

NEW SEWICKLEY TOWNSHIP

Supervisor's Meeting

September 7, 2021

The regular meeting of the Board of Supervisors, held at the Township Municipal Building, was called to order by Chairman Greg Happ at 6:30 p.m. Present were Vice-Chairman Tom Applequist, Supervisors Douglas Martin, Fritz Retsch and Mike Phipps. Also, present were Manager Brian O'Malley, Treasurer Elois Nadzak, Secretary Lawrie Borgman, Township Engineer Kevin Brett, Township Solicitor Chris Reese, Police Chief Ron Leindecker, Road Foreman R.J. Kraus, Duane Rape, David Bauman, Brian Perry, Bill Wise, Johnny Murtha, Thorn Harp, Albert Horn, Pat Scheck, Jim Scheck, Bob Schwertz, Lorie Schwertz, Amanda Peterson, Bob Watson, Peggy Watson, Jim Hendrickson, Patti Gerhard and Jim Farlex

PLEDGE

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Board of Supervisors went into executive session at 5:45 p.m. preceding the meeting for a personal matter and contract negotiations.

ABSTENTION TO VOTE

Tom Applequist announced he would be abstaining from voting as recommended by the Township Solicitor.

MINUTES

Motion by Martin to approve the minutes of the August 3, 2021, regular meeting as written, seconded by Retsch. Vote of 4 to 0 in favor.

BILLS

Motion by Phipps to pay the bills from the General Account as submitted and read by the Treasurer with the signing of the checks following the meeting, seconded by Retsch. Vote of 4 to 0 in favor.

**PUBLIC COMMENT
PERRY**

Big Knob Fire Department President, Brian Perry, read a letter written on behalf of Big Knob Fire Department pleading for help from the Board of Supervisors and inviting them to tour the fire department to learn how the funds are spent.

Chairman Happ responded that the Board works with the fire departments and helps as much as they are able; however, they are unable to give additional funds that the Township does not have available.

**PUBLIC COMMENT
WATSON**

Resident Peggy Watson inquired if a study had been completed showing recommendations and if the Board knows what funds other communities give their fire departments.

Chairman Happ indicated a study had been performed and one of the recommendations was a consolidation of both fire departments.

Supervisor Retsch invited the fire departments to attend a budget meeting to have a better understanding of how Township funds are allocated. He suggested maybe a referendum be put on the ballot asking the residents if they are willing to have a tax increase to fund the last remaining mill that can be given to the fire departments.

Chairman Happ stated both fire departments need to begin sending bank statements and income and expenditures as is required.

**PUBLIC COMMENT
PAT SCHECK**

Resident Pat Scheck stated the letter read by President Perry are the feeling of the Fire Chief and himself, not those of all members of the Big Knob Fire Department.

**PUBLIC COMMENT
RAPE**

Resident, Duane Rape wanted to be sure the public understood that the fire departments can only receive one additional mill as they already receive two mills.

**PUBLIC COMMENT
SCHWERTZ**

Resident Bob Schwertz inquired if the Grant Committee looks for grants that would benefit the fire departments.

Chairman Happ assured him that they do.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Township Treasurer Elois Nadzak read the treasurer's report for August 2021

ADOPT RESOLUTION NO 09-21

The adoption of a resolution for a capital gains account has been tabled until next month.

**RESOLUTION FOR ADJUSTMENT
OF AGRICULTURAL CREDITS
FOR STORMWATER FEE**

Manager O'Malley reported that he and Supervisor Martin met with the conservation district regarding credits for those with larger parcels. They will continue to investigate and report back.

**POLICE -
MONTHLY REPORT**

Chief Leindecker submitted and read the monthly report which included accidents, arrests, calls for service, citations and incidents.

**POLICE -
TOWNSHIP TRICK OR TREAT**

Motion by Martin to hold the Township Trick or Treat on Thursday, October 28th from 6:00 - 8:00 p.m., seconded by Happ. Vote of 4-0 in favor.

**POLICE -
TRICK OR TREAT TRAIL**

Motion by Happ to hold the Trick or Treat Trail at Green Valley Park on Saturday, October 30th from 6:00 - 8:00 p.m., seconded by Phipps. Vote of 4-0 in favor.

**POLICE - RESIGNATION OF
DAVRANBEK SAYFATOV**

Motion by Happ to accept the resignation of Davranbek Sayfatov, seconded by Retsch. Vote of 4-0 in favor.

**BIG KNOB & PINE RUN FIRE
DEPARTMENTS**

The August monthly reports will be submitted.

**BIG KNOB FIRE DEPARTMENT -
REQUEST TO PAY TRUCK LOAN**

No motion was made to pay the other half of the 2021 truck payment on behalf of the Big Knob Fire Department. Chairman Happ informed the members that the Township requires monthly bank statements with the income and expenditures shown. Manager O'Malley is working on a letter that will be sent to both Fire Departments requesting this information on a monthly basis.

**PINE RUN FIRE DEPARTMENT -
ORDINANCE NO 226 FOR
BUILDING LOAN**

Supervisor Phipps asked where they are in the process of the loan documents being completed. Solicitor Reese explained the package is together and will be completed if the presented ordinance is adopted. Once approved, they will advertise and the packet will be sent to DCED for review. Motion by Happ to adopt Ordinance No. 226 for the Pine Run Building Loan, seconded by Retsch. Vote of 4-0 in favor.

Chairman Happ asked if the old building had been listed yet. Jim Hendrickson reported they are working on listing with an agent.

**ROADS -
MONTHLY REPORT**

Road Foreman Kraus submitted the August 2021 monthly report.

**ROADS - INTERVIEW & HIRING
PROCESS FOR EMPLOYEE**

Motion by Martin to begin the interviewing and hiring process for an employee of the Road Department, seconded by Phipps. Vote of 4-0 in favor.

**ROADS - APPROVE MANAGER TO
BID OUT AND APPROVE
ELECTRICAL SERVICE TO NEW
BUILDING**

Motion by Retsch to approve Manager O'Malley to bid out and approve electrical service to the new building on a not-to-exceed cost of \$7,000.00, seconded by Phipps. Vote of 4-0 in favor.

**ENGINEER -
MONTHLY REPORT**

Kevin Brett submitted the LSSE August 2021 monthly report.

Supervisor Phipps asked about the park project. The stormwater project at the park will go out to bid in September.

Supervisor Martin inquired about work being performed at B7. Brett said the work being performed was approved previously.

SOLICITOR

Solicitor Reese reported that the Brodmerkel oral argument took place in August and they expect a decision in the next month or two.

PLANNING

Motion by Phipps to proceed with a public hearing on the amended zoning ordinance on Tuesday, October 5, 2021 at 6:30 p.m., seconded by Retsch. Vote of 4-0 in favor.

RECREATION

Dave Bauman was present to give the Recreation Board's monthly report. There are two concerts and a flea market scheduled for September. They are considering scheduling A Night at the Races as a fund-raiser.

ZONING

The August Zoning/Building monthly report was submitted.

ZONING HEARING

There is a zoning hearing scheduled for Steve Hronas, 1144 Rt 68 on September 28, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.

SUPERVISOR RESIGNATION

Tom Applequist offered his resignation effective September 7, 2021 from the Board of Supervisors as he has moved out of the Township. Chairman Happ presented Tom with a certificate of service on behalf of the Township.

Motion by Happ to accept the resignation of Tom Applequist from the Board of Supervisors, seconded by Martin. Vote of 4-0 in favor.

Chairman Happ added that Tom has been a great asset to the Township and his financial skills will be missed and difficult to replace.

**ACCEPT LETTERS OF INTEREST
TO FILL THE BOARD VACANCY**

Motion by Martin to accept letters of interest to fill the vacancy position on the Board of Supervisors and begin the appointment process, seconded by Retsch. Vote of 4-0 in favor.

**APPOINTMENT OF VICE
CHAIRMAN TO BOARD**

Motion by Retsch to appoint Supervisor Doug Martin as the Vice Chairman to the Board of Supervisors, seconded by Happ. Vote of 4-0 in favor.

Supervisor Martin accepted the appointment.

BOARD COMMENTS

Supervisor Retsch thanked the people who attended the Big Knob Fair and acknowledged the many volunteers including the Township police and churches who work at the event.

He also thanked the recreation board for their dedication and for organizing free, quality events for the residents to enjoy and encouraged participation at those events.

Supervisor Martin thanked both the fire and police departments for their work at the fair and their professionalism shown. He also offered to help find additional ways for the fire departments to raise funding outside of taxpayer monies. President Perry clarified that they are looking for any help that can be given, not just financial.

Supervisor Martin thanked Tom Applequist for the time and help he has given the Board of Supervisors and the Township.

Supervisors Retsch and Phipps also thanked Tom for his service.

Chairman Happ stressed that the Grange is also in need of volunteers. He thanked Tom again for his service.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Martin, seconded by Retsch to adjourn the meeting. Vote of 4 to 0 in favor. Meeting was adjourned at 7:18 p.m.

Respectfully,

Lawrie J. Borgman
Secretary