

NEW SEWICKLEY TOWNSHIP

Supervisor's Meeting

November 7, 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, Fritz Retsch, and Martin Bonzo.

Also, present were Manager Ronald Leindecker, Treasurer Nicole Liston, Secretary Lawrie Borgman, Police Chief Gregory Carney, Township Engineer Kevin Brett, Township Solicitor Chris Reese, David Bauman, Jim Hendrickson, Mike Loschinskey, Brain Perry, Carrie Costanza, Tim Murcko, Larry Hough, Patti Gerhard, Linda Dengel, Albert Horn, Amanda Peterson, 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.

Chairman Happ announced executive sessions were held after the workshop on October 10th for police contract matters and during the workshop on October 24th for legal personnel matters.

AGENDA AMENDMENT

None.

MINUTES

Motion by Bonzo to accept the October 3, 2023 meeting minutes as submitted, seconded by Martin. Vote of 5-0 in favor.

BILLS

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON MS4

None.

TREASURER REPORT

The Treasurer's report was submitted.

ADVERTISE ORDINANCE #234

Chairman Happ explained there are two draft ordinances on the table for consideration to advertise. Draft 1 contains definition changes and Draft 2 would eliminate alcohol consumption completely.

Motion by Retsch to approve the advertising of Draft 1 of Ordinance #234 which changes the definitions only, seconded by Phipps. Vote of 3 to 2. Motion passed. Martin and Bonzo voted no.

**APPROVE ADVERTISING FOR
MUNICIPAL SOLICITOR**

Motion by Martin to approve advertising of a new municipal solicitor for 2024, seconded by Bonzo. Vote of 5-0 in favor.

Manager Leindecker thanked Solicitor Reese for his service to New Sewickley Township.

**APPROVE AGREEMENT WITH CHRIS
REESE TO CONTINUE AS SOLICITOR
THROUGH 2023**

Motion by Phipps to approve the agreement with Chris Reese to continue solicitor services through 2023, seconded by Retsch. Vote of 5-0 in favor.

Manager Leindecker explained Solicitor Reese is retiring from law, but would continue as the township's solicitor through 2023.

**APPROVE PALMER BARN VENUE
HOLDING TANK AGREEMENT**

Motion by Martin to approve the holding tank agreement for Palmer Barn Venue, seconded by Bonzo. Vote of 5-0 in favor.

**POLICE
MONTHLY REPORT**

The monthly report was submitted.

Supervisor Retsch congratulated Chief Carney on receiving two grants from the Department of Justice to hire police officers totaling \$450,000.

Supervisor Phipps stated Chief Carney received a letter from ABC Transit thanking the New Sewickley Police Department for their vigilance on school bus safety.

Supervisor Retsch thanked Supervisor Bonzo for his position on the police continuing to crack down on school bus safety.

**POLICE
APPROVE PURCHASE OF BREATHALYZER**

Motion by Bonzo to approve the purchase of one breathalyzer with Intoximeters for \$10,160.90, seconded by Retsch. Vote of 5-0 in favor.

**POLICE
APPROVE UPFITTING OF THE 5 NEW
POLICE CARS WITH THE LOW BIDDER**

Motion by Bonzo to approve the upfitting of the five new police cars with Team Force for \$56,107.00, seconded by Retsch.

Vice-Chairman Martin asked for confirmation that would complete the upfitting of the cars.

Vote of 5-0 in favor.

**POLICE
APPROVE POLICE SERVICES
AGREEMENT WITH MARION TOWNSHIP**

Motion by Bonzo to approve the police services agreement with Marion Township, seconded by Retsch. Vote of 5-0 in favor.

**BIG KNOB AND PINE RUN FIRE
DEPARTMENTS**

The monthly reports were submitted.

Jim Hendrickson, Pine Run, stated the fire department was award a \$2,500 grant from Miele Manufacturing of Muncy PA and a \$2,000 grant from Penn Energy.

**FIRE DEPARTMENTS
LETTER OF APPROVAL ON MERGER**

Motion by Martin to approve the letter of approval on the merger of Big Knob and Pine Run Volunteer Fire Departments, seconded by Bonzo. Vote of 5-0 in favor.

**FIRE DEPARTMENTS
APPROVE AGREEMENT WITH MARION
TOWNSHIP**

Motion by Martin to approve the fire services agreement with Marion Township, seconded by Bonzo. Vote of 5-0 in favor.

**ROADS
MONTHLY REPORT**

The Road Department monthly report was submitted.

Manager Leindecker stated the two new trucks arrived, but both had to go back to A&H for minor repairs.

Supervisor Retsch requested after they are back at the township that a day be planned for the citizens to look at the trucks.

**APPROVE SALE OF PETERBILT ON
MUNICIBID**

Motion by Phipps to approve the sale of the Peterbilt and Plow on Municibid with a minimum bid of \$15,000, seconded by Bonzo. Vote of 5-0 in favor.

Vice-Chairman Martin requested the truck be cleaned prior to the photos being taken. Manager Leindecker confirmed the Road Department would do that.

**ENGINEER
MONTHLY REPORT**

The monthly report was submitted.

**APPROVE BID PROCESS FOR
WILLOWMERE PARK PROJECT**

Motion by Phipps to approve the bid process for the Willowmere Park project, seconded by Retsch. Vote of 5-0 in favor.

Manager Leindecker explained this is the last project required in the current MS4 permit and it will be a rain garden.

Vice-Chairman Martin asked if the grant would cover the total cost, or if the township would be responsible for a match. Kevin Brett, LSSE, explained they will hold the bids unopened until after the grant award notification is received. The township would be responsible for a 20% match, should they receive the award.

SOLICITOR

Nothing new to report.

Chairman Happ thanked Solicitor Reese again for his service to the township.

PLANNING

Nothing to report.

RECREATION BOARD

The monthly report was submitted.

**BUILDING & ZONING
MONTHLY REPORTS**

The Building and Zoning monthly reports were submitted.

**ZONING HEARING HELD ON OCTOBER
24th FOR VERIZON WIRELESS**

Chairman Happ stated the Zoning Hearing Board voted in favor of Verizon Wireless.

**ZONING
APPROVE COHEN LAW GROUP TO
PROVIDE LEGAL INPUT ON VERIZON
WIRELESS HEARING**

Albert Horn recommended the township have Cohen Law review the case and advise where the township has shortfalls in the ordinance.

Discussion continued on the hearing and the process should the township consider an appeal.

Motion by Bonzo to approve Cohen Law Group to provide legal input on the zoning hearing decision for Verizon Wireless, seconded by Phipps.

Supervisor Bonzo asked for the number of hours it would take for the review. Manager Leindecker stated it would be 5-10 hours at a rate of \$350 per hour.

Supervisor Retsch asked for it to be on record that he hopes the community does not denigrate them for spending money on this.

Vote of 5-0.

Supervisor Bonzo asked Albert Horn if the tower is designed to fall in on itself should it fail. Mr. Horn stated Verizon claims it will.

BOARD COMMENTS

Vice-Chairman Martin stated he attended a town hall meeting that provided good information and he heard comments from residents.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Retsch to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Bonzo. Vote of 5-0 in favor. Meeting was adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

Respectfully,

Lawrie J. Borgman
Secretary