

NEW SEWICKLEY TOWNSHIP

Supervisor's Meeting

March 2, 2021

The regular meeting of the Board of Supervisors, held at the Township Municipal Building, was called to order by Chairman Greg Happ at 6:30 p.m. Present were Vice-Chairman Tom Applequist, Supervisors Douglas Martin, Fritz Retsch and Mike Phipps. Also present were Manager Brian O'Malley, Secretary Patricia Pfaff, Treasurer Elois Nadzak, Administrative Assistant Lawrie Borgman, Township Engineer Kevin Brett, Township Solicitor Chris Reese, Police Chief Ron Leindecker, Road Foreman R.J. Kraus, Jenny Fessler, Dave Bauman, Lisa Bauman, Duane Rape, Amanda Peterson, Albert E Horn, Theresa Magness, Wess Magness, Brian Perry, Johnny Murtha, Joe Hill, Jim Scheck, Diana Hartsell, Don Fessler, Brandon Evans, Jon Davis, Shannon Moehrle, TJ Smith, Jeff Frey, and Chuck Goulding

PLEDGE The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

MINUTES Motion by Martin, seconded by Applequist, to approve the minutes of the February 2, 2021 Regular meeting as written. Vote of 5 to 0 in favor.

BILLS Motion by Applequist, seconded by Phipps, to pay the bills from the General Account, February 3, 2021 through February 28, 2021 for \$170,375.48 and as of March 2, 2021 for \$72,860.63 with the signing of the checks following the meeting. Vote of 5 to 0 in favor.

PUBLIC COMMENT Residents Don Fessler, President of Freedom Youth Baseball and John Davis expressed their concerns over the maintenance of the baseball fields should the township permit use by other organizations.

Jeff Frey of the Power organization expressed their willingness to work with Freedom Youth Baseball on a solution.

Chairman Happ requested the two organizations meet at the Recreation Board meeting on March 8, 2021 to resolve issues. The Recreation Board to report back at the next regular meeting in April.

TREASURERS REPORT Township Treasurer Elois Nadzak, submitted the monthly Treasurer's report for review. Al Horn suggested additional details be included in the Treasurer's Report.

HIRE NEW CLEANING PERSON Motion by Happ to hire Valerie Simon as a self-contractor to clean the Police Department on a weekly basis at \$85.00 per week. She will acquire her own liability insurance for as long as she is working at the township building, seconded by Retsch. Vote of 5-0 in favor.

APPOINT ASSISTANT E.M.C. Motion made by Retsch to appoint P.J. Moldovan as the Assistant Emergency Management Coordinator of New Sewickley Township, seconded by Phipps. Vote of 5-0 in favor.

DIGITAL SIGN PRESBYTRIAN CHURCH Dianna Hartsell discussed the possibility of the township sharing the cost with New Sewickley Presbyterian Church for the purchase of a digital sign (\$17,790.00 total cost) to replace their current sign. Solicitor, Chris Reese informed the township there are not any legal restrictions that would prevent the Board of Supervisors from pursuing a shared agreement.

Chairman Happ stated in lieu of sharing the purchase of the sign, the Board of Supervisors would rather rent space to advertise on the sign. Al Horn informed the Church that there is a lighted sign ordinance to be aware of before placement.

TAX EXONERATION The Board received a letter from the PA Department of Military and Veterans Affairs requesting a real estate tax exemption for disabled veteran Stanley Sowinski, Rochester. Happ made a motion to approve the request, seconded by Martin. Vote of 5-0 in favor.

WATER MEETING Supervisor Applequist reported on a meeting with Cranberry Township regarding bringing water to Klein Rd for a potential development, and to current residents who have a need for public water. Manager O'Malley suggested inviting the Planning Commission, Larry Hough, and LSSE to the agenda meeting on March 30, 2021 for continued discussion prior to scheduling the next meeting with Cranberry Township.

POLICE MONTHLY REPORT Chief Leindecker read the department monthly report for February 2021, which included the numbers of calls, accidents, arrests, service calls, citations, interviews, incidents, property, registrants, and warrants.

Chief Leindecker stated that the installation of the License Plate Recognition cameras at the intersections of Rt 68 and Big Knob Road and Lovi and Freedom-Crider Roads was completed. Internet service is required to run these cameras. Both New Sewickley Presbyterian Church and Universal Development offered to provide the Police department with internet service at no charge.

Chairman Happ requested letters of thanks be sent to both organizations.

AGREEMENT W/FASD New Sewickley Township Police and Conway Borough Police Department have an agreement with Freedom Area School District to provide coverage for school activities at a rate of \$44.00 per hour (\$40.00 to the officer and \$4.00 to the township) for the years 2022-2026. A motion was made by Happ to accept the agreement, seconded by Martin. Vote of 5-0 in favor.

CONTRACT The negotiations on the police contract are in the beginning stages.

BK FIRE MONTHLY RPT John Murtha read the February 2021 monthly report for the Big Knob Fire Department. Brian Perry asked the Board of Supervisors if they had made any decisions on reimbursing for physicals for fire

department volunteers or with the purchase of equipment. Chairman Happ stated any type of financial reimbursement has not been discussed by the Board of Supervisors.

**FIRE DEPT
BYLAWS**

A motion was made by Happ for Big Knob and Pine Run Volunteer Fire Departments to have joint bylaws completed by March 2022, seconded by Applequist. Vote of 5-0 in favor.

**PRFD
BUILDING
LOAN**

Manager O'Malley stated they are in the process of investigating and are continuing discussions with Pine Run Fire Department about the possibility of the Board of Supervisor co-signing a building loan.

**ROAD
DEPARTMENT**

R.J. Kraus read the February 2021 monthly report which included snow removal, vehicle maintenance, tree trimming, road work, and work on garages.

**LIQUID
ASPHALT/
RENTAL
EQUIPMENT
BIDS**

A motion was made by Retsch to advertise to bid for Liquid Asphalt and Rental Equipment with bids being due and opened at 3:00 p.m. on March 30th, seconded by Phipps. Vote of 5-0 in favor.

**HIRE NEW
EMPLOYEE**

Supervisor Martin gave the completed road department job description to the Board of Supervisors for review. Happ made a motion to accept the job description and proceed with the advertisement of the position. Being no second, the motion failed. The position will not be advertised until after the supervisors have an opportunity to review the job description.

Road Foreman Kraus expressed his concern over waiting another month to advertise the position.

GRANT

Chairman Happ congratulated Road Foreman Kraus on being awarded the Dirt and Gravel Grant for Powell Rd.

**ROAD DEPT
CONTRACT**

Retsch made a motion to approve the Agreement between New Sewickley Township and the International Union of Operating Engineers Local No. 66, 66A, B, C, D, O and R affiliated with the AFL-CIO effective January 1, 2021 and will expire December 31, 2024, Applequist seconded. Vote of 5-0 in favor.

**ENGINEER
REPORT**

Kevin Brett read the engineer's report from LSSE dated March 2, 2021.

There has not been a response from ETC to date, therefore, no action has been taken for the B25 Pipeline driveway improvements.

**SOLICITOR
REPORT**

Chris Reese reported there is a Zoning Board Hearing on March 9, 2021.

Mr. Reese is writing the conditional use decisions from the Leindecker and Turner Conditional Use hearings.

Mr. Reese will await a decision on alcohol at Green Valley Park prior to advertising Ordinance #158.

When asked about the Deborah McCray claims Mr. Reese stated Traveler's Insurance Company is handling the claim on behalf of the Township.

PLANNING The 2020 Annual Report of the Planning Commission was submitted to the Board of Supervisors.

Manager O'Malley asked the Planning Commission to work on an amendment to the zoning ordinance to add multi-family residences.

RECREATION Lisa Bauman reported on activities planned for Green Valley Park. Community Days will go forward on July 31, 2021 and they are currently procuring vendors and planning activities for the day.

LSSE will contact the park employee after April 1st to review the need for handicap accessibility along the paved trail to the gazebo.

MOVIE SCREEN After researching more updated movie screen systems, it was decided that was not an affordable option and they would like to purchase the 15 x 20' projection screen at a cost of \$2,231.76. A motion was made by Phipps to give permission to the Recreation Board to order the 15 x 20' projection screen, seconded by Retsch. Vote of 5-0 in favor.

ALCOHOL AT PARK Discussion occurred regarding a revised ordinance to permit alcohol in Green Valley Park on a conditional use basis. Resident, Duane Rape expressed his displeasure for the idea.

Retsch made a motion to ask the township solicitor, engineer and Planning Commission to research an ordinance to allow alcohol in Green Valley Park as a conditional use, Phipps seconded. A vote of 5-0 in favor.

NEW MOWER Supervisor Phipps stated the need for a new mower at Green Valley Park. He will work with Manager O'Malley and have more information on mowers and costs at the next meeting.

WRITING COMMITTEE Supervisor Applequist reported the Grant Committee met in February to discuss the various grants that will be available in 2021.

One potential grant from the Beaver County Community Development that would aid in the purchasing and demolition of the old Big Knob Elementary School. A meeting with the Freedom Area School District Board of Directors is planned for July. The grant will take more than one year to prepare.

BUILDING The Board of Supervisors received a copy of the building/zoning permits issued in February 2021.

**BOARD
COMMENTS**

Supervisor Retsch thanked the volunteers who serve on township committees and presented Patricia Pfaff, township secretary with a gift in honor of her 37 years of service to the township and wished her well on her retirement.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Happ, seconded by Applequist to adjourn the meeting. Vote of 5 to 0 in favor. Meeting was adjourned at 7:59 p.m.

Respectfully,

Lawrie Borgman
Secretary