

# NEW SEWICKLEY TOWNSHIP

## Supervisor's Meeting

December 5, 2023

The regular meeting of the Board of Supervisors, held at 233 Miller Road, was called to order by Chairman Greg Happ at 6:30 p.m. Present were Vice-Chairman Doug Martin, Supervisors Mike Phipps, Fritz Retsch, and Martin Bonzo.

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 Chris Reese, David Bauman, Jim Hendrickson, Mike Priolo, Lisa Glies, Amanda Peterson, Jen Fessler, Tim Gatehouse, Ross Jenny, Sue Jenny, Lou Delebosich, Rick Jones, Jonny Murtha, Brian Perry, Alexandra Lizzi, Jeff Dun, Chris Siella, Sarah Brown, Dan Swab, Keith Haburjak, Albert Horn, Mary Thomas, Ed Petrovay, Patti Gerhard, Jim Bozigar, James Miller, Tricia Barker, Thomas Ruth, and Laura Dengel

### CALL TO ORDER

The Pledge was recited and the meeting was called to order.

Chairman Happ announced an executive session was held during the November 21<sup>st</sup> workshop meeting for: legal advice, police contract issues and property purchase. The Supervisors agreed to move forward on an agreement with Cohen Law Group to initiate an appeal and give permission to contact Verizon Wireless.

An executive session will be held on December 12<sup>th</sup> to interview legal firms.

### AGENDA AMENDMENT

None.

### MINUTES

Motion by Phipps to accept the November 7, 2023 meeting minutes as submitted, seconded by Retsch. Vote of 5-0 in favor.

### BILLS

Motion by Bonzo 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 Martin. Vote of 5-0 in favor.

### PUBLIC COMMENT LAURA DENGEL

Stated concerns over the Municipal Authority and the delay of the waterline extension project given there are those in the township in need of water.

### PUBLIC COMMENT ON MS4 LAURA DENGEL

Questioned if the township would be going to straight rock salt for winter maintenance. Chairman Happ responded that the maintenance program is subject to conditions.

### PUBLIC COMMENT ON MS4 PATTY GERHARD

Questioned that she understood that Danburry would be going to straight salt and no cinders.

Chairman Happ reiterated the mix will be based on conditions.

**PUBLIC COMMENT  
CRAIG LISTON**

Expressed concerns over any area receiving only salt.

**SWEARING-IN CEREMONY FOR FULL-TIME OFFICERS**

Chairman Happ performed the swearing-in ceremony for Officers Jeremy Brown and Sierra Sicilia. Chairman Happ thanked the officers for their service.

**TREASURER REPORT**

The Treasurer's report was submitted.

**READING OF THE BUDGET**

Manager Leindecker read the proposed budget for 2024 and reviewed the new tax rates that are a result of the county-wide reassessment.

Chairman Happ thanked Manager Leindecker and the Board of Supervisors for having a balanced budget without raising taxes. Supervisors Phipps and Retsch asked the Manager to provide information on recently submitted grants and interest received from PLGIT.

**ADOPTED ORDINANCE #234-USE OF E-CIGARETTES, VAPING DEVICES, TOBACCO, NICOTINE, AND ALCOHOL CONSUMPTION AT GREEN VALLEY PARK, FREEDOM AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT, AND ALL PROPERTY OWNED BY NEW SEWICKLEY TOWNSHIP**

Motion by Phipps to adopt Ordinance #234, seconded by Retsch.

Prior to the vote Supervisor Phipps stated he researched parks in the area. Brush Creek, Brady Run, and Economy parks all permit alcohol. In Cranberry Township alcohol is prohibited unless a special exception is given.

Vote of 3-2 in favor. Motion passed. Bonzo and Martin voted No.

**ADVERTISE TO HIRE A CPA TO COMPLETE THE 2023 AUDIT**

Motion by Phipps to advertise to hire a CPA to complete the 2023 audit, seconded by Bonzo. Vote of 5-0 in favor.

**RATIFY AGREEMENT WITH COHEN LAW GROUP TO INITIATE AN APPEAL ON THE VERIZON WIRELESS DECISION AND GIVE PERMISSION TO CONTACT VERIZON WIRELESS**

Motion by Retsch to ratify the agreement with Cohen Law Group to initiate an appeal on the Verizon Wireless decision and give them permission to contact Verizon Wireless, seconded by Phipps.

Supervisor Phipps asked for an executive session to discuss the direction the Board would like to go.

Motion by Phipps to go into executive session for legal matters, seconded by Retsch. Vote of 5-0 in favor. The board left for executive session at 7:04PM and returned at 7:22PM.

The vote was taken 5-0 in favor.

**POLICE**

The monthly report was submitted.

**MONTHLY REPORT**

Supervisor Martin thanked the police for monitoring the buses

**POLICE  
AMEND POLICE CONTRACT TO CHANGE  
PROBATION PERIOD FOR FULL-TIME  
OFFICERS**

Motion by Retsch to amend the police contract to change the probation period for full-time officers, seconded by Phipps. Vote of 5-0 in favor.

**POLICE  
ACCEPT RESOLUTION #17-23 FOR  
TRAFFIC SIGNAL MAINTENANCE  
AGREEMENT**

Motion by Bonzo to adopt Resolution #17-23, seconded by Retsch. Vote of 5-0 in favor.

**POLICE  
ACCEPT RESOLUTION #18-23 TO Turn  
WHOLE LIFE POLICIES OVER TO  
OFFICERS**

Motion by Bonzo to adopt Resolution #18-23, seconded by Phipps. Vote of 5-0 in favor.

**POLICE  
ADVERTISE ORDINANCE #235 POLICE  
PENSION MILITARY BUY-BACK**

Motion by Bonzo to advertise Ordinance #235, seconded by Retsch. Vote of 5-0 in favor.

**POLICE  
ADVERTISE ORDINANCE #236 UPDATE  
POLICE PENSION FOR LATEST IRS  
CODES**

Motion by Bonzo to advertise Ordinance #236, seconded by Phipps. Vote of 5-0 in favor.

**FIRE DEPARTMENTS  
MONTHLY REPORTS**

Reports were submitted.

Mike Priolo, Pine Run stated a merger meeting and vote are scheduled next week. He asked the supervisors to attend.

Brian Perry stated construction on the addition is underway.

**ROADS  
MONTHLY REPORT**

The Road Department monthly report was submitted.

Chairman Happ thanked the Road Department for their work and time heading into the winter season.

**ENGINEER  
MONTHLY REPORT**

The monthly report was submitted.

**SOLICITOR**

Nothing new to report.

Chairman Happ thanked Solicitor Reese for his service to the township and wished him luck in his future endeavors.

**PLANNING**

Jenny Fessler stated the Commission is continuing their work on several ordinances and the comprehensive plan.

**PLANNING  
ACCEPT RESIGNATION OF MIKE  
PHIPPS**

Motion by Martin to accept the resignation of Mike Phipps from the Planning Commission effective December 31, 2023 and the open position advertised, applications accepted until the end of December and applications being forwarded to the supervisors, seconded by Retsch. Vote of 5-0 in favor.

Supervisor Phipps stated it has been a pleasure serving on the Planning Commission.

**RECREATION BOARD  
APPOINTMENT OF CARRIE COSTANZO**

Motion by Martin to appoint Carrie Costanzo to fill the open term on the Recreation Board, seconded by Phipps. Vote of 5-0 in favor.

Supervisor Retsch stated he feels Ms. Costanzo will be a good addition to the Recreation Board.

**BUILDING & ZONING  
MONTHLY REPORTS**

The Building and Zoning monthly reports were submitted.

**BOARD COMMENTS**

Chairman Happ stated he will have one more meeting to serve on the Board of Supervisors and appreciates everyone who has supported him over the last 12 years.

Supervisor Bonzo thanked Chairman Happ for everything he has done.

Supervisor Retsch also thanked Chairman Happ for the work he has done and for helping him along the way.

Chairman Happ added that new signage was added to the front of the building to help direct people to the proper entrance.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Motion by Bonzo to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Martin. Vote of 5-0 in favor. Meeting was adjourned at 7:37 p.m.

Respectfully,

Lawrie J. Borgman  
Secretary