

**COVINGTON TOWNSHIP SUPERVISORS
MONTHLY MEETING
OCTOBER 7, 2025**

The Covington Township Board of Supervisors held their monthly meeting on Tuesday, October 7, 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 7:01 p.m. with the Pledge to the Flag.

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

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

Absent: Supervisor William Willson, Supervisor Wanda Andreoli

Agenda: *ON MOTION, duly made (Peirce), seconded (Beavers) and carried (3-0) to accept the agenda as presented.*

Announcements: *None.*

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

N.P. Public Library: *Chris Kelly, development director, shared information with the township regarding upcoming events at the library. He advised the library is willing to attend functions within the township to help promote the library and share their resources with the residents. The bookmobile is back on the road and willing to attend functions within the area. Mr. Kelly also commented on the reduction of debt carried by the library. Diane Croom, resident of Covington Township, commented on the activities at the library and the importance of books in the lives of children. She mentioned Covington Township has the 2nd highest number of library card holders for the library (44%) and encouraged the supervisors to help fund the library for the resources they provide. Carina Havenstrite, resident of Covington Township, spoke about the community impact the library's advisory council has had on the North Pocono area. She spoke about the farmer's market that is put on by the advisory council, hosting (4) this year. She also commented on the library's garden, and how all items grown in the garden are donated to the North Pocono Food Pantry. This year, the garden fed 294 families in June alone. She feels the library brings people together. Gretchen Semsick, resident of Covington Township, also spoke on working with the township for events to help support the library. Chairwoman Kearney advised the township is currently working on the 2026 budget and a discussion will be held regarding a donation to the library.*

Minutes: *ON MOTION, duly made (Beavers), seconded (Peirce) and carried (3-0) to accept the minutes of the September 2, 2025 monthly meeting, and the September 30, 2025 work session minutes as presented to the board.*

Bills: *Vice-Chairman Peirce questioned adding the bill for Wayco for Kosinski Road to the bill list, this will be addressed separately in the meeting under the Engineer's report. ON MOTION, duly made (Peirce), seconded (Beavers) and carried (3-0) to pay the bills as presented.*

Treasurer's Report: *ON MOTION, duly made (Beavers), seconded (Peirce) and carried (3-0) to accept the treasurer's report as presented.*

Administrative Actions:

Resolution #2025-12: *Atty. Wolff read Resolution #2025-12, a Resolution of the Board of Supervisors of the Township of Covington, Lackawanna County, Setting a Policy for Right to Know Requests. Supervisor Beavers questioned his position of alternate right to know officer as it is currently blank on the resolution. This can be filled in at a later date since this position can change yearly. ON MOTION, duly made (Kearney), seconded (Beavers) and carried (3-0) to adopt Resolution #2025-12 as read.*

Zoning Ordinance amendment for large-scale solar electric energy facility: A brief discussion was held regarding amending the current zoning ordinance to allow for large-scale solar electric energy facilities as a conditional use in the zones of M-1 and DCET only. A rough draft of the ordinance was presented to the supervisors and the building inspector, for their review. The building inspector will advise on the maximum height for roof mounted solar panels, as this section has been left blank. Attorney Wolff advised this ordinance will amend the zoning ordinance only and will not affect the original solar ordinance currently in place. He also advised this zoning amendment is for large scale solar farms only, not for residential properties or commercial properties that will be putting solar panels on their roofs. ON MOTION, duly made (Beavers), seconded (Kearney) and carried (3-0) to advertise a public hearing for November 25, 2025 at 6:30 pm.

Budget meeting dates: ON MOTION, duly made (Beavers), seconded (Peirce) and carried (3-0) to advertise the following dates for the purpose of working on the 2026 budget: Friday, October 17, 2025 at 10:00am; Wednesday, October 22, 2025 at 6:00pm; and Monday, October 27, 2025 at 6:00 pm.

(4) Repository Sales: ON MOTION, duly made (Peirce), seconded (Kearney) and carried (3-0) to allow Eagle Lake Community Association Development Corp. to purchase (4) properties on the repository list. The properties are located within Eagle Lake and are located at: Fox Terrace, Anglers Alley, Wolf Run, and Elk Run.

Resignation of Zoning Hearing Board Secretary: ON MOTION, duly made (Beavers), seconded (Peirce) and carried (3-0) to accept the resignation letter of the zoning hearing board secretary, Mindy Hughes, effective immediately. This vacancy will be advertised on the website and the Savvy Citizen app.

Old police station: Chairwoman Kearney advised the old police station has been cleared of all leftover items and asked how the board would like to proceed with getting it rented. A brief discussion ensued and it was decided to reach out to a few realtors to discuss the options. Senior Center Coordinator, Barbara would like to utilize that area for her annual Winter Wonderland on December 6th and 7th. The board has granted permission to Barbara to utilize the area for her Winter Wonderland (she will clean it out before and after), with the stipulation that all items are removed on December 8th. The secretary will reach out to real estate agents. Paula Perry questioned the zone of the property and the space being rented.

Zoning Code Enforcement Officer: Chairwoman Kearney reviewed the monthly report which included 14 permits issued for Eagle Lake (5 decks, 2 Florida rooms, 1 shed, 1 platform and 5 Gazebo's); no sign permits; (2) new home permits and (1) permit for a salt shed. There was a judgement placed on the Sheridan property in the amount of \$12,000.00. A brief discussion was held on the next steps. A municipal lien should be filed (this has been taken care of by the zoning department) and then the board can discuss next steps if they would like to condemn the property to have the home demolished. ON MOTION, duly made (Peirce), seconded (Beavers) and carried (3-0) to accept the Zoning Code Enforcement Officers monthly report.

Building Inspector: Dave Lamm reviewed his monthly report which included the issuance of (6) building permits. They included: (2) single family residences, (2) roof top solar systems, (1) subdivision of a warehouse, and (1) addition of steps and catwalk to an existing deck. ON MOTION, duly made (Peirce), seconded (Beavers) and carried (3-0) to accept the building inspector's monthly report.

Planning Commission: Chairwoman Kearney reviewed the planning commission's monthly report, which included: Roher bus company will need to complete a land development plan due to the amount of activity on the property; Naro Trucking, change of zone for (1) acre of land (the planning commission denied the application due to a lack of information). Since there is no current deal with Love's, the applicant has opted to wait until such time as Love's reaches out to finalize a plan; JCO, LLC is looking to subdivide (10) acres of land; Tramdock Property is looking to convert a property on Dorantown Road for gym space/recreational use (this will be a private facility). ON MOTION, duly made (Beavers), seconded (Peirce) and carried (3-0) to accept the planning commission's monthly report

Engineer: Mary Lou Butler has received an invoice in the amount of \$80,524.73 for the Covington portion of the Kosinski Road project. This project was done in conjunction with Madison Township. She has reviewed all quantities and recommends approval of the bill. The original bid amount was \$81,339.70, so the amount due is under budget by \$814.97. The secretary will send a copy of the check to Madison Township to make them aware that we have fulfilled our obligation of the contract. ON MOTION, duly made (Peirce), seconded (Beavers) and carried (3-0) to pay the invoice to Wayco for Kosinski Road in the amount of \$80,524.73 payable directly to Wayco. Vice-Chairman Peirce confirmed this will be paid out of liquid fuels. Supervisor Beavers questioned the status of the NPDES permit for Nammo Pocal.

Solicitor: Nothing to report.

Director of Public Works: Vice-Chairman/DPW Director Peirce requested the board approve the estimate received from John's Precision Body Shop in the amount of \$2,360.83 for the repair of the door on the 2024 Chevy Silverado. ON MOTION, duly made (Peirce), seconded (Beavers) and carried (3-0) to approve the quote from John's Precision Body Shop. A brief discussion was held on the tar buggy issues. The secretary reported she reached out to the only service company for Crafcro, located in Allentown and is awaiting a call back. Roadworker Mike Schank reported he did get it running and doesn't feel it will be a lot to get fixed. Vice-chair Peirce asked the board to consider selling the Mac dump truck once the Freightliner dump truck is received. He would like to make a down payment for the upfitting of the truck this year since it has been budgeted. A quote of \$750.00 was received from Jim Pierre to remove and clean up (2) dead trees on the Moffat property. These trees are located close to Route 435 and (1) tree has a limb hanging from it that will need to be removed with caution. ON MOTION, duly made (Peirce), seconded (Beavers) and carried (3-0) to approve the price of \$750.00 for the removal and clean-up of the 2 dead trees. ON MOTION, duly made (Beavers), seconded (Kearney) and carried (3-0) to accept the DPW Director's monthly report.

Roadmaster: Chairwoman Kearney reviewed the monthly report which included: the mowing of sides of the roads, ditch work, street sign repairs, pothole patching on numerous roads throughout the township, guide rail maintenance, trimming and cutting of brush, equipment maintenance, and cleaning out the old police station. Roadworker Schank also reported there are (2) trucks ready for snow. ON MOTION, duly made (Beavers), seconded (Peirce) and carried (3-0) to accept the Roadmaster's monthly report.

Moffat Maintenance: Chairwoman Kearney reported the stonework has been completed for this year as we have reached our allotted budget. She also reported the garage repairs will be starting soon. The contractor has reached out and advised this will be done within the next few days; this repair was approved at a previous meeting.

Police Department: Chief Lamm reviewed his monthly report for a total of (316) service calls for the month, including (14) arrests, (67) traffic citations, (55) traffic warnings, (3) non-traffic citations, and (8) parking citations. The police department engaged in the community by attending the Touch-a-Truck event held at the Fire Company grounds; and Chief Lamm assisted with the Eagle Scout project of landscaping the rear of the new police building. Officer Bastek has attended training for aggressive patrol enforcement, and all members have received their required annual firearms training. The Monroe County LSA grant has been submitted for a new police vehicle. A quote was received for the purchase of body cameras which included upgrading the tasers. The quote from Axon is for a down payment of \$26,000 due in March of 2027 with payments of \$6,634.33 for 5 years. Per Chief Lamm, a technology grant has been pledged for the down payment amount, we're just waiting for the state budget to be passed to receive the funds. ON MOTION, duly made (Kearney), seconded (Beavers) and carried (3-0) to purchase body cameras with taser upgrade. The last item to be completed at new police station is the insulation of the rim joist in the basement. Kal's Insulation has informed the chief they will do the job at no cost to the township. This is expected to be completed sometime next week. Chief Lamm asked for permission to apply for the statewide LSA grant for active shooter kits. He was advised to apply, and the resolution can

be approved at next month's meeting. The decommissioned police vehicle is currently listed on Municibid and has a winning bid of \$3,500 as of today. This auction ends on Oct. 16th. Chairwoman Kearney received a compliment from a resident thanking the police department for their assistance and presence at EMS calls within the township. Another compliment was received from a resident of Glen Meadows, complimenting the police department on their quick response and politeness when they responded to a false alarm at their residence. ON MOTION, duly made (Peirce), seconded (Beavers) and carried (3-0) to accept the police department's monthly report.

Recreation Committee: Supervisor Beavers reported the Touch-a-Truck event was very successful. The highlight was the state police helicopter. Kenworth of America has pledged to bring numerous trucks to next year's event. He thanked all participants for attending. The committee is currently working on the Christmas event, which will be held on December 6th and 7th. There will be a hall of trees once again. ON MOTION, duly made (Peirce), seconded (Kearney) and carried (3-0) to accept the recreation committee's monthly report.

Sewage Enforcement Officer: No report. Chairwoman Kearney reviewed some of the properties they are working on.

New Business: A local codes appeal board will need to be formed for the purpose of hearing appeals of code officials' decisions and interpretations. Fees will need to be set, and members will need to be appointed. This will be discussed further at future meetings. Due to election day being the same night as our November monthly meeting, it was recommended to move the meeting to another night as (2) of the board supervisors would not be present. ON MOTION, duly made (Beavers), seconded (Peirce) and carried (3-0) to advertise the change in meeting date from November 4th to November 6th at 7:00pm.

Old Business: None.

Correspondence: A letter has been received from Griffin Pond Animal Shelter seeking a donation, There will be a grid-scale solar workshop held tomorrow in Wyoming, PA, there is no charge for this event.

Supervisor Comments: Chairwoman/Secretary Kearney advised the Eagle Scout project of bird houses will be starting soon. The scout is still waiting for approval from his council prior to starting.

Public Comment: Augie Barhight asked Chief Lamm if speed lines could be painted on Jubilee Road near his home. Jack Saar also questioned the chief about atv's riding on the roads in the township. A brief discussion ensued on both issues. Dr. Edward Powers questioned the status of the monthly newsletter and asked if there were any thoughts on bringing them back. Chairwoman Kearney reported that although the newsletter was stopped due to COVID, the reason it has not been brought back is due to staffing shortages and the costs associated with the newsletter, most especially the number of newsletters returned for bad addresses. She advised the township has recently started using the Savvy Citizen notification system. This will alert residents of events, meetings, emergencies, etc. within the township. Augie Barhight advised if the township wanted to bring the newsletter back, we should look into sending them first class mail instead of bulk mail to help defray some costs. Paula Danchuk, resident of Clifton Township, thanked Chairwoman Kearney for attending the Clifton Township meeting and speaking out against the settlement agreement. She also commented on the public hearing held in July.

Adjournment: ON MOTION, duly made (Andreoli), seconded (Beavers) and carried (5-0) to adjourn the meeting at 8:33 pm.

Respectfully submitted:
Melissa Kearney, Secretary

Approved: 11-10-2025
J. Marshall Peirce