

# NEW SEWICKLEY TOWNSHIP

## Supervisor's Meeting

September 5, 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 Vice-Chairman Doug Martin, Supervisors Mike Phipps, and Martin Bonzo.

Absent: Fritz Retsch

Also, present were Manager Ronald Leindecker, Treasurer Nicole Liston, Secretary Lawrie Borgman, Police Chief Gregory Carney, Road Foreman R.J. Kraus, Jen Fessler, Duane Rape, Dave Bauman, Larry Hough, Charlie Stroupe, Debbie Stroupe, Lou Delebosich, Amanda Peterson, Jim Hendrickson, Patti Gerhard, Bill Mohr, Albert Horn, Ed Dengel, and Laura Dengel

### CALL TO ORDER

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

Chairman Happ announced the presence of security cameras in the building.

### AGENDA AMENDMENT

None.

### MINUTES

Motion by Phipps to accept the August 1, 2023 meeting minutes as submitted, seconded by Bonzo. Vote of 4-0 in favor.

### BILLS

Motion by Bonzo to approve the bills to be paid from the general and stormwater accounts from August 2 - September 5, 2023 as submitted, with the signing of the checks following the meeting, seconded by Phipps. Vote of 4-0 in favor.

### PUBLIC COMMENT DEBBIE STROUPE

Debbie Stroupe advised the Board of a large hole at the end of Darlington and Rochester Roads. Road Foreman Kraus will fill the hole in the morning. She also expressed concern over the lack of handicap parking while voting at the Big Knob Fire Department. Chairman Happ agreed and hopes that will be resolved with the new addition.

### PUBLIC COMMENT PATTI GERHARD

Patti Gerhard inquired if consideration had been given to resident requests of pickleball or other courts being added to Green Valley Park. Manager Leindecker stated he plans to apply for a grant to cover the cost of a pickleball court.

### PUBLIC COMMENT LAURA DENGEL

Laura Dengel inquired if the new planning module would amend the 537 plan and if there would be an update to the Township 537 Plan. Engineer, Kevin Brett, explained the sewage

planning module would amend the Township's 537 Plan. He also stated an update could not happen until after the Comprehensive Plan is updated and zoning districts identified.

**TREASURER REPORT**

The Treasurer's report was submitted.

**ADOPT ORDINANCE #234 PROHIBITING  
THE CONSUMPTION OF E-CIGARETTES,  
VAPING, TOBACCO, NICOTINE AND  
ALCOHOL AT ALL NEW SEWICKLEY  
TOWNSHIP OWNED PROPERTY AND  
FREEDOM AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT**

Vice-Chairman Martin made a motion to extract the wording related to alcohol being prohibited unless approved by the Board of Supervisors from three sections of the ordinance.

Supervisor Phipps stated he does not agree with the motion since alcohol is already prohibited without Board approval. Discussion continued.

Being no second, the motion failed.

Motion by Phipps to adopt Ordinance #234 prohibiting the consumption of e-cigarettes, vaping, tobacco, nicotine and alcohol at all New Sewickley Township owned property and Freedom Area School District.

Being no second, the motion failed.

Chairman Happ stated the Ordinance will be put on the October agenda.

**APPROVE PENNDOT MUNICIPAL  
TRAFFIC LIGHT MAINTENANCE  
AGREEMENT FOR RT 68 AND BRUSH  
CREEK ROADS AND TAFFY RUN AND  
BIG KNOB ROADS**

Motion by Martin to approve the PennDOT Municipal Traffic Light Maintenance agreement for Rt 68 and Brush Creek Roads and Taffy Run and Big Knob Roads, seconded by Bonzo. Vote of 4-0 in favor.

Albert Horn questioned what type of lights were being installed. Chairman Happ stated they are lighted signs, not traffic stop lights.

**CHANGE OCTOBER 31<sup>ST</sup> AGENDA  
MEETING TO ACCOMMODATE TRICK OR  
TREAT NIGHT**

Motion by Phipps to change the October 31<sup>st</sup> agenda meeting to 9:00 AM to accommodate Trick or Treat, seconded by Bonzo. Vote of 4-0 in favor.

Vice-Chairman Martin requested the reason for the change be clearly noted on the agenda.

**ADVERTISE FOR A NEW LAW FIRM FOR  
POLICE RETIREMENT BENEFITS**

Motion by Bonzo to advertise for a new law firm for police retirement benefits, seconded by Martin. Vote of 4-0 in favor.

**APPROVAL TO HAVE PROPERTY BEHIND  
PINE RUN FIRE DEPARTMENT  
APPRAISED FOR POSSIBLE PURCHASE**

Motion by Phipps to approve the property behind Pine Run Fire Department appraised for possible purchase, seconded by Bonzo.

Vice-Chairman Martin stated although he likes the idea for the property the Board was warned against overspending what is brought in. He also stated the township has other issues to deal with like failing equipment, so he is against buying land.

Supervisor Bonzo stated he feels it is a good investment. The land could be sold if funds are needed.

Supervisor Phipps stated he feels the worst case an appraisal is done and the supervisors do not have to approve the purchase.

A vote was taken of 3-1, motion passed, Martin voted no.

**APPROVAL TO BEGIN APPLICATION  
PROCESS FOR THE FOLLOWING LSA  
GRANTS: CONCRETE FLOOR AND  
SEPTIC SYSTEM FOR NEW ROAD  
BUILDING, EMERGENCY GENERATORS  
FOR MUNICIPAL BUILDING AND ROAD  
DEPARTMENT BUILDING, MAC TRUCK &  
BED, TRACTOR W/BRUSH  
ATTACHMENTS, REPAIR/REPAVE  
WALKING TRAIL AT GVP, SALT SHED,  
AND PICKLEBALL COURT**

Vice-Chairman Martin asked if the MAC truck grant is to refund the recent purchase, or to purchase a new truck. It was clarified it would be to purchase a new truck. He also asked what the tractor and brush attachment are. It was clarified it is to replace the Rosco Broom.

Chairman Happ stated this motion is to begin the application process.

Supervisor Bonzo stated he feels that a 20% match should be made with the committal to enhance the chances of receiving a grant. He also questioned if this type of grant could be used for firetrucks.

Manager Leindecker explained each item requested and why it was needed.

Vice-Chairman Martin expressed his concerns over spending.

Motion by Phipps to begin the application process for the LSA grants as submitted by the Manager, seconded by Bonzo. Vote of 3-1, motion passed, Martin voted no.

The monthly report was submitted.

**POLICE  
CREATE ELIGIBILITY LIST TO  
PROMOTE FULL-TIME POLICE  
OFFICERS**

Motion by Bonzo to create an eligibility list to promote full-time police officers, seconded by Phipps. Vote of 4-0 in favor.

**POLICE  
APPROVE PURCHASE OF 5 POLICE  
CARS THROUGH THE \$200,000 SHARE  
GRANT**

Motion by Bonzo to approve the purchase of 5 police cars through the \$200,000 share grant, seconded by Martin. Vote of 4-0 in favor.

Manager Leindecker stated they would be using the low bid from Tri Star Motors for \$203,726.

Vice-Chairman Martin requested when submitting bids in the future the staff prepare a spreadsheet with a summary to give the supervisors along with the quotes.

**POLICE  
ACCEPT THE RESIGNATION OF  
XIYRAIL BARNAT**

Motion by Bonzo to accept the resignation of Xiyrail Barnat, seconded by Martin. Vote of 4-0 in favor.

**POLICE  
APPROVE TRICK OR TREAT TRAIL ON  
OCT 28<sup>th</sup> FROM 5-7 PM**

Motion by Martin to approve Trick or Treat Trail on Oct. 28<sup>th</sup> from 5-7 PM, seconded by Phipps. Vote of 4-0 in favor.

**POLICE  
APPROVE TOWNSHIP TRICK OR TREAT  
ON OCT 31<sup>st</sup> FROM 6-8 PM**

Motion by Bonzo to approve the township trick or treat for Oct. 31<sup>st</sup> from 6-8 PM, seconded by Martin. Vote of 4-0 in favor.

**BIG KNOB AND PINE RUN FIRE  
DEPARTMENTS**

The monthly reports were submitted.

Jim Hendrickson, Pine Run, spoke on behalf of Pine Run and Big Knob Departments. They have a workshop scheduled on Sept. 25<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM and invited the supervisors to attend.

They have also requested a workshop meeting for October. Chairman Happ stated the supervisors have a workshop on Oct. 10<sup>th</sup> at 9 AM if they would like to attend that.

**ROADS  
MONTHLY REPORT**

The Road Department monthly report was submitted.

**ROADS  
APPROVE PURCHASE OF NEW GARAGE  
DOOR FOR THE OLD ROAD DEPARTMENT  
BUILDING**

The low bidder was John Gardner at \$13,200 for three (3) garage doors.

Motion by Phipps to approve the purchase of three (3) new garage doors for the road department building in the amount of \$13,200 from John Gardner, seconded by Bonzo.

Vice-Chairman Martin asked if the funds would come from the Road Department budget. Manager

Leindecker stated it would come from the Building Construction line item.

A vote was taken, 3-1, motion passed, Martin voted no.

**ENGINEER  
MONTHLY REPORT**

The monthly report was submitted.

**ENGINEER  
MS4 TRAINING FOR THE BOARD OF  
SUPERVISORS**

Engineer, Kevin Brett, reviewed the required MS4 training for the Supervisors. The next pollution reduction project will be at Willowmere Park, where a rain garden will be built. This project will complete the permit requirements. The next permit period will begin in 2025.

**ENGINEER  
APPROVE EASEMENT AGREEMENT WITH  
JOHN P & PATRICIA ANN KATEKOVICH  
TRUSTEES**

Engineer, Kevin Brett, stated the property owner is giving the township permission to build a rain garden and recommends proceeding with the easement agreement.

Motion by Phipps to approve the easement agreement with John P & Patricia Ann Katekovich Trustees, seconded by Bonzo. Vote of 4-0 in favor.

**SOLICITOR**

Nothing new to report.

**PLANNING**

Jenny Fessler stated 349 (10%) comprehensive plan surveys have been submitted to date. There is still time to submit a survey and Ms. Fessler encourages the public to do so.

Stakeholder meetings are scheduled for Sept. 20<sup>th</sup> from 6-8 PM and Sept. 21<sup>st</sup> from 9-11 AM.

**RECREATION BOARD**

Dave Bauman reviewed the upcoming events at the park.

**RECREATION BOARD  
ACCEPT THE RESIGNATION OF LISA  
BAUMAN AND ADVERTISE THE OPEN  
POSITION**

Motion by Bonzo to accept the resignation of Lisa Bauman and advertise the open position, seconded by Martin. Vote of 4-0 in favor.

Chairman Happ thanked Ms. Bauman for her years of service and stated she was a good asset to the township and is sorry to see her resign.

**BUILDING & ZONING  
MONTHLY REPORTS**

The Building and Zoning monthly reports were submitted.

Supervisor Bonzo questioned the zoning violation for fencing of animals. Manager Leindecker stated the property owner is working to resolve the issue.

Supervisor Phipps questioned the dog swimming pool. Manager Leindecker explained they are required to submit a subdivision/land development application and are working to do so.

**BOARD COMMENTS**

Vice-Chairman Martin stated his concerns of the township's finances and asked that supervisors watch spending while dealing with township business. He also thanked everyone who participated in the Big Knob Fair and stated how nice it is to see the community come together.

Duane Rape expressed concerns over people parking on Harkins Mill Road.

Chairman Happ stated the tree trimmers for Duquesne Light are not using flaggers.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Motion by Bonzo to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Phipps. Vote of 4-0 in favor. Meeting was adjourned at 7:32 PM.

Respectfully,

Lawrie J. Borgman  
Secretary