

NEW SEWICKLEY TOWNSHIP

Supervisor's Meeting

May 2, 2023

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 Supervisors Doug Martin, Mike Phipps, Martin Bonzo, and Fritz Retsch.

Also, present were Manager Ronald Leindecker, Treasurer Nicole Liston, Secretary Lawrie Borgman, Police Chief Gregory Carney, Road Foreman R.J. Kraus, Patti Gerhard, David Bauman, Bill Steel, Duane Rape, Cathy Davis, Lou Delebosich, Mike Loschinskey, Larry Hough, Brian Perry, Amanda Peterson, Albert Horn, Jim Hendrickson, Jenny Fessler, and Roy Whipple

CALL TO ORDER

The Pledge was recited and the meeting was called to order.

Chairman Happ announced an executive session was held prior to the meeting to discuss land acquisition. As a result of the session, a motion was made by Phipps to amend the agenda to add "Land Acquisition" as item D under Administration, seconded by Retsch. Vote of 5-0 in favor.

MINUTES

Motion by Martin to accept the April 4, 2023 regular meeting minutes as submitted by the secretary, seconded by Retsch. Vote of 5-0 in favor.

BILLS

Motion by Retsch to approve the bills to be paid from the general and stormwater accounts as submitted by the Treasurer, seconded by Phipps. Vote of 5-0 in favor.

PUBLIC COMMENT ROY WHIPPLE

Roy Whipple expressed concern over the local tax millage rate. Chairman Happ confirmed that a tax windfall is not permitted and the millage rate would be lowered accordingly.

PUBLIC COMMENT CATHY DAVIS

Cathy Davis expressed concern over the serious accident at Big Knob and Taffy Run Roads.

Chairman Happ stated the Chief has scheduled a meeting with PennDOT to discuss that intersection and also the intersection at Rt 68/Glen Eden Rd/Brush Creek Rd. He asked the Manager to look into placing additional signage on Taffy Run Rd warning of the intersection.

TREASURER REPORT

The treasurer's report was submitted.

**MEMORIAL PLACEMENT AT
UNITED BRETHREN IN CHRIST
CEMETERY**

Mr. Steel was present to discuss the United Brethren in Christ Cemetery and the need to clean up the neighboring property that was once a salvage yard and also place a memorial at the location. Manager Leindecker is currently in the process with code enforcement to have the old salvage yard cleaned-up. Manager Leindecker will help to reach out to local youth groups and churches to get involved.

**GRANT ASSISTANCE REQUESTED
FROM FASD**

Freedom Area School District contacted Manager Leindecker to request assistance in applying for a grant to help with HVAC in both the High School and Middle School buildings. The township would not hold any financial burden with the match should the grant be awarded. Vice-Chairman Martin inquired if applying for the grant in the township's name would hurt the chances of being awarded future grants for the township. Kevin Brett stated they would want to make sure that DCED knows that the township is applying for the school district.

Motion by Phipps to approve the township staff to assist Freedom Area School District with the submission of a Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program Grant, seconded by Retsch. Vote of 5-0 in favor.

Duane Rape asked if the school has plans to remove the former Big Knob school. Manager Leindecker stated he is working with the school to try to have that done.

LAND ACQUISITION

Chairman Happ stated the board was looking at 13 acres of wetland at Brush Creek that could be acquired for the future for either a sewage treatment plant should the DEP ever force the township in that direction, or for a recreational area. They are looking to acquire an appraisal of the property.

Motion by Martin to ask Ed Klein to appraise the property, seconded by Bonzo. Vote of 5-0 in favor.

**POLICE
MONTHLY REPORT**

The monthly report was submitted and reviewed by Chief Carney.

**POLICE
APPROVE SALE OF 2015
CANINE VEHICLE**

Vice-Chairman Martin asked for confirmation that the funds from the sale of 2015 Canine vehicle being permitted to be used toward the new vehicle

purchase and also that the vehicle is not required to be placed on Municibid. Solicitor Reese confirmed both. Chief Carney stated he would like to set a dollar amount and place on the car for sale on the PA Chief site. If anyone other than a police department purchases the vehicle, they will have to decommission the car prior to the transfer.

Motion by Martin to approve the advertising and sale of the 2015 Dodge Durango Canine vehicle with the PA Chiefs site and a minimum bid of \$12,500, seconded by Retsch. Vote of 5-0 in favor.

**POLICE
FUNDS FROM SALE OF CANINE
VEHICLE TO BE USED TOWARDS
PURCHASE OF NEW VEHICLE**

Motion by Retsch to approve the funds from the sale of the 2015 Dodge Durango be used to pay towards the new canine vehicle, seconded by Phipps. Vote of 5-0 in favor.

PINE RUN FIRE DEPARTMENT

The monthly report was submitted and reviewed by Jim Hendrickson. The open house will be held on May 6 from 1-5 pm. They are continuing to recruit new members.

Chairman Happ commended Pine Run on the yearly financial report they submitted to the Board.

BIG KNOB FIRE DEPARTMENT

The monthly report was submitted. They are working on and selling tickets for the annual gun bash on August 12.

Chairman Happ thanked both departments for all of the work they do to help the residents.

**ROADS
MONTHLY REPORT**

The Road Department monthly report was submitted.

**ROADS
APPROVE SALE OF STREET
SWEEPER ON MUNICIBID**

Motion by Phipps to approve the sale of the street sweeper on Municibid starting at \$500 with no reserve, seconded by Retsch. Vote of 5-0 in favor.

**ROADS
ACCEPT BEAVER COUNTY COG
SPRING-WINGER COMMODITIES
BID**

Motion by Martin to accept the Beaver County COG spring-winter commodities bids, seconded by Bonzo. Vote of 5-0 in favor.

**ROADS
SEAL AND LINE PAINTING
PARKING LOT OF MUNICIPAL
BUILDING**

As the township municipal parking lot has not been sealed since it was placed, the road department acquired bids for the work. Vice-Chairman Martin expressed concern over the work not being budgeted. Foreman Kraus stated he feels the parking lot area can be added to the road budget without going over. Vice-Chairman Martin questioned if additional roads should be completed in lieu of the parking area.

Supervisor Bonzo reminded that there is additional money in the budget that would have been used for the municipal windows and doors since that project will not take place.

Motion by Retsch to approve Rob Cavalier Sealcoating to perform the seal and line painting of the municipal building parking lot for \$8,220.39, seconded by Phipps. Vote of 4-1 in favor. Martin voting not. Motion passed.

**ROADS
AUTHORIZE THE BIDDING OF
THE TOWNSHIP ROAD LINE
PAINTING**

Supervisor Martin asked for clarification on the roads to be painted.

Motion by Martin to authorize the township manager to put the township road line painting out to bid, seconded by Bonzo. Vote of 5-0 in favor.

**ENGINEER
MONTHLY REPORT**

The monthly report was submitted.

**ENGINEER
WILLOWMERE PARK PROJECT
REVIEW AND APPROVAL FOR
BID**

Chairman Happ stated this item will be tabled for now. Supervisor Bonzo asked about the Best Management Practices coming out for MS4 requirements. Kevin Brett, LSSE, stated the government is receiving a lot of push back and he will keep the board posted.

SOLICITOR

Nothing new to report.

**PLANNING
APPROVAL OF 39TH STREET
COMMONS LLC CONSOLIDATION
PLAN**

Motion by Martin to approve the 39th St Commons LLC Consolidation Plan contingent upon the closure counts being added to the plan, seconded by Retsch. Vote of 5-0 in favor.

**PLANNING
LETTER OF SUPPORT**

Motion by Bonzo to approve signing a letter of support to the Planning Commission to gather information from Energy Transfer, seconded by Martin. Vote of 5-0 in favor.

RECREATION BOARD

The monthly report was submitted.

**BUILDING & ZONING
MONTHLY REPORTS**

The Building and Zoning monthly reports were submitted. Vice-Chairman Martin inquired about the multiple mobile home permits.

BOARD COMMENTS

Chairman Happ asked Foreman Kraus about the Peterbilt that had broke down. Foreman Kraus stated they tried to replace the filter as suggested by Herzog. They got the truck back to the township building, but it still leaked oil. The truck is currently at CAT for diagnostics, as

directed by the Board. He will keep the Board updated on the recommendations.

Supervisor Phipps stated the community survey for the Comprehensive Plan was mailed out and encouraged the residents to fill it out and submit it to the township.

Chairman Happ stated he has served proudly as township Supervisor for 12 years. He stated he is more than willing to speak to anyone who has questions about him or the township.

Supervisor Fritz encourage residents to vote for Greg Happ and Martin Bonzo, currently serving on the Board.

Supervisor Phipps stated the police had 423 incidents over the last month and that they are out there doing more than people realize. He thanked them for their service.

Supervisor Bonzo also thanked the police, as they are continuing to ticket people passing school buses. He stated he knows the department is out there working to keep the community safe.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Martin to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Bonzo. Vote of 5-0 in favor. Meeting was adjourned at 7:39 pm.

Respectfully,

Lawrie J. Borgman
Secretary