

NEW SEWICKLEY TOWNSHIP

Supervisor's Meeting

August 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 Supervisors Mike Phipps, Fritz Retsch, and Steve Spade.

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 Planner Joanne Shelly, Township Solicitor Alexis Wheeler, Albert Horn, Markus DeNapoli, Cara DeNapoli, David Bauman, Alex Meeder, Rachael Cashdollar, Mike Cashdollar, Nadine Berbel, Don Berbel, Jen Fessler, Ron Bock, Dan Swab, Samantha Vinson, Jim Hendrickson, Greg Happ, Larry Hough, T Houy, Matt Johnson, Steve Joy, Chris Furbee, Brain Kowalski, John Hayes, Mike Loschinsky, Tori Loschinsky, Tim Sovich, Terry Marshall, 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. |
| 2 | AMENDMENT TO AGENDA | None. |
| 3 | SWEARING-IN CEREMONY | Hunter Bock was sworn in as a full-time police officer by Nate Bible, Beaver County District Attorney. |
| 4 | MINUTES | Motion by Spade to approve the July 2, 2024 meeting minutes as submitted, seconded by Phipps. Vote of 4-0 in favor. |
| 5 | 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 4-0 in favor. |
| 6a | PUBLIC COMMENT
LAURA DENGEL | Asked if county comments had been received regarding the proposed Comprehensive Plan and expressed concern over the plan. |
| | TERRY MARSHALL
(ECONOMY BOROUGH) | Expressed concern over the ongoing noise issue in the industrial park. |
| | NADINE BERBEL
(ECONOMY BOROUGH) | Expressed concern over the ongoing noise issue. |
| | LARRY HOUGH | Expressed concern over the ongoing noise issue. |
| 6b | PUBLIC COMMENT ON MS4 | Expressed concern over erosion control measures at the Lovi Road water project. |
| 7a | TREASURER REPORT | The Treasurer's report was submitted. |
| 7b | FREEDOM CRIDER ROAD CORRIDOR BEAUTIFICATION | Brian Kowalski was present to request the Board of Supervisors' support regarding the Freedom Road Improvement Project and the beautification in front of 760 Freedom Crider Road. PennDOT changed the scope of work from vegetation to rock-based. |

Motion by Retsch to send a letter to PennDOT with strong language stating the board is opposed to the final work proposed and copy state legislators, seconded by Phipps. Vote of 4-0 in favor.

- 7c APPROVE STAFF TO ATTEND COG CONFERENCE** Motion by Spade to approve the staff to attend the COG Conference on August 22nd with paid coverage provided, seconded by Retsch. Vote of 4-0 in favor.
- 7d WORKSHOP AUGUST 13, 2024** A workshop is scheduled for August 13th at 6:30 p.m. Chairman Bonzo reviewed a list of items to be discussed.
- 7e MS4 FEE NOTICE FROM JORDAN TAX SERVICES** Manager Leindecker stated one resident had contacted him after the agenda meeting and the issue for that resident had been resolved.
- 7f APPROVE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN UPDATE** Supervisor Spade asked Solicitor Wheeler to explain the function and point of a Comprehensive Plan. Solicitor Wheeler provided the following explanation:
- A comprehensive plan is a document that is designed to state basic policies and to guide the future growth and development of the community. It carries no weight of law, but it can assist decision-makers. It contains no rules or regulations, but it serves as a basis for any land use provisions enacted by New Sewickley Township. It is broad in scope, examining the physical, social, and economic characteristics that mesh to make New Sewickley Township what it is today, but it seeks to apply this knowledge to the future. It speaks to various issues in general terms, but it can also make specific recommendations. Basically, the comprehensive plan is, in part, a factual report that examines how the past has led to the present, as well as a report that can be used to chart the community's path into the future. The comprehensive plan is an official statement setting forth basic policies concerning physical development and social and economic goals. It is typically of a general nature, with both short-term and long-range goals in its recommendations, and considers all factors affecting growth and development. While some view its function as a general guide or framework for the future growth and development of a municipality, the use of specific proposals has more utility. The comprehensive plan has several uses:
- Policy Determination: the plan aids in the consideration and evaluation of alternatives for general, short-term, and long range development policies.
- Policy Effectuation: the plan lends guidance to specific and immediate programs and problem areas.
- Communication: the plan informs individuals of the present and future growth and development policies of the participating communities.
- Conveyance of advice to the Board of Supervisors.
- Education: the plan helps everyone who uses it to understand the conditions, problems, and opportunities of the community by providing factual information.
- Motion by Spade to approve the Comprehensive Plan Update as submitted with additional workshop meetings held yearly with stakeholders and community so the Board of Supervisors can implement as they see, seconded by Retsch.

Before the vote, Chairman Bonzo read the letter from the county and the email from the school both stating they did not have objections to the plan. Discussion occurred regarding the motion on the table including mandatory yearly meetings. Solicitor Wheeler recommended the motion be only the plan adoption not approval of meetings yet to be determined. Supervisor Phipps agreed and stated he did not want to tie a motion to additional meetings.

A vote was taken - 1 to 3, motion failed. Retsch, Phipps, and Bonzo voted no.

Motion by Retsch to approve the Comprehensive Plan Update as submitted, seconded by Phipps. Vote of 3 to 1 in favor, motion passed. Spade voted no.

**7g APPROVAL TO APPLY FOR
LSA GRANTS**

Motion by Phipps to approve the Township Manager to apply for the upcoming LSA grants and a Resolution for each, as discussed, seconded by Retsch.

Supervisor Spade stated he had not seen the documents showing what was being applied for. Manager Leindecker stated he will apply for the same grants as last year and any additional items can be discussed during the workshop meeting.

Vote of 4-0 in favor.

**8a POLICE
MONTHLY REPORT**

The monthly report was submitted.

**8b POLICE
APPROVAL TO ADVERTISE
ORDINANCE #237**

Supervisor Retsch asked for an explanation of the Ordinance.

Motion by Phipps to approve the advertising of Ordinance #237 restricting traffic flow on Harvey Avenue, seconded by Retsch. Vote of 4-0 in favor.

**8c POLICE
HIRE GRANT CROSKEY AS
A PART-TIME OFFICER**

Chief Carney stated Grant Croskey passed the hiring process.

Motion by Retsch to hire Grant Croskey as a part-time officer, seconded by Spade. Vote of 4-0 in favor.

**8d BIG KNOB AND PINE RUN
FIRE DEPARTMENTS**

The monthly reports were submitted.

Steven Joy introduced himself as the new President of the Big Knob Fire Department. He stated tickets for the Gun Bash have been sold.

Jim Hendrickson reviewed the report submitted. The merger is moving along. He thanked the community for supporting the department's fundraising efforts.

Chairman Bonzo thanked the departments for their work.

- 8e FIRE DEPARTMENTS
APPROVE ENGINEERING
SERVICES FOR BIG KNOB
STORMWATER
MANAGEMENT** Supervisor Phipps requested the item be tabled until the workshop meeting.
Motion by Phipps to table the approval of engineering services for Big Knob Fire Department stormwater management, seconded by Retsch. Vote of 4-0 in favor.
- 9a ROADS
MONTHLY REPORT** The Road Department monthly report was submitted.
- 9b ROADS
APPRECIATION LETTER** Road Foreman Kraus stated he received a letter of thanks from a resident for work they had completed.
- 10 ENGINEER
MONTHLY REPORT** The monthly report was submitted.
- 11 SOLICITOR** Solicitor Wheeler provided the supervisors with her monthly report.
- 12a PLANNING** Al Horn stated they will review the Meadowcrest Development final plan at the August meeting.
- 12b RECREATION BOARD** The monthly report was submitted. Mike Loschinsky reviewed the events at Green Valley Park.
- 12c BUILDING & ZONING
MONTHLY REPORTS** The Building and Code monthly reports were submitted.
- 13 BOARD COMMENTS** Supervisor Phipps read the thank you letter sent to the Road Department.
Chairman Bonzo stated the supervisor went on a road tour with Road Foreman Kraus and LSSE. Road Foreman Kraus stated LSSE and he had finished the road inspection and a report will follow.
Supervisor Retsch thanked Kevin Brett and LSSE for the various work they have done for the township on a pro-bono basis.
- 14 ADJOURNMENT** Motion by Retsch to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Phipps. Vote of 4-0 in favor. Meeting was adjourned at 8:06 p.m.

Respectfully,

Lawrie J. Borgman
Secretary