

# NEW SEWICKLEY TOWNSHIP

## Supervisor's Meeting

February 6, 2024

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

Also, present were Manager Ronald Leindecker, Treasurer Nicole Liston, Secretary Lawrie Borgman, Police Chief Gregory Carney, Road Foreman R.J. Kraus, Township Engineer Josh Callendar, Township Solicitor Alexis Wheeler, Albert Horn, Sandy Phipps, Jenny Fessler, David Bauman, Duane Rape, Mike Loschinsky, Zachory Carney, John Murtha, Lucas Bradel, Brian Perry, William Owen, Jim Hendrickson, Larry Hough, Joe King, Chris Brenckle, Allison Mason, Tricia Barker, Ross Jenny, Sue Jenny, Chris Koop, Laura Dengel, and Patti Gerhard

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|----|---|---|
| 1  | <b>CALL TO ORDER</b>                      | The Pledge was recited and the meeting was called to order. Chairman Bonzo announced the presence of security cameras in the building. Chairman Bonzo announced executive sessions were held on January 9 <sup>th</sup> at 9AM and 6PM and January 16 <sup>th</sup> at 6PM for personnel matters involving the Planning Commission and Solicitor. |
| 2  | <b>APPOINTMENT OF SOLICITOR</b>           | Motion by Martin to appoint Alexis M Wheeler of Strassburger McKenna Gutnick & Gefsky as the Township Solicitor, seconded by Retsch. Vote of 5-0 in favor.  |
| 3  | <b>MINUTES</b>                            | Motion by Retsch to accept the January 2, 2024 Reorganization and Regular meeting minutes as submitted, seconded by Phipps. Vote of 5-0 in favor.   |
| 4  | <b>BILLS</b>                              | <p>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.</p> <p>Vice-Chairman Martin asked for clarification on several bills.</p> <p>Vote of 5-0 in favor.</p>   |
| 5a | <b>PUBLIC COMMENT PATTI GERHARD</b>       | Patti Gerhard thanked the Road Department for patching holes and asked dates for pipe repair and road replacement.  |
|    | <b>PUBLIC COMMENT LAURA DENGEL</b>        | Laura Dengel expressed concerns about broken signage on Klein Road.   |
| 5b | <b>PUBLIC COMMENT ON MS4</b>              | None.   |
| 6  | <b>CHECK PRESENTATION ENERGY TRANSFER</b> | Chris Koop, Energy Transfer, presented a check in the amount of \$10,000 to Chief Carney for a grant awarded to New Sewickley Township to purchase six (6) solar signs.   |
| 7a | <b>TREASURER REPORT</b>                   | The Treasurer's report was submitted.   |

- 7b SET TOWNSHIP CLEAN-UP DAYS** Motion by Phipps to set the Township Clean-Up days on May 4<sup>th</sup> and October 19<sup>th</sup> at the Big Knob Grange with the Road Department employees working, seconded by Retsch. Vote of 5-0 in favor.
- 7c SET TOWNSHIP TIRE COLLECTION DAY** Motion by Martin to set the Township Tire Collection Day on May 11<sup>th</sup> with one Road Department employee working and the township purchasing lunch, seconded by Retsch. Vote of 5-0 in favor.
- 7d SET TOWNSHIP ELECTRONIC RECYCLING DAY** Motion by Retsch to set the Township Electronic Recycling Day on June 12<sup>th</sup> with one road department employee working and the use of the skid loader, seconded by Martin. Vote of 5-0 in favor.
- 7e APPROVE RESOLUTION #05-24 – DCNR GRANT TO PAVE WALKING TRAIL AT GVP** Motion by Phipps to approve Resolution #05-24 for a DCNR grant for \$130,000 with a 20% match to pave the walking trail at Green Valley Park, seconded by Retsch. Vote of 3-2 in favor. Spade and Martin voted no. Motion passed.
- 7f APPROVE RESOLUTION #06-24 FOR DCNR GRANT FOR PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT AT GVP** Motion by Retsch to approve Resolution #06-24 for a DCNR grant for \$100,000 with a 20% match for playground equipment at Green Valley Park, seconded by Phipps. Vote of 3-2 in favor. Spade and Martin voted no. Motion passed.
- 7g APPROVE UPDATED FEE CHART** Motion by Spade to approve the updated fee chart to include the road opening fees, seconded by Retsch.
- Phipps asked Manager Leindecker to explain the change.
- Vote of 5-0 in favor.
- 7h DISCUSSION ON TEMPORARY HANDICAP PARKING AT POLLING FACILITIES** Manager Leindecker stated he and Road Foreman Kraus discussed placing 10-15 temporary signs at the polling locations on election day. Discussion occurred if an Ordinance would be necessary for the temporary signage. Brian Perry stated he had insurance concerns since the temporary spots would not meet code. He will contact their insurance company for advice. Vice-Chairman Martin questioned who would purchase the signage. Manager Leindecker stated it would be a township purchase.
- 8a POLICE MONTHLY REPORT** The monthly report was submitted.
- 8b POLICE ACCEPT RETIREMENTS OF KEITH HABURJAK AND BENY** Motion by Phipps to accept the retirements of Keith Haburjak and Canine Officer Beny effective June 19, 2024, seconded by Retsch. Vote of 5-0 in favor.
- 8c POLICE ACCEPT RESIGNATION OF ALEXANDRA LIZZI** Motion by Martin to accept the resignation of Alexandra Lizzi effective January 14<sup>th</sup>, seconded by Retsch. Vote of 5-0 in favor.

- 8d POLICE  
APPROVE ADVERTISING &  
HIRING PROCESS OF  
OFFICERS**
- Motion by Phipps to approve the advertising and hiring process for two (2) full-time officers, seconded by Martin. Vote of 5-0 in favor.
- 8e POLICE  
APPROVE CONTINUOUS  
HIRING PROCESS FOR  
PART-TIME OFFICERS**
- Motion by Martin to approve the continuous hiring process for part-time officers, seconded by Retsch. Vote of 5-0 in favor.
- 8f POLICE  
APPROVE PROCESS TO  
APPLY FOR PCCD GRANT**
- Motion by Retsch to approve the process to apply for the PCCD Recruitment Grant, seconded by Phipps.
- Vice-Chairman Martin asked for confirmation that this would be a full grant with no match involved.
- Vote of 5-0 in favor.
- 8g POLICE  
APPROVE CITIZENS  
POLICE & FIRE ACADEMY**
- Motion by Martin to approve the Citizens Police and Fire Academy project, seconded by Retsch.
- Supervisor Phipps asked Chief Carney to explain the program.
- Vote of 5-0 in favor.
- 8h POLICE  
APPROVE MOU FOR THE  
WOMEN'S CENTER OF  
BEAVER COUNTY**
- Motion by Phipps to approve the Memorandum of Understanding between the Women's Center of Beaver County and the New Sewickley Township Police Department for fee reimbursement, seconded by Retsch.
- Vice-Chairman Martin inquired about the rate of reimbursement.
- Vote of 5-0 in favor.
- Supervisor Phipps recognized the 2023 Review Report and the Strategic Plan for 23-24 from Chief Carney.
- Supervisor Retsch requested a meeting to review the monthly report.
- 8i BIG KNOB AND PINE RUN  
FIRE DEPARTMENTS**
- The monthly reports were submitted.
- Jim Hendrickson stated they retained a merger attorney who believes the merger will be simple since they are merging willingly and have township support. The departments continue joint training. Mr. Hendrickson also reviewed grants they will be applying for.
- Johnny Murtha stated they have begun discussions on runs for mutual aid and appreciate the support the township is giving them. They are beginning the rebranding process and are pricing new decals for the trucks. The addition to the station is going well. Once completed, they will hold an open house.

Chairman Bonzo commended the departments for achieving a large amount of work in a short period of time.

Supervisor Fritz commended the departments on their fundraising efforts.

- 8j DISCUSSION ON CONTRACT SERVICES W/FREEDOM BOROUGH**
- Jim Hendrickson stated they met with Freedom Borough regarding their request to contract services with Pine Run Fire Department. Mr. Hendrickson stated he made it clear to Freedom Borough that their main focus is the merger with Big Knob. He will keep the Board informed of any additional communications.
- 9 ROADS MONTHLY REPORT**
- The Road Department monthly report was submitted.
- Chairman Bonzo asked why the Road Department was continuing to order salt. Road Foreman Kraus stated they are required to meet 60% of what was reserved or pay a storage fee. They just met the 60% and will not be ordering more, unless needed.
- Supervisor Retsch asked for clarification on the monthly report.
- Chairman Bonzo stated the Powell Road ditches are filled with leaves. Road Foreman Kraus stated it is an ongoing battle on Powell Road.
- 10a ENGINEER MONTHLY REPORT**
- The monthly report was submitted.
- Supervisor Phipps asked when the Willowmere MS4 project would begin.
- 10b ENGINEER MEADOWCREST TIMELINE**
- Josh Callendar reviewed the PRD timeline for the proposed Meadowcrest Development.
- Al Horn, Chairman Planning Commission, expressed concern over the timeline that was given.
- 11 SOLICITOR**
- Solicitor Wheeler thanked the Board of Supervisors for the opportunity. Chairman Bonzo welcomed her and thanked her for going through the selection process.
- 12a PLANNING**
- Jenny Fessler stated the Commission continues to work on the comprehensive plan and held a stakeholder meeting. They are continuing to work on various ordinances as well.
- Chairman Bonzo stated he was impressed with the turn out for the stakeholder meeting and reviewed some of the concerns of the residents.
- 12b PLANNING APPOINTMENT OF CHRIS BRECKLE**
- Motion by Martin to appoint Chris Brenckle to fill the remainder of Mike Phipps's term on the Planning Commission, seconded by Spade. Vote of 5-0 in favor.

**12c PLANNING APPROVAL OF  
FREEDOM DOLLAR  
GENERAL W/CONDITIONS**

William Owen, Penntex Ventures reviewed the Freedom Dollar General plan. He addressed the outstanding concerns of LSSE and the Planning Commission.

Discussion occurred on LSSE's suggested fee of \$37,500 in lieu of placing a sidewalk. Josh Callendar stated they stand by the amount and would not suggest taking a lesser amount.

Chairman Bonzo stated he felt they should stay with the \$37,500 suggested by LSSE.

Vice-Chairman Martin asked what would happen if the state permits were not issued.

Supervisor Retsch made inquiries of the type of building being placed and how they choose their sites.

Motion by Martin to approve the Freedom Dollar General with the following conditions: working with the township engineer to resolve the remaining stormwater concerns, setting a fee-in-lieu of in the amount of \$37,500 for a future sidewalk, providing a closure count report, providing the township with a 15 foot easement along frontages on Lovi Rd and Rt 989, entry into a Developer's Agreement in a form acceptable to the township solicitor, and entry into a Stormwater O&M Agreement, seconded by Phipps. Vote of 4-1 in favor. Spade voted no. Motion passed.

**12d PLANNING  
APPROVAL FOR  
MEMBERS TO ATTEND  
PSATS CONFERENCE**

Motion by Phipps to approve Jenny Fessler and Chris Brenckle to attend the PSATS Conference, seconded by Martin. Vote of 5-0 in favor.

**12e RECREATION BOARD**

Mike Loschinskey stated the Recreation Board is currently working on dates for events. He thanked the supervisors for approving the grant submissions for Green Valley Park.

**12f BUILDING & ZONING  
MONTHLY REPORTS**

The Building and Zoning monthly reports were submitted.

**13 BOARD COMMENTS**

None.

**14 ADJOURNMENT**

Motion by Martin to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Phipps. Vote of 5-0 in favor. Meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully,

Lawrie J. Borgman  
Secretary