

# NEW SEWICKLEY TOWNSHIP

## Supervisor's Meeting

June 4, 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 Kevin Brett, Township Solicitor Alexis Wheeler, Zoning Consultant Owen Pella, Greg Happ, Jim Hendrickson, Robert Nishik, Susan Nishik, Albert Horn, Daniel Swartz, Karen Huber, Charity Demas, Jenny Fessler, David Bauman, Allison Mason, Jeffrey Mason, John Stranahan, Mike Loschinsky, Pam Sauders, Don Kretschmann, Patti Gerhard, Don Wolfe, Bob Terry, Karen Veloski, Charlie Veloski, Larry Hough, Lou Delebosich, Brett Schultz, Matt Prather, Mike Herger, Ed Dengel, Linda Dengel, Laura Dengel, Richard Sprunk

- 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 May 22, 2024, with Solicitor Wheeler to discuss the Meadowcrest Development hearing, on May 28, 2024, following the agenda meeting for personnel issues, and before this evening's meeting with Solicitor Wheeler to discuss personnel issues and legal advice on Meadowcrest Development.
- 2 AMENDMENT TO AGENDA** None.
- 3 MINUTES** Supervisor Spade stated he would like to discuss the tax rebate for firefighters as mentioned at the May meeting by another supervisor. He agreed with this tax rebate and would like to add a tax rebate for senior property owners with the firefighter tax rebate. Chairman Bonzo stated a workshop should be scheduled to discuss both proposed tax rebates.

Motion by Spade to accept the May 7, 2024 meeting minutes as submitted, seconded by Retsch. Vote of 5-0 in favor.
- 4 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.
- 5a PUBLIC COMMENT**

**PATTI GERHARD** Thanked the supervisors and road department for the paving at Danburry. She spoke in favor of developments and the way they look.

**LINDA DENGEL** Expressed concern over keeping the agricultural district agricultural and to keep developments on state roads.

**GREG HAPP** Stated he feels growth is needed to keep the township running without raising taxes.

- CHARLES VELOSKI** Stated he feels the Meadowcrest Development should be scaled down.
- ROBERT TERRY** Expressed concern over Meadowcrest Development and road safety.
- KAREN VELOSKY** Expressed concern over Meadowcrest PRD, having more community discussion, and road safety.
- DON KRETCHMANN** Expressed concern over farms that once were farmed for food being sold for development, and spoke about different models of housing plans.
- DON WOLFE** Expressed concern over road maintenance around Meadowcrest with more cars using the roads.
- PAM SAUDERS** Expressed concern over Meadowcrest.
- 5b PUBLIC COMMENT ON MS4** None.
- 6a TREASURER REPORT** The Treasurer's report was submitted.
- 6b MEADOWCREST DEVELOPMENT TENTATIVE PLAN APPROVAL**  
Supervisor Spade stated the PRD is silent with respect to area and dimension requirements for lots and stated the underlying zoning district requirements should be applied. He stated he agrees with the calculations of the peoples expert witness that the maximum number of single family homes should be 160.  
  
Motion by Spade to grant tentative approval with at least the following conditions: the engineering comments need to be addressed and resolved, and the PRD needs to be modified to include no more than 160 homes and to follow the lot and dimensional requirements table of the RA Zoning District, seconded by Martin. Vote of 2-3. Motion failed. Bonzo, Phipps, and Retsch voted no.  
  
Supervisor Phipps stated that after years of review and based on the advice of the township engineer, solicitor, and zoning officer he felt the plan was ready for approval.  
  
Motion by Phipps to grant tentative approval to the proposed planned residential development of Meadowcrest, L.P., subject to the conditions to be outlined by the Township Solicitor and Engineer, seconded by Retsch.  
  
Vice-Chairman Martin expressed concern over not considering the residents' requests regarding the number of homes. He asked the Planning Commission to re-examine the PRD to align it with residents' concerns.  
  
Vote of 3-2. Motion passed. Spade and Martin voted no.
- 6c CLOSE OFFICES ON JULY 5, 2024** Motion by Phipps to close the offices on July 5<sup>th</sup> with the staff taking personal time off, seconded by Retsch. Vote of 5-0 in favor.

- 7a POLICE MONTHLY REPORT**
- The monthly report was submitted. Chief Carney stated because of the issues at the Rt 68 & Glen Eden Rd intersection, Road Foreman Kraus weed wacked the high grass and cut down small trees to help the site line at the intersection. Chief Carney thanked the road department for going above and beyond and for their concern for the safety of the township residents.
- Chairman Bonzo thanked the Road Department for their efforts and thanked the police for continuing their efforts with school bus safety.
- Chief Carney stated he reached out to PennDOT for ideas on educating the public about school bus safety.
- 7b POLICE ADOPT RESOLUTION #10-24 & AGREEMENT WITH ROCHESTER BOROUGH FOR SPECIAL EVENTS**
- Vice-Chairman Martin asked for clarification on the end date of the resolution. Solicitor Wheeler stated it would not end until one of the parties ends the agreement. Chairman Bonzo also stated the overtime would not be forced.
- Motion by Martin to adopt Resolution #10-24 and the agreement with Rochester Borough for special events, seconded by Phipps. Vote of 5-0 in favor.
- 7c BIG KNOB AND PINE RUN FIRE DEPARTMENTS**
- The monthly reports were submitted.
- Jim Hendrickson stated the merger process is ongoing and under review with the state.
- Vice-Chairman Martin expressed his surprise at the number of QRS calls the fire department responds to and thanked them for their service.
- 8 ROADS MONTHLY REPORT**
- The Road Department monthly report was submitted.
- Chairman Bonzo thanked the Road Department for their work at the Rt 68 intersection and the Danburry Farms paving project.
- 9 ENGINEER MONTHLY REPORT**
- The monthly report was submitted.
- 10 SOLICITOR**
- Solicitor Wheeler provided the supervisors with her monthly report.
- Solicitor Wheeler is awaiting a response from the judge's chambers as to whether or not it will be an open courtroom for the Verizon hearing.
- The decision deadline for Meadowcrest is June 24th. All parties will receive a copy of the decision at that time.
- In regards to the noise issues, she is waiting for the mufflers to be installed. If that does not solve the problem, she will continue communication.
- 11a PLANNING**
- Nothing new to report.

- 11b RECREATION BOARD** The monthly report was submitted. Mike Loschinsky reviewed the events at Green Valley Park.
- Manager Leindecker thanked the Recreation Board and the Road Department for the maintenance at the park. The Recreation Board donated their time all week to make the park look nice for the events. He also stated he has an idea for a low cost pickleball court with a movable net that could be placed on the basketball court.
- 11 c BUILDING & ZONING MONTHLY REPORTS** The Building and Code monthly reports were submitted.
- Chairman Bonzo thanked Owen Pella and LSSE for their efforts over the last several years.
- 12 BOARD COMMENTS** Vice-Chairman Martin stressed the complexity of supervisory decisions and the importance of citizen input. He feels board members vote based on their conscience and he was compelled by residents' concerns and expert testimony. He stated he supports growth and defends the rights of landowners, but believes in protecting the rights of current residents.
- 13 ADJOURNMENT** Motion by Martin to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Retsch. Vote of 5-0 in favor. Meeting was adjourned at 7:17 p.m.

Respectfully,

Lawrie J. Borgman  
Secretary