COVINGTON TOWNSHIP SUPERVISORS MONTHLY MEETING SEPTEMBER 2, 2025

The Covington Township Board of Supervisors held their monthly meeting on Tuesday, September 2, 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 Wanda Andreoli, Supervisor William Beavers, and Attorney Joel Wolff.

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

<u>Agenda</u>: ON MOTION, duly made (Andreoli), seconded (Beavers) and carried (5-0) to accept the agenda as presented.

Announcements: None.

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

<u>Minutes:</u> ON MOTION, duly made (Willson), seconded (Andreoli) and carried (5-0) to accept the minutes of the July 24, 2025 public hearing, July 29, 2025 work session, August 5, 2025 monthly meeting, August 26, 2025 Conditional Use Hearing, and August 26, 2025 work session minutes as presented to the board.

<u>Bills:</u> Chairwoman Kearney asked that 2 bills, received today, be added to the bill list for approval of payment. The bills are from Kost Tire in the amounts of \$838.00 and \$12.57. Vice-Chairman Peirce questioned a bill for Axon Enterprise (a payment for the tasers) and Safe Life Defense (bullet proof vests). Chairwoman Kearney explained the officers receive an allowance for bullet proof vests, but the (2) new officers chose upgraded vests, so they paid the township for the difference. ON MOTION, duly made (Peirce), seconded (Andreoli) and carried (5-0) to pay the bills, including the bills from Kost Tire, as presented.

<u>Treasurer's Report:</u> ON MOTION, duly made (Beavers), seconded (Peirce) and carried (5-0) to accept the treasurer's report as presented. Vice-Chairman Peirce commented that the fees for driveway permits should increase. The fee of \$35.00 for a driveway application does not cover the cost of the roadmaster inspecting the driveways.

Administrative Actions:

<u>MMO for Non-Uniform Retirement plan</u>: ON MOTION, duly made (Willson), seconded (Beavers) and carried (5-0) to pay the Non-Uniform MMO in the amount of \$30,868.00 for the year 2026.

MMO for Uniform Retirement plan: ON MOTION, duly made (Beavers), seconded (Andreoli) and carried (5-0) to pay the Uniform MMO in the amount of \$17,635.00 for the year 2026.

<u>Recommendation of Glenn Khoury as alternate on the Zoning Hearing Board</u>: ON MOTION, duly made (Peirce), seconded (Willson) and carried (5-0) to appoint Glenn Khoury as an alternate on the Zoning Hearing Board.

<u>Set dates for budget meeting</u>: ON MOTION, duly made (Andreoli), seconded (Beavers) and carried (5-0) to approve the advertisement of a budget meeting for Monday, September 29th at 6:00pm. Additional budget meeting dates will be set at the October meeting.

Approve advertisement of decommissioned police vehicle (14-3): A brief discussion was held regarding the repairs for the decommissioned police car. The car will be placed on Municibid for 3 weeks with a reserve amount. ON MOTION, duly made (Beavers), seconded (Peirce) and carried (5-0) to place an ad in the Scranton Times notifying the public of the sale on Municibid.

Zoning Code Enforcement Officer: Chairwoman Kearney reviewed the monthly report which reported 12 permits issued for Eagle Lake (4 decks, 2 Florida rooms, 4 sheds, and 2 Gazebo's) and 6 permits including 1 storage, 2 new homes, 1 pole barn, 1 shed, and 1 storage barn. It was also reported that a hearing was held at the magistrate's office, and they are currently working on the Perry property. Vice-chairman Peirce questioned the storage barn at Naro's regarding impervious coverage. Dave Lamm reported this is a shelter with open ends which will be covering a previously paved area. He also reported Naro's are currently working on a map to show the impervious and pervious coverages of the property. ON MOTION, duly made (Peirce), seconded (Kearney) and carried (5-0) to accept the Zoning Code Enforcement Officers monthly report.

<u>Building Inspector</u>: Dave Lamm reviewed his monthly report which included the issuance of 4 building permits. They included: 2 pole buildings and 2 single family residences. ON MOTION, duly made (Peirce), seconded (Willson) and carried (5-0) to accept the building inspector's monthly report.

<u>Planning Commission</u>: Three items were discussed at the August meeting which included a minor subdivision for Adam (Karen) Kieselowsky, a land development application from 3 D's Deli and a request for zoning amendment by San Cataldo/Naro's Trucking. The planning commission is recommending approval of the Kieselowsky minor subdivision. No action was taken on the land development application for 3 D's Deli. The Zoning Amendment Application for San Cataldo/Naro Trucking was denied because the application was fatally deficient.

<u>Recommendation of Kieselowsky minor subdivision</u>: Mary Lou Butler explained the request to the board of supervisors. ON MOTION, duly made (Beavers), seconded (Peirce) and carried (5-0) to approve the minor subdivision of Adam (Karen) Kieselowsky.

ON MOTION, duly made (Kearney), seconded (Andreoli) and carried (5-0) to accept the planning commission's monthly report

<u>Engineer</u>: Mary Lou reported the Kosinski Road paving project will be starting soon. She also advised the Statewide LSA grant application period has just opened. The board should consider which road they would like to apply for. Currently there is a Multi-modal grant application in for Union Mill Road; she will need to have a decision for the October meeting.

Resolution #2025-10 ~ Monroe County LSA Grant for Center Street Improvements Project: Mary Lou Butler completed the Monroe County LSA grant application for Center Street and read Resolution #2025-10, a Monroe County LSA Grant in the amount of \$567,682.50 for the Center Street Improvements Project. Mary Lou explained this grant would allow for the re-paving of a portion of Center Street, and tar and chipping of the other portion, although this may change depending on the condition of the road and/or the amount of grant monies received. ON MOTION, duly made (Willson), seconded (Andreoli) and carried (5-0) to approve Resolution #2025-10. ON MOTION, duly made (Peirce), seconded (Andreoli) and carried (5-0) to submit the grant application.

<u>Approve final payment for Havenstrite Lane Road Project</u>: Havenstrite Lane paving has been completed. The final payment amount is \$281,902.50. There was a change order for a savings in the amount of \$6,021.00. ON MOTION, duly made (Kearney), seconded (Beavers) and carried (5-0) to recommend approval of the final payment to Wayco, Inc. in the amount of \$281,902.50 for the Havenstrite Road Project.

Recommend Release Kost Tire Letter of Credit: An email was received from Kost Tire regarding the release of their letter of credit. Mary Lou inspected the property and found that the letter of credit can be released, but there are 2 inlets that are covered with debris, and they should be cleaned out. ON MOTION, duly made (Andreoli), seconded (Peirce) and carried (5-0) to release the letter of credit for Kost Tire and notifying them of the inlets. Atty. Wolff asked how they would be notified and wanted to be sure the comments about the inlets are mentioned.

ON MOTION, duly made (Willson), seconded (Andreoli) and carried (5-0) to approve the Engineer's monthly report.

Solicitor: Nothing to report.

<u>Director of Public Works:</u> Vice-Chairman/DPW Director Peirce reviewed the Roadmaster's monthly report. ON MOTION, duly made (Beavers), seconded (Andreoli) and carried (5-0) to accept the DPW Director/Roadmaster's monthly reports.

Roadmaster: Reviewed by the DPW Director.

<u>Moffat Maintenance</u>: The stonework is continuing at the estate. The bocce ball court is in the process of being repaired. The Minisink Lions' club has re-stained the wood border around the court and new shells have been ordered for the court. Also, Josh Zielinski has completed his Eagle Scout project of refurbishing the picnic tables and placing mulch at the playground. He has made one picnic table handicapped accessible. There is a Boy Scout who will be doing some landscaping at the rear of the police department, and another Boy Scout will be placing bat and bird houses at the pond. Both Scouts will be working on these projects to attain their Eagle Scout.

<u>Police Department</u>: Chief Lamm reviewed his monthly report with a total of 264 service calls for the month, including 23 arrests; 6 juvenile arrests, 32 traffic citations, 38 traffic warnings, 12 non-traffic citations, and 11 parking citations. The police department has engaged in the community by attending the annual fishing derby held at the Moffat Pond, and the Kramer Car Show also held at the Moffat Estate. Chief Lamm is assisting the Boy Scout with the landscaping of the rear of the police station. Officer Grube has also attended training classes and will be training the officers on the new patrol rifles.

Resolution #2025-11 ~ Monroe County LSA Grant for the Purchase of a New Police Vehicle: Atty. Wolff read Resolution #2025-11, a Monroe County LSA Grant for the Purchase of a New Police Vehicle in the amount of \$90,324.51. Vice-Chairman Peirce questioned if applying for 2 of the same grants, for different projects, would affect the outcome of the applications. A brief discussion ensued regarding other municipalities receiving multiple awards for the same grant. ON MOTION, duly made (Willson), seconded (Kearney) and carried (5-0) to approve Resolution #2025-11. ON MOTION, duly made (Beavers), seconded (Andreoli) and carried (5-0) to accept the police department's monthly report.

<u>Recreation Committee</u>: Supervisor Beavers reported the fishing derby was well attended. He thanked the police department and all those who helped. He also advised they are currently planning a Touch-a-Truck event for September 28th. There will be food trucks, and the possibility of basket raffles, etc. He has spoken with the Fire Chief in coordination for this event. ON MOTION, duly made (Peirce), seconded (Willson) and carried (5-0) to accept the recreation committee's monthly report.

Sewage Enforcement Officer: No report.

<u>New Business</u>: A discussion was held regarding an update to the current Solar Ordinance (2023-01). Some concerns were solar panels on roofs versus the maximum allowed roof height, location of solar farms, and conditional uses. A brief discussion ensued with a decision being made to table the discussion until the work session with the hopes of setting a date for a new ordinance at the October meeting.

<u>Old Business</u>: Pictures of the contents remaining at the old police station were presented to the board. The contents will need to be removed, and the area will need to be cleaned prior to being advertised for rent. A brief discussion ensued regarding setting fines and penalties for violators of our current zoning ordinances and the potential to increase the fees for land development applications, etc. since the cost of advertising and stenographers is continually increasing.

<u>Correspondence</u>: A thank you letter has been received from the Covington Fire Company thanking the supervisors for the donation of the light towers.

Supervisor Comments: Chairwoman/Secretary Kearney gave an update on the Savvy Citizen app.

<u>Public Comment</u>: Jack Saar asked if the township knew who was surveying areas within the township and whether they had to register with the township. He also questioned why the township would want a

solar farm in an SC zone (regarding the previous discussion held on the solar ordinance) and setting fines for violators who put debris in township roadways. He asked if a fee could be imposed on state roads also. Chief Lamm will look into this, advising special permission would need to be received. Mr. Saar also questioned whether there were any new developments with regard to the data center development; there has been none.

<u>Adjournment</u>: ON MOTION, duly made (Andreoli), seconded (Beavers) and carried (5-0) to adjourn the meeting at 8:14pm.

Respectfully submitted: Melissa Kearney, Secretary

Approved: 10-7-25