

# NEW SEWICKLEY TOWNSHIP

## Supervisor's Meeting

February 4, 2025

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 Mike Phipps, Supervisors Fritz Retsch, and Steve Spade.

Absent: Doug Martin

Also, present were Manager Ronald Leindecker, Secretary Lawrie Borgman, Police Chief Gregory Carney, Road Foreman R.J. Kraus, Township Engineer Josh Callender, Township Solicitor Alexis Wheeler, Jenny Fessler, Lisa Lewis, Duane Rape, Rodney Vodenichar, Elaine Vodenichar, David Bauman, Lonnie Vodenichar, Pat Vodenichar, Kan Vodenichar, Raid Vodenichar, Jason Mueller, Jared Mueller, Erika, Mueller, Steven Joy, Patti Gerhard, Dan Plunkett, Amanda Peterson, Matt Johnston, Jay Bradel, Luanne Bradel, Mark Carnor, Jim Wingrove, Kevin Lewarchik, Wade Dobson, John Hayes, Cheryl Kaclik, Julie Leindecker, Larry Hough, and Laura Dengel

1	<b>PLEDGE</b>	The Pledge was recited.
2	<b>INVOCATION</b>	Pastor Ed Bailey, Family Bible Church gave the invocation.
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 January 6 <sup>th</sup> meeting with the Board of Supervisors, Municipal Authority, and solicitors for legal advice regarding the Meadowcrest Package Plant. No decisions were made.
4	<b>AMENDMENTS</b>	None.
5a	<b>MINUTES REORGANIZATION</b>	Motion by Phipps to approve the January 6, 2025 reorganization meeting minutes as submitted, seconded by Retsch. Vote of 4-0 in favor.
5b	<b>MINUTES REGULAR MEETING</b>	Motion by Spade to approve the January 6, 2025 regular meeting minutes as submitted, seconded by Phipps. Vote of 4-0 in favor.
6	<b>BILLS</b>	Motion by Phipps to approve the bills to be paid from the general and stormwater accounts as submitted, seconded by Retsch. Vote of 4-0 in favor.
7a	<b>PUBLIC COMMENT LAURA DENGEL</b>	Questioned agenda item 13b and expressed concern over the delayed project completion and updates not being provided. Questioned agenda item 8g and expressed concern over purchasing playground equipment without security cameras and requested the board table the vote.
7b	<b>PUBLIC COMMENT ON MS4</b>	None.
8a	<b>TREASURER REPORT</b>	The Treasurer's report was submitted.

- 8b PLAQUE PRESENTATION  
JIM SCHECK** Chairman Bonzo presented Jim Scheck with a plaque for his 40 years of service to the township and its residents as the township's emergency management coordinator.
- 8c ADOPT RESOLUTION #10-25  
PENSION PREPARATION  
DESIGNEE** Motion by Phipps to adopt Resolution #10-25 with the township secretary as the designee. Being no second, the motion failed.
- Motion by Retsch to adopt Resolution #10-25 with the township manager as the designee. Being no second, the motion failed.
- Supervisor Spade amended the motion on the table to add a supervisor review the documents prior to submission, seconded by Retsch.
- Chairman Bonzo motioned to deny the motion on the table. Vote of 4-0 in favor.
- After discussion, Spade requested an amendment be made to include that the reports must be given to the supervisors after submission.
- Motion by Retsch to adopt Resolution #10-25 Pension Designee with the township manager as the designee and copies of the reports to be disseminated to the board of supervisors after submission, seconded by Phipps. Vote of 4-0 in favor.
- 8d ADVERTISE ORDINANCE #238  
CLOSING OUT THE PNC ROAD  
PENSION ACCOUNT** Chairman Bonzo explained the account was established for the now retired road employees. The ordinance is a requirement of the attorney general's office.
- Motion by Spade to advertise Ordinance #238 to close out the PNC road pension account, seconded by Retsch. Vote of 4-0 in favor.
- 8e SET CLEAN-UP DAY & TIRE  
RECYCLING - MAY 3<sup>RD</sup>** Manager Leindecker explained this will be the first year to combine clean-up day with tire recycling.
- Motion by Retsch to set clean-up day and tire recycling on May 3<sup>rd</sup> from 8AM until 12PM at the Big Knob Grange with the road department working, seconded by Phipps. Vote of 4-0 in favor.
- 8f SET ELECTRONIC RECYCLING  
DAY – MAY 28<sup>TH</sup>** Motion by Phipps to set Electronic Recycling Day on May 28<sup>th</sup> from 9AM until 1PM with one road employee working and the use of the skid loader, seconded by Retsch. Vote of 4-0 in favor.
- 8g APPROVE MANAGER TO  
APPLY FOR DCNR PARK  
GRANT** Supervisor Phipps stated the board has had plenty of discussion on the grant and should not table the vote.
- Motion by Phipps to approve the Manager to apply for a DCNR park grant with a 50% match in the amount of \$285,654 and submit Resolution #12-25 with the application, seconded by Retsch.

Supervisor Spade moved to amend the motion to be \$200,000 with both project scopes of work approved by the Board of Supervisor. Being no second, the request failed.

Supervisor Spade moved to amend the motion again to include the project scope of work be approved by the Board of Supervisors. Being no second, the request failed.

Supervisor Spade stated the quotes include demolition of items and a base for the walking trail. Supervisor Spade also stated the entire trail does not need repaved. Manager Leindecker stated the funds are a reimbursement that can only be used for playground equipment and repaving the walking trail. Supervisor Retsch stated he wants to continue to improve the park for the children and families of the township. Supervisor Spade reminded the supervisors that his amendment is to have the supervisors approve the scope of work. Solicitor Wheeler stated if the grant is awarded the board would need to approve the project to be bid out and accept the lowest bidder. Josh Callender stated that the scope of work is not needed until after the grant is awarded and the project is being bid out. Supervisor Phipps asked Road Foreman Kraus if there is a cost savings to repave the entire trail once the equipment is in place. Road Foreman Kraus confirmed there is and that the entire trail needs to be repaved.

The vote was taken of 3–1, in favor. Spade voted no.

**8h WORKSHOP WITH THE  
MANAGER**

Manager Leindecker stated the workshop would include LSSE and they would discuss grant opportunities and what is permitted in the next phase of the STMP program.

Motion by Phipps to have a grant discussion workshop with the manager on March 19<sup>th</sup> at 9AM, seconded by Retsch. Vote of 3-1 in favor. Spade voted no.

**9a POLICE  
MONTHLY REPORT**

The monthly report was submitted. Chairman Bonzo thanked the police department for the active shooter presentation to Burry's Church.

**9b POLICE  
ADOPT RESOLUTION #11-25  
FUND-RAISE FOR CANINE**

Chief Carney stated they want to begin to fund-raise for a new canine.

Motion by Retsch to adopt Resolution #11-25 to fund-raise for a canine, seconded by Phipps. Vote of 4-0 in favor.

**9c NEW SEWICKLEY FIRE  
DISTRICT**

The monthly report was submitted.

**10 ROAD DEPARTMENT**

The monthly report was submitted.

Chairman Bonzo thanked the Road Department for their work during the snow events.

**11 ENGINEER  
MONTHLY REPORT**

The monthly report was submitted.

Josh Callender stated the DEP has drafted the new MS4 permit. LSSE is reviewing the draft and will issue a memo to the township in February. He suggested a workshop be scheduled to review the permit.

LSSE completed a topographical survey for a sewer system and potential location for a system and will get their recommendations to the township for the next meeting.

**12 SOLICITOR**

The monthly report was submitted.

**13a PLANNING**

Jenny Fessler stated Planning is reviewing area/year setbacks and electronic signs as requested by the Zoning Hearing Board . She also stated that DECD would be at the February meeting to give an educational presentation.

Chairman Bonzo requested the Planning Commission review the wording in the Commercial District to ensure selling is permitted in the ordinance. He also requested a zoning change to allow one larger garage rather than forcing residents to have two smaller garages.

Supervisor Spade requested the Planning Commission to develop a guide and options on how to go through the subdivision process.

Chairman Bonzo congratulated Ms. Fessler on completing the planning program through PSATS. She will be recognized at this year's conference.

**13b MUNICIPAL AUTHORITY**

Larry Hough stated the contractor has completed 12,000 ft of waterline, with 14,500 to go. Mr. Hough said the contractor did their best given the extreme weather conditions. He anticipates they will be able to perform a pressure test by the end of February.

**13c RECREATION BOARD**

The monthly report was submitted.

Dave Bauman stated they are setting the dates for the upcoming season. Fall Fest will be held on September 13<sup>th</sup>. He also said they are looking to create a trail at the upper park.

Chairman Bonzo requested they do an assessment of the equipment at the upper park. Supervisor Spade questioned if the trail would be a walking trail or a hiking trail. It was confirmed it would be a hiking trail. Supervisor Spade questioned who empties the trash and the dog waste cans at the park during the winter months. Road Foreman Kraus confirmed the road department performs those tasks until the park employee returns for the season. Supervisor Spade requested the Recreation Board organize an event in 2026 in celebration of our country being 250 years old.

**13d CODE/BUILDING/SEO/ZONING  
MONTHLY REPORTS**

The building report was submitted.

**14 BOARD COMMENTS**

Supervisor Phipps stated Manager Leindecker had a request from PennDOT to name the two new roadways off of Freedom Road. Supervisor Spade requested the supervisors discuss the names in a workshop. Chairman Bonzo requested the Manager reach out to the residents on the roads for their input.

**15            ADJOURNMENT**

Motion by Spade to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Phipps. Vote of 4-0 in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 7:48 p.m.

Respectfully,

Lawrie J. Borgman  
Secretary