presented.*

Treasurer's Report: *ON MOTION, duly made (Beavers), seconded (Willson) and carried (4-0) to accept the treasurer's report as presented.*

Administrative Actions:

Conditional Use Application ~ Lorusso: *ON MOTION, duly made (Peirce), seconded (Beavers) and carried (4-0) to set the hearing date for Tuesday, August 26, 2025 at 6:30pm and advertise same. This conditional use application is to convert Anna Lorusso's garage into a hair salon.*

Terminate KBA Engineering as SEO and ZCEO: *ON MOTION, duly made (Kearney), seconded (Willson) and carried (4-0) to terminate KBA Engineering, PC from both the Sewage Enforcement Officer and Zoning Code Enforcement Officer positions. ON THE QUESTION, Brittany Terbovitch, resident of Covington Township, asked why KBA was being terminated when David Lamereaux currently works for them, with the township will be hiring him independently. Chairwoman Kearney advised the reasons for the termination had nothing to do with Mr. Lamereaux but instead had to do with the company KBA itself.*

Hire Joseph Lorince as Zoning Code Enforcement Officer: *ON MOTION, duly made (Willson), seconded (Beavers) and carried (4-0) to hire Joseph Lorince as the part-time zoning code enforcement officer for Covington Township at an hourly rate of \$40.00 per hour. Supervisor Willson questioned the current rate of pay being paid to KBA Engineering for Mr. Lorince, with the answer being \$85.00 per hour.*

Hire David Lamereaux and David A. Lamereaux (son) as part-time Sewage Enforcement Officers: *ON MOTION, duly made (Beavers), seconded (Kearney) and carried (4-0) to hire David Lamereaux and his son, David A. Lamereaux as part-time sewage enforcement officers, per the current fee schedule. Jack Saar, resident of Covington Township, questioned where the David's live.*

Amend the Police Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA): ON MOTION, duly made (Willson), seconded (Beavers) and carried (4-0) to allow for the amendment of the police collective bargaining agreement due to the hiring and promotion of new officers.

Zoning Code Enforcement Officer: No report received for this meeting.

Building Inspector: Dave Lamm reviewed his monthly report which included the issuance of six (6) building permits. They included: (2) roof mounted systems; (1) installation of a 40kw home generator; (1) warehouse renovation; (1) single family residence; and (1) change of occupancy from single family to a 2 family (apartments). Dave also mentioned the new code adoption has been postponed until the beginning of the year. He also reported an audit was completed for the ADA of Kost Tire, Mavis Tire, and the addition at 100 First Avenue. The audit has passed with no issues; the next audit will take place in five years since there were no issues. ON MOTION, duly made (Peirce), seconded (Willson) and carried (4-0) to accept the building inspector's monthly report.

Planning Commission: No report was received.

Engineer: Mary Lou Butler reported the paving of Havenstrite Lane will either begin on Friday of this week or Monday of next week. She also reported the LSA grant is due for September 30th. An application was submitted for Center Street last year, but was not awarded, so she is asking the Supervisors if they would like to apply for Center Street again, or another road. This will need to be addressed and voted on at the September meeting. Chairwoman Kearney asked if there was any word on the grant for Glen Meadows. Mary Lou reported we were listed as third, and if we re-apply again, we may be awarded this grant. The residents of Havenstrite Lane have been made aware of the tentative start date of the paving project. DEP did not approve the planning module for the subdivision of B&B Realty. This is a technicality that will be addressed with the sewer authority. ON MOTION, duly made (Beavers), seconded (Willson) and carried (4-0) to accept the engineer's monthly report.

Solicitor: Nothing to report.

Director of Public Works: Vice-Chairman/DPW Director Peirce advised the Fire Co. will take possession of the four (4) generators and will store and maintain them. He also reviewed the roadmaster's monthly report. DPW Director Peirce asked that we table the quote for the baler until he has more information on whether the work needs to be done. ON MOTION, duly made (Beavers), seconded (Willson) and carried (4-0) to accept the DPW Director/Roadmaster's monthly reports.

Roadmaster: Reviewed by the DPW Director.

Moffat Maintenance: The stonework is continuing at the estate.

Police Department: Atty. Wolff reviewed the police chief's monthly report with a total of 304 total service calls. These calls included: 18 arrests; 4 juvenile arrests; 57 traffic citations; 45 traffic warnings; 6 non-traffic citations; and 31 parking citations. The report also included incidents in which the officers made arrests and the community engagement of the police department.

Promote Officer Chriss Grube from part-time to full-time: ON MOTION, duly made (Peirce), seconded (Willson) and carried (4-0) to promote Officer Chriss Grube from part-time to full-time. Officer Grube will not need medical benefits, and his pay will be set by the CBA.

Hire Shane Schneider as full-time officer: Chairwoman Kearney reviewed Shane's work experience. ON MOTION, duly made (Beavers), seconded (Peirce) and carried (4-0) to hire Shane Schneider as a full-time officer. Shane will need individual health benefits and will be paid per the CBA.

Terminate Brandon Long: Due to Brandon not working since early May for the township, Chief Lamm is recommending termination. ON MOTION, duly made (Willson), seconded (Kearney) and carried (4-0) to terminate Brandon Long as a part-time officer.

Hire Michael Carroll as part-time officer: Chief Lamm is recommending Michael Carroll as a replacement part-time officer for Brandon Long. Chairwoman Kearney reviewed Michael's work experience. ON MOTION, duly made (Peirce), seconded (Beavers) and carried (4-0) to hire Michael Carroll as a part-time officer. Michael will not be eligible for benefits and will be paid according to the CBA.

ON MOTION, duly made (Willson), seconded (Peirce) and carried (4-0) to accept the police department's monthly report.

Recreation Committee: Supervisor Beavers commented on the fishing derby which was held this past Sunday. He thanked the police department and the other businesses who previously donated to the police department for previous derbies. He reported there were approximately 27 children present. ON MOTION, duly made (Peirce), seconded (Willson) and carried (4-0) to accept the recreation committee's monthly report.

Sewage Enforcement Officer: No report.

New Business: None.

Old Business: The County COG dinner will be held at Colarusso's Coal Fired Pizza in Dickson City on Thursday, August 21st. Reservations are due. The survey cards for the North Pocono Regional Planning Association are located in numerous locations of the municipal building.

Correspondence: An invitation was extended to the township for Bernie McGurl of the Lackawanna River Association. His retirement party will be held on Thursday, August 7th at the Riverview Winery. A letter was received from the Fire Co. regarding the decommissioned police car (formerly 14-3), advising they would be interested in acquiring this vehicle for their EMS department. This discussion was tabled on recommendation of Supervisor Willson.

Supervisor Comments: Supervisor Willson announced that the municipal property is a non-political venue. When events are held at the pavilion, there is to be no political signage, petitions, campaigning, etc. allowed.

Public Comment: Chairwoman Kearney advised the public will have 3 minutes to speak and this period will be comment only. She asked that all speakers state their name and whether they are a resident of the township so she can record it in the minutes. The following members of the public spoke:

Augie Barhight, resident of Covington Township ~ asked if a permit was needed to remove 2 sheds from his property. Dave Lamm reported no permits would be needed.

Walter Barton, owner of a house and tree farm on Sandy Beach Road ~ spoke about his property including the location of his property in conjunction with the data center and the water ways on his property. He reviewed a prepared statement regarding the data center project.

Oksana Frayonauy, resident of Clifton Township ~ spoke about her concerns with the data center

Celia Burnett, resident of Covington Township ~ asked for an amendment of the newly adopted Ordinance regarding the data centers to provide protection for the residents. She reviewed a prepared statement regarding the amendment she is requesting. She also asked for the supervisor's opinions on the newly proposed Senate Bill 939

Jack Saar, resident of Covington Township ~ asked if anyone other than Senator Brown and Representative Donahue (and the Times) had been contacted regarding the data centers

Brittany Terbovitch, resident of Covington Township ~ asked that the ordinance be amended to change the setbacks, building height restrictions, and removal of the SMR's. She also asked for a copy of the hearing notice letter that was mailed, stating she never received one.

Mark Cordelli, Lackawanna County, reviewed the upcoming events of Lackawanna County. Jack Saar asked Mark about the hazardous waste event the county is hosting questioning if the county is picking up the cost or if there would be a charge to the residents. Mark will investigate and reach out to Jack Saar directly.

Al Dixon, resident of Covington Township ~ apologized to the Board of Supervisors on behalf of the residents of the township for the behavior of the residents at the hearing. He commented that Vice-Chairman Peirce and Supervisor Willson attempted to speak, and the residents did not give the courtesy originally given to them while the supervisors attempted to speak.

Jan Santini Black, resident of Covington Township ~ spoke about the water needed for the data centers and the effect it would have on her horses and her horse farm.

Adjournment: ON MOTION, duly made (Willson), seconded (Beavers) and carried (4-0) to adjourn the meeting at 7:53pm.

Respectfully submitted:
Melissa Kearney, Secretary

Approved: 9-2-25

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Wanda Rudolph".