

# NEW SEWICKLEY TOWNSHIP

## Supervisor's Meeting

December 27, 2023

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

Absent: Chairman Greg Happ

Also, present were Manager Ronald Leindecker, Treasurer Nicole Liston, Secretary Lawrie Borgman, Police Chief Gregory Carney, Road Foreman R.J. Kraus, Township Engineer Kevin Brett, Township Solicitor Chris Reese, Patti Gerhard, Robert Knittle, David Bauman, Jim Hendrickson, William Spade, Mike Loschinsky, Duane Rape, Sandy Phipps, Larry Hough, Ed Eisenbrown, Julie Leindecker, Al Horn, Jen Fessler, and Steve Spade

### CALL TO ORDER

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

Vice-Chairman Martin announced executive sessions were held on December 12<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> to interview solicitors. An executive session was held prior to this evening's meeting for personnel matters. No decisions were made.

### AGENDA AMENDMENT

None.

### MINUTES

Motion by Bonzo to accept the December 5, 2023 meeting minutes as submitted, seconded by Retsch. Vote of 4-0 in favor.

### BILLS

Motion by Retsch 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 Martin. Vote of 4-0 in favor.

### PUBLIC COMMENT DUANE RAPE

Expressed concerns over seeing three supervisors together at a restaurant and felt they violated the Sunshine Law. Supervisor Phipps explained they were there socially. Solicitor Reese assured the Board of Supervisors they are permitted to be together as long as they were not deliberating or taking action with respect to township matters.

### PUBLIC COMMENT PATTI GERHARD

Thanked the fire departments for driving Santa around Danburry Farms.

### PUBLIC COMMENT ON MS4

None.

### ADOPT RESOLUTION #19-23 – ADOPTING THE 2024 BUDGET

Motion by Phipps to adopt Resolution #19-23, seconded by Retsch.

Vice-Chairman Martin expressed concerns over the budget and feels the supervisors should be cautious.

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

### ADOPT RESOLUTION #20-23 – SETTING THE TAX MILLAGE FOR 2024

Motion by Retsch to adopt Resolution #20-23 setting the tax millage rate to 1.65 mills for the township and .3 mills for the fire department, seconded by Bonzo. Vote of 4-0 in favor.

**APPRECIATION OF SERVICE AWARDS  
GREG HAPP AND MIKE PHIPPS**

On behalf of the Board of Supervisors, Manager Leindecker recognized Greg Happ for 12 years of service on the Board of Supervisors and Mike Phipps for 14 years of service on the Planning Commission.

**POLICE  
ADOPT ORDINANCE #235 – POLICE PENSION  
MILITARY BUY-BACK**

Motion by Bonzo to adopt Ordinance #235, seconded by Retsch. Vote of 4-0 in favor.

**POLICE  
ADOPT ORDINANCE #236 – UPDATING POLICE  
PENSION FOR LATEST IRS CODES**

Motion by Retsch to adopt Ordinance #236, seconded by Bonzo. Vote of 4-0 in favor.

**FIRE DEPARTMENTS**

Jim Hendrickson stated the fire department had a joint merger meeting on December 11<sup>th</sup> and the merger passed almost unanimously.

Vice Chairman Martin stated he is proud of the work the fire departments have done to get to this point.

Supervisor Phipps thanked the fire department for bringing Santa to the Grange.

**ROADS**

Road Foreman Kraus stated there is nothing new to report.

**ENGINEER  
ACCEPT LOW BID FOR 2023 STORMWATER  
IMPROVEMENT PROJECT**

Motion by Phipps to accept the low bid for the 2023 stormwater improvement project from LM&R Excavating for \$134,955.00, seconded by Retsch. Vote 4-0.

Supervisor Bonzo questioned the large discrepancy between the bids and wanted to ensure LSSE looked over the submissions. Kevin Brett stated the bids were reviewed and LM&R has completed numerous similar projects.

Supervisor Retsch asked for clarification on wording in the bids.

Supervisor Phipps asked Manager Leindecker to explain how funds were being saved by moving the project out of the flood zone.

**SOLICITOR**

Nothing new to report.

**BOARD COMMENTS**

Supervisor Retsch thanked the Police Department for their gift drive for township children. Chief Carney stated through donations from residents, local business, and churches they were able to give 20 township children Christmas gifts. Chief Carney also recognized Oak Grove Lutheran Church for their generosity to the gift drive.

Vice-Chairman Martin expressed his appreciation of the township community efforts.

Supervisors Phipps stated PSTATS is awarding four \$1,500 scholarships to children in communities such as New Sewickley. Manager Leindecker stated anyone interested should go to the High School office for information.

Supervisor Bonzo asked Kevin Brett, LSSE, to give the supervisors information on steps and costs to look into a community sewage center that would show where the needs are in the township. Discussion continued on a sewage center.

Supervisor Phipps suggested the Municipal Authority might take over the Klein Road sewage treatment center after completion so the township could look into adding on to it. Supervisor Bonzo also suggested the Municipal Authority have input in the type of system that is put in.

Manager Leindecker stated the two properties that the township had appraised where appraised lower than the residents were willing to sell. The township is not permitted to purchase property above the appraised value.

Supervisor Bonzo expressed appreciation for Greg Happ and his dedication to the township over the past 12 years.

Vice-Chairman Martin thanked all of the people serving in the many different roles of the township. He encouraged people to stay involved in 2024.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

Motion by Bonzo to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Retsch. Vote of 4-0 in favor. Meeting was adjourned at 7:13 p.m.

Respectfully,

Lawrie J. Borgman  
Secretary