

NEW SEWICKLEY TOWNSHIP

Supervisor's Meeting

May 7, 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 Supervisors Mike Phipps, Fritz Retsch, and Steve Spade-Via Teleconference.

Absent: Vice-Chairman Doug Martin

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 Alexis Wheeler, Jen Fessler, Albert Horn, Robert Terry, David Bauman, Tricia Barker, Patti Gerhard, Dan Plunkett, Mike Priolo, Jim Hendrickson, Larry Hough, Brian Perry, Amanda Peterson, Sherry Lewis, Lisa Lewis, Lou Delebosich, Mike Loschinsky, Charlie Veloski, Karen Veloski, and Laura Dengel

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| 1 | CALL TO ORDER | 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 April 2 nd following the Board meeting and on April 11 th at 2:30 p.m. for legal matters involving Meadowcrest Development. |
| 2 | AMENDMENT TO AGENDA | <p>Chairman Bonzo requested the agenda be amended to add a resolution for a sewage grant for \$47,500 under 9B.</p> <p>Motion by Retsch to amend the agenda, seconded by Phipps. Vote of 4-0 in favor.</p> |
| 3 | MINUTES | Motion by Phipps to accept the April 2, 2024 meeting minutes as submitted, seconded by Retsch. Vote of 4-0 in favor. |
| 4 | 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 Phipps. Vote of 4-0 in favor. |
| 5a | PUBLIC COMMENT PATTI GERHARD | <p>Thanked Road Foreman Kraus, Manager Leindecker, and BOS for the road project at Danbury and gave a breakdown of the taxes the Danbury residents paid.</p> <p>Supervisor Retsch thanked Ms. Gerhard for the positive comments.</p> |
| | LARRY HOUGH | <p>Requested an update on the noise ordinance when appropriate.</p> <p>Solicitor Wheeler stated they had been in contact with the manufacturer who suggested mufflers be installed on the unit.</p> |
| | LAURA DENGEL | Thanked the BOS for making adjustments to the agenda to ratify decisions, and expressed concern over the township's involvement in DEP appeal and sewage. |
| | ALBERT HORN | Expressed concern over invocation at meetings and stated he feels invocation at meetings should be tabled until a policy is in place. |

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| | ROBERT TERRY | Expressed concern over Meadowcrest and the number of units proposed. |
| | CHARLES VELOSKY | Expressed concern over Meadowcrest. |
| | KAREN VELOSKY | <p>Asked if the township takes over the Meadowcrest sewage facility would they force residents around to tap into the facility?</p> <p>Chairman Bonzo stated they would not be required to do so.</p> |
| 5b | PUBLIC COMMENT ON MS4 | None. |
| 6a | TREASURER REPORT | The Treasurer's report was submitted. |
| 6b | INVOCATION BEFORE TOWNSHIP SUPERVISOR MEETINGS | <p>Chairman Bonzo stated invocation before meetings was brought up in the past. Both the past solicitor and Solicitor Wheeler have looked into the matter. Township churches would be asked to provide the invocation and the subject is still under discussion.</p> |
| 6c | RATIFY DECISION FROM APRIL 2ND EXECUTIVE SESSION | <p>Motion by Phipps to ratify the decision from the April 2nd executive session to intervene in the appeal of the Meadowcrest Development Act 537 planning, seconded by Retsch.</p> <p>Ms. Dengel requested permission to read the notice of appeal. Solicitor Wheeler explained the township is involved in the appeal at the request of the DEP since the township is required to adopt a resolution any time the Act 537 plan is amended. Because the township is involved, they will receive first-hand information during the appeal process.</p> <p>The vote was taken, 4-0 in favor.</p> |
| 6d | UNFUNDED STATE MANDATES | <p>Supervisor Phipps stated he would like letters to be sent to the representatives on behalf of New Sewickley Township supervisors opposing how HB 1632 is currently written. He would like a second letter sent opposing all unfunded mandates placed on municipalities.</p> <p>Chairman Bonzo stated there are currently 3,400 mandates being placed on municipalities.</p> <p>Supervisor Spade asked for clarification on who the letters would be sent to and stated he agrees with the idea and would like to send this type of letter more often.</p> <p>Solicitor Wheeler stated the agenda would need to be amended to send the second letter requested.</p> <p>Motion by Phipps to amend the agenda to add writing a second letter opposing all unfunded mandates, seconded by Retsch. Vote of 4-0 in favor. The agenda will be amended.</p> |

Motion by Phipps to send a letter to our legislators opposing HB1632 as currently written and encourage them to continue to work with municipalities to find a real solution, seconded by Retsch. Vote of 4-0 in favor.

- 6e** **SEND LETTER TO
LEGISLATORS OPPOSING
ALL UNFUNDED
MANDATES**
- Motion by Phipps to send a letter to legislators opposing unfunded mandates in general, seconded by Retsch. Vote of 4-0 in favor.
- 7a** **POLICE
MONTHLY REPORT**
- The monthly report was submitted. Chief Carney stated the School Resource Officer Jones received an award at Law Day and was recognized by the Beaver County Commissioners for saving the life of a student during lunch.
- Chairman Bonzo discussed the ongoing school bus issue and thanked the officers for watching and trying to resolve the problem in the township.
- 7b** **POLICE
K-9 PURCHASE
AGREEMENT**
- Chief Carney stated Officer Haburjak and K-9 Beny are retiring. Since the township currently has ownership of the K-9, a purchase agreement was drawn to turn him over to Keith Haburjak.
- Motion by Retsch to approve the K-9 Purchase Agreement, seconded by Phipps. Vote of 4-0 in favor.
- 7c** **POLICE
APPROVE JEREMY
BROWN FOR BEAVER
COUNTY EMERGENCY
SERVICES UNIT**
- Motion by Phipps to approve Jeremy Brown for the Beaver County Emergency Services Unit, seconded by Spade. Vote of 4-0 in favor.
- 7d** **POLICE
APPROVAL TO SELL
POLICE CARS**
- Supervisor Phipps stated the fire department expressed interest in the Dodge Durango.
- Motion by Retsch to sell the 2016 Ford Explorer, 2017 Dodge Charger, and 2019 Dodge Charger, and donate the 2018 Dodge Durango to the fire department, seconded by Phipps. Vote of 3-0 in favor. Spade voted No.
- 7e** **POLICE
APPROVAL TO AMEND
ORDINANCE #153 FOR
ONE-WAY TIMES ON
FREEDOM AREA SCHOOL
PROPERTY**
- Motion by Phipps to amend Ordinance #153, seconded by Retsch. Vote of 4-0 in favor.
- Solicitor Wheeler recommends the times be changed via resolution after the ordinance is amended.
- 7f** **POLICE
APPROVE ANNUAL
TRACTOR PARADE**
- Motion by Spade to approve the annual tractor parade on June 7, 2024, seconded by Retsch. Vote of 4-0 in favor.

- 7g POLICE ASSISTANCE IN ROCHESTER BOROUGH** Chief Carney explained he was contacted by Rochester Borough asking for possible assistance during the Beaver Boom and at the Rochester/Monaca Bridge construction project. Rochester will reimburse New Sewickley. The officers would volunteer for the overtime and would not be forced.
- 7h BIG KNOB AND PINE RUN FIRE DEPARTMENTS** The monthly reports were submitted.
- Mike Priolo invited the supervisors to training that will take place on Miller Road.
- Brian Perry stated there are tickets available to the Purse and Pistol Bash. The Big Knob addition is close to completion.
- 8a ROADS MONTHLY REPORT** The Road Department monthly report was submitted.
- 8b ROADS PAVING AND CHIPPING PROJECTS** Foreman Kraus stated the milling at Danburry is complete. They will begin at Tri-County and Commerce Drive on Wednesday. Paving will begin after but is weather-dependent.
- 9a ENGINEER MONTHLY REPORT** The monthly report was submitted.
- 9b ENGINEER CFA GRANT FOR ACT 537 STUDY** Kevin Brett stated the township has been looking for a grant to help fund an Act 537 study. The current grant is the Crows Run 537 Plan and is a 50/50 grant. The cost to do a 537 Plan update is approximately \$100,000.
- Chairman Bonzo stated this would be the first step of many.
- Supervisor Spade stated he would like additional information since he was just informed about the grant on Monday.
- Supervisor Retsch questioned where the funds for the match would be taken from. Mr. Brett stated the township would need half of the match in 2025 and the remaining in 2026.
- Supervisor Phipps stated he feels the township needs to move forward.
- Motion by Phipps to apply for a CGA grant to fund 50% of an Act 537 Study, seconded by Retsch. Vote of 3-0 in favor. Spade voted No.
- 10 SOLICITOR** No updates at this time.
- 11a PLANNING** Nothing new to report.
- 11b RECREATION BOARD** Monthly report was submitted.

- 11c RECREATION BOARD APPROVAL TO PURCHASE A 2024 KUBOTA** Manager Leindecker stated Supervisor Spade asked him to look into a Ranger. It was more expensive with the same add-ons.
- Motion by Phipps to approve the purchase of a 2024 Kubota RTU2 50-H for \$12,692.99, seconded by Retsch. Vote of 4-0 in favor.
- 11 d BUILDING & ZONING MONTHLY REPORTS** The Building and Zoning monthly reports were submitted.
- 12 BOARD COMMENTS** Supervisor Retsch stated he would like the supervisors to look into a local tax rebate for the township firefighters.
- Chief Carney informed the supervisors that the Police Memorial is May 17th at 10:00 a.m. Officer Pullen will receive an award for his work on sexual assault cases.
- 13 ADJOURNMENT** Motion by Phipps to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Retsch. Vote of 4-0 in favor. Meeting was adjourned at 7:44 p.m.

Respectfully,

Lawrie J. Borgman
Secretary