

NEW SEWICKLEY TOWNSHIP

Supervisor's Meeting

February 1, 2022

The regular meeting of the Board of Supervisors, held at 233 Miller Road, was called to order by Chairman Greg Happ at 6:30 p.m. Present were Vice-Chairman Doug Martin, Supervisors Fritz Retsch, Mike Phipps and Martin Bonzo.

Also, present were Manager Brian O'Malley, Treasurer Elois Nadzak, Secretary Lawrie Borgman, Bookkeeper Nicole Liston, Police Chief Ron Leindecker, Road Foreman RJ Kraus, David Bauman, Albert E Horn, Donna Delebosich, Lou Delebosich, Brain Delebosich, Amanda Peterson, Mike Loschinskey, Judy Croll, Peggy Watson, Bob Watson, Dolores Mason, Jeff Mason, Larry Hough, Jenny Fessler, Patti Gerhard, Mike Durica, Charlie Veloski, John Murtha, Matt Johnston, Brian Perry, Jim Hendrickson, Jamie Croll, Mike Priolo, Laura Dengel and Tyler Newhouse

MINUTES

Motion by Martin to accept the January 3, 2022 reorganization meeting minutes and the January 3, 2022 regular meeting minutes as written, seconded by Bonzo. Vote of 5-0 in favor.

BILLS

Motion by Phipps to approve the bills from the general fund from January 4, 2022 through January 31, 2022 for \$173,744.29 and as of February 1, 2022 for \$77,050.57, with the signing of the checks following the meeting, seconded by Fritz. Vote of 5-0 in favor.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

PATTI GERHARD

Resident, Patti Gerhard thanked the Board of Supervisors for the time they allowed her to speak during the agenda meeting about receiving road salt at Danburry Farms.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

JEFF MASON

Resident, Jeff Mason inquired if the Township has a time limit to spend the American Recovery Act (ARA) funds. He asked if in lieu of putting the funds towards the waterline extension if they might be used for Broadband expansion or given the Township's 7% poverty rate, possibly to help that population.

Manager O'Malley responded that the Township did explore Broadband expansion, but since the Township doesn't own the broadband lines, it would be very difficult to use the funds for an expansion. Beaver County is planning to use a portion of their ARA funds for broadband expansion county wide. He also stated ARA funding was limited on the ways the funds may be used.

TREASURERS REPORT

Bookkeeper Nicole Liston read the monthly Treasurer's Report.

**ASSISTANT EMERGENCY
MANAGEMENT COORDINATOR**

Motion by Martin to reappoint PJ Moldovan as the Assistant Emergency Management Coordinator, seconded by Happ. Vote of 5-0 in favor.

CLEAN-UP DAY

Motion by Phipps to set Clean-Up Day at the Big Knob Grange on May 7, 2022 with all road crew employees working, seconded by Retsch. Vote of 5-0 in favor.

TIRE-COLLECTION DAY

Motion by Retsch to set Tire Collection Day on May 14, 2022 with one Township employee working and the Township purchasing lunch, seconded by Martin. Vote of 5-0 in favor.

**RESOLUTION NO. 06-22
STORMWATER FEE CREDIT**

Motion by Martin to adopt Resolution No. 06-22 establishing agricultural best management practices appeal and credit criteria for the township stormwater management fee, seconded by Phipps. Vote of 5-0 in favor.

**AMERICAN RECOVERY ACT
FUNDING**

Chairman Happ explained that the Board of Supervisors made a motion at the November meeting to give financial assistance to the Municipal Authority for the waterline extension. Additional action will be needed as the Municipal Authority is given the funds.

**COLLEEN KELLER CROWS RUN
RD - TAX EXEMPT REQUEST**

Colleen Keller requested tax exemption for parcel #69-164-0199-000, Crows Run Rd.

Manager O'Malley explained that PennDOT owns the property and they claim to not be required to pay taxes. Solicitor Reese stated they are in litigation with the County because the County claims PennDOT is required to pay taxes.

Supervisor Martin inquired if the board approves the tax exemption would that approval just be for Mrs. Keller or anyone else who may try to buy or own the property. Solicitor Reese confirmed it would just be for Mrs. Keller and the amount requested at the time, any additional relief would need to be approved. Supervisor Martin also stated he would like the Board to be consistent in granting tax relief and if it is granted for one, it should be granted for all.

Supervisor Phipps inquired if they approved the relief and PennDOT wins the case, would Mrs. Keller

be reimbursed. Solicitor Reese stated he would hope, but also could not be certain.

It was decided to table the discussion until more information is gathered.

**POLICE
MONTHLY REPORT**

Chief Leindecker read the January monthly report which included accidents, arrests/bookings, calls for service, citations and incidents for both New Sewickley and Marion Townships.

Chairman Happ read a letter thanking Officer Samantha Vinson for assistance in a recent snow event. Chairman Happ asked Chief Leindecker to express the Board's thanks to Officer Vinson.

**POLICE
GRANT
SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER**

Motion by Phipps to accept the grant for a school resource officer, seconded by Retsch. Vote of 5-0 in favor.

**POLICE
REGIONALIZATION STEERING
COMMITTEE**

Chairman Happ explained to the residents that Chief Leindecker requested approval to put together a steering committee with New Sewickley Township, Rochester Township and Rochester Borough to investigate how a regionalization would work, the financial commitments involved, the benefits and downfalls. The committee would consist of board members, police and possible residents.

Supervisor Phipps stated it would be a good time to begin the research as the Township begins the program with Grass Roots, they will be able to give the Board their opinion as well.

Motion by Happ to establish a steering committee for police regionalization, seconded by Retsch, vote of 3-0 in favor. Supervisors Bonzo and Martin voting no, the motion passed.

**POLICE
FULL-TIME OFFICER LIST AND
CONDITIONAL OFFER OF
EMPLOYMENT FOR FULL-TIME
OFFICER**

Motion by Phipps to create a list for full-time officers and offer a conditional offer of employment for the expected resignation of a full-time officer, seconded by Retsch. Vote of 5-0 in favor.

PINE RUN FIRE DEPARTMENT

Mike Priolo introduced himself as the new Chief of Pine Run Fire Department and announced the new fire station is open and operational.

Chairman Happ congratulated Chief Priolo and wished them a safe and healthy year.

BIG KNOB FIRE DEPARTMENT

John Murtha read the monthly report and stated they had members at the station during the last major snow event ready to provide assistance if it was required and they will do the same for the upcoming predicted winter storm event.

Chief Leindecker expressed his thanks to Big Knob for having people on-call at the station during the storms, it is appreciated knowing those resources are available if needed.

**ROADS
MONTHLY REPORT**

The Road Department monthly report was submitted.

**ROADS
WINTER MAINTENANCE
PROCEDURE**

Chairman Happ stated Danburry Farms requested the Township develop a Winter Maintenance Plan.

Motion by Phipps to accept the submitted Winter Maintenance Procedure Manual for all New Sewickley Township roadways and that the manual can be revised as necessary by the Road Department and/or the Township Manager as long as such revisions are consistent with decisions or guidance given by the Board of Supervisors, seconded by Bonzo. Vote of 5-0 in favor.

**ROADS
PARK MOWER REPLACEMENT**

Motion by Retsch to approve the purchase of the 72" Kubota Diesel mower for the park from M & R Power Equipment for the price of \$14,780.00 through a 5-year Wes Banco Equipment Lease, seconded by Phipps. Vote of 5-0 in favor.

**ROADS
2023 TRUCK REPLACEMENT**

Manager O'Malley discussed the long process and timeframe to purchase large vehicles. They are looking at 1-1 ½ years for delivery. He has also found that receiving quotes is difficult because dealers do not want to commit to pricing so far out. Foreman Kraus did provide pricing for an outfitted Mac truck.

Supervisor Retsch stated he feels the Township should move forward with the truck purchase because he feels the pricing is going to continue to rise. He made a plea for the Board to approve the purchase quickly.

Supervisor Bonzo asked if other makes of trucks were investigated in lieu of the Mac and also inquired if the Township is required to receive 3 quotes before a purchase can be made.

Road Foreman Kraus stated the Road Department would like to have the same make of equipment and they

have found the Mac to be the most reliable for the type of use that is required. He also stated they have attempted unsuccessfully to receive quotes from other Mac dealers.

Manager O'Malley stated if they receive Costar pricing, they are not required to receive three bids.

Supervisor Martin suggested the Board continue the discussion in the workshop meeting.

Supervisor Retsch requested the workshop be held quickly and stated he believes action is needed soon as the trucks the road crew are driving are in bad condition.

Chairman Happ said the topic will be put at the top of the workshop agenda.

Chairman Happ thanked the road crew and asked them to be safe in the upcoming weather event.

**ENGINEER
MONTHLY REPORT**

Josh Callendar read the LSSE monthly report. He informed the Board the Green Valley Storm drain will be completed soon and plan to begin the rain garden in March.

Supervisor Phipps encouraged the residents to look at the MS4 project going on at park.

**PLANNING
MINZENBERG/LANDIS PLAN OF
LOT REVISION**

Motion by Phipps to approve the Minzenberg/Landis Plan of Lot revision pending DEP approval and the future HOP submittal, as recommended by the Planning Commission, seconded by Retsch. Vote of 5-0 in favor.

**PLANNING
NUMBER OF MEMBERS SERVING
ON THE BOARD**

Chairman Happ explained it was brought up for discussion that the Planning Commission might be made a five person board rather than the seven person board it currently is. It was determined the Board of Supervisors will keep the Planning Commission at its current seven members.

**PLANNING
REAPPOINTMENT OF ED MAJORS**

Motion by Retsch to reappoint Ed Majors to the Planning Commission for a 4 year term, seconded by Happ. Vote of 5-0 in favor.

**PLANNING
REAPPOINTMENT OF MIKE
PHIPPS**

Motion by Retsch to reappoint Mike Phipps to the Planning Commission for a 4 year term, seconded by Happ. Vote of 4-0 in favor, with Phipps abstaining for conflict-of-interest reasons.

**RECREATION
APPOINTMENT OF TIM MUELLER**

Motion by Retsch to appoint Tim Mueller to the Recreation Board, seconded by Happ. Vote of 5-0 in favor.

ZONING HEARING

There will be a Zoning Hearing for Nery Monro, 1047 Freedom Crider Road on February 22, 2022.

**BUILDING & ZONING
MONTHLY REPORTS**

The Building and Zoning monthly report was submitted.

BOARD COMMENTS

Chairman Happ apologized to Resident Patti Gerhard for their heated conversation at the agenda meeting regarding salt at Danburry Farms and hopes the approved Winter Maintenance Plan will satisfy the residents. Chairman Happ also thanked Ms. Gerhard for her work and commitment to Danburry Farms and the Township.

Supervisor Phipps asked if the wall on the Building Report is for ETC. Manager O'Malley confirmed it is.

Supervisor Retsch asked if there was a completion date for the round-about at Freedom Road. Manager O'Malley said the project has begun, but PennDOT has not provided a completion date.

Supervisor Bonzo informed the residents of a workshop at the Grange with the Conservation District and the Township on February 17th at 6:30 to help residents with large parcels of land write their own plan to receive a 50% discount on the MS4 fees.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Happ to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Bonzo. Vote of 5-0 in favor. Meeting was adjourned at 7:14 p.m.

Respectfully,

Lawrie J. Borgman
Secretary