

# NEW SEWICKLEY TOWNSHIP

## Supervisor's Meeting

December 3, 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 Callender, Township Solicitor Alexis Wheeler, Pastor Jeff Miller, Greg Happ, Patti Gerhard, Jim Hendrickson, Jenny Fessler, Amanda Peterson, Deana Anzio, Albert Horn, Duane Rape, and Laura Dengel

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| 1  | <b>PLEDGE</b>   | The Pledge was recited.  |
| 2  | <b>INVOCATION</b>   | Pastor Jeffrey Miller, Harvest Bible Chapel  |
| 3  | <b>CALL TO ORDER</b>  | Chairman Bonzo called the meeting to order and announced the presence of security cameras. An executive session was held following the November 26 <sup>th</sup> meeting for personnel matters.        |
| 4  | <b>AMENDMENT TO AGENDA</b>  | None.  |
| 5  | <b>MINUTES</b>  | Motion by Retsch to approve the November 5 <sup>th</sup> meeting minutes as submitted, seconded by Spade. Vote of 5-0 in favor.  |
| 6  | <b>BILLS</b>  | 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 5-0 in favor. |
| 7a | <b>PUBLIC COMMENT</b>   | None.  |
| 7b | <b>PUBLIC COMMENT ON MS4</b>  | None.  |
| 8a | <b>TREASURER REPORT</b>   | The Treasurer's report was submitted.  |
| 8b | <b>APPROVE CAMPBELL<br/>DURRANT AS POLICE PENSION<br/>SOLICITOR</b> | Motion by Martin to approve Campell Durrant as the police pension solicitor, seconded by Retsch. Vote of 5-0 in favor.   |
| 8c | <b>RESOLUTION #21-24 TO<br/>ADOPT THE 2025 BUDGET</b>               | Motion by Phipps to adopt Resolution #21-24 adopting the 2025 budget, seconded by Retsch.  |

Prior to the vote, Supervisor Spade stated that the budget does not include funds for a municipal building roof replacement or QRS services. He would like to begin taking steps to save for each item. Supervisor Spade also expressed concern over \$250,000 being transferred from the MS4 funds and not being used solely for mandated projects.

Chairman Bonzo stated the funds used are for municipal water control and are being used to help the residents. Road Foreman Kraus stated because

of the MS4 funding the Road Department has been able to help residents outside the MS4 area with stormwater problems.

Chairman Bonzo stated the municipal roof has been repaired and Manager Leindecker has applied for grants to replace the roof. Chairman Bonzo stated they are doing their best to get through on the funds they have.

Supervisor Spade stated they need to put funds aside each year to start a QRS program.

Supervisor Phipps stated the municipal building is old with many repairs needed that they haven't been able to budget for.

The vote on Resolutions #21-24 was taken. Vote of 3-2 in favor. Spade and Martin voted no.

- 8d RESOLUTION #22-24 SETTING THE 2025 TAX MILLAGE** Motion by Martin to adopt Resolution #22-24 setting the 2025 tax millage, seconded by Phipps. Vote of 5-0 in favor.
- Chairman Bonzo stated the millage will remain at 1.65 with no increase.
- 8e APPROVE THE TOWNSHIP TAX REPOSITORY SETTLEMENT FOR 25 LEXINGTON DR - \$397.35** Motion by Martin to approve the township tax repository settlement for 24 Lexington Drive for \$397.35, seconded by Retsch.
- Deana Anzio, owner of Holly Hill Mobile Home Park, expressed concern over people purchasing mobile homes off of the tax repository and not being able to vet the people prior.
- Vote of 4-1 in favor. Bonzo voted no.
- 8f APPROVE COHEN & ASSOCIATES TO PERFORM COMCAST AUDIT & NEGOTIATION OF CABLE FRANCHISE FEES** Supervisor Bonzo suggested the item be tabled and discuss the audit with Solicitor Wheeler. He also stated at a cost of \$18,000 he is not sure the township would recoup the money from the audit.
- Supervisors agreed to table the item.
- 8g APPROVE STAFF PERSONAL TIME OFF ON DECEMBER 23<sup>RD</sup>** Motion by Retsch to approve staff personal time off on December 23<sup>rd</sup>, seconded by Phipps. Vote of 5-0 in favor.
- 8h WORKSHOP DECEMBER 10<sup>TH</sup>** Chairman Bonzo stated a workshop will be held on December 10<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m.
- 9a POLICE MONTHLY REPORT** The monthly report was submitted.
- 9b POLICE PROMOTION OF DANIEL SWAB TO LIEUTENANT** Motion by Martin to approve the promotion of Daniel Swab to Lieutenant effective January 1, 2025, seconded by Retsch. Vote of 5-0 in favor.

- 9c POLICE PROMOTION OF TIMOTHY SOVICH TO SERGEANT** Motion by Martin to approve the promotion of Timothy Sovich to Sergeant effective January 1, 2025, seconded by Phipps. Vote of 5-0 in favor.
- 9d POLICE PURCHASE FRONT DOOR** Motion by Martin to approve the purchase order from Z & M Construction for the police station front door in the amount of \$4,900, seconded by Phipps.
- Vice-Chairman Martin asked if other bids had been secured and if the Z & M was the low bidder. Chief Carney stated he was able to secure one additional bid, and confirmed Z & M was the low bidder.
- A vote was taken. Vote 5-0 in favor.
- 9e BIG KNOB AND PINE RUN FIRE DEPARTMENTS** The monthly reports were submitted.
- Jim Hendrickson reviewed the monthly activities. He stated they are awaiting the court's approval of the merger.
- Chairman Bonzo thanked Mr. Hendrickson and the others who played a principal role in making the merger happen.
- 10 ROAD DEPARTMENT** The monthly report was submitted.
- 11 ENGINEER MONTHLY REPORT** The monthly report was submitted.
- 12 SOLICITOR** Solicitor Wheeler provided the supervisors with her monthly report.
- 13 PLANNING** Supervisor Spade stated the LSSE report showed an ordinance review for setbacks, landscaping, and livestock and asked if they were creating a new ordinance. Jenny Fessler explained they are reviewing and adding guidelines to the current ordinance. Supervisor Spade also asked if they had chosen a planner. Ms. Fessler stated they had not.
- 14 MUNICIPAL AUTHORITY** Larry Hough stated the waterline is progressing slower than expected. But should go faster once they are through the difficult rock on Lovi Rd. He stated the Municipal Authority continues to apply for grants.
- 15a RECREATION BOARD APPOINT VACANT RECREATION BOARD POSITION** Supervisor Spade stated with two positions to fill, they should do a lottery system to decide who will fill each position.
- Motion by Spade to appoint Judith Frank and Alan Shaffer to the Recreation Board with terms to be determined by lottery, seconded by Martin. Vote of 5-0 in favor.
- 16 BUILDING/CODE/SEO/ZONING MONTHLY REPORTS** Reports were submitted.

**14 BOARD COMMENTS**

Chairman Bonzo stated Jenny Fessler will receive a Planning Certification from PSATS University at the 2025 conference.

Supervisor Retsch thanked Road Foreman Kraus and the Road Department for doing a stellar job on the hill of Park Quarry Road. He stated he and others in his plan appreciate the work. Foreman Kraus stated they were able to do everything in-house.

Chairman Bonzo stated Freedom Crider Road is now open.

**14 ADJOURNMENT**

Motion by Martin to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Spade. Vote of 5-0 in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 7:16 p.m.

Respectfully,

Lawrie J. Borgman  
Secretary