

Ligonier Township Supervisors
Regular Meeting
April 12, 2016

The Ligonier Township Supervisors met in regular session at 6:59 PM with the Pledge of Allegiance opening the meeting. Secretary Bruce Robinson took roll call. Present were D. Scott Matson; Bruce Robinson; Chairman, Wade Thomas, Gary Thistlethwaite, and Vice Chairman, Paul Knupp.

Public Comment

1. **Ryan Podlucky** – Hoops for Hope fundraiser for the K-9 Program held at the school and he and Assistant Principal, Rachel Kurdziel presented a check in the amount of \$5,383.99 to Chief Matronics and Sgt. Friscarella for the K-9 Fund.
 2. **Dave Kromel** – Accountability. Mr. Knupp, you have a key to the building and Supervisor Knupp responded that he did. Mr. Kromel feels that Supervisor Knupp should not have a key to the building as he is no longer an employee nor does any other Supervisor have a key. Mr. Komar was thrown under the rug for use of the building and it has been said that Paul has used the building. The fire hydrant fee/tax should be for everyone and his is completely wrong. February's meeting Mr. Kromel stated his displeasure of Terry and now he is posting signs within the building. Went to pick up a truck and it wasn't ready.
 3. **Pixie Lichtenstein** – Thank you for the great road work that the public works crew has done through the years as she is very grateful for the that work and the time taken.
 4. **Bob Komoroski** – Feels also that the fire hydrant tax is not fair.
- A motion was made by Gary Thistlethwaite and seconded by Scott Matson to approve the minutes of the March 8, 2016 meeting. Motion carried with Paul Knupp abstaining.
 - A motion was made by Paul Knupp and seconded by Bruce Robinson to approve the Amended minutes of the December 8, 2016 meeting. Motion carried.
 - A motion was made by Bruce Robinson and seconded by Scott Matson to approve the Amended minutes of the January 4, 2016 Reorganization meeting. Motion carried.

Supervisor Comments

Gary Thistlethwaite – Noted that there was a good turnout for Dumpster Days and stated he feels it should be done twice a year in spring and fall.

Staff Reports

Manager's Report - Terry report the Intergovernmental Agreement for leaf recycling for our residents in exchange for services provided to Ligonier Borough to chip branches and burn at our site on Old Rt. 30. The agreement signed in 2012 between both communities allows us to expand recycling services to benefit everyone. We will release more details on this expanded program at a later date.

The recent community dumpster days for all three communities was held on Saturday April 9th and was a success. We collected over \$1,280 to help offset the costs of this program and we will have a more detailed report at the next meeting. One resident (Al Slowik) emailed this response:

A letter was sent to Penn Dot officially notifying the department that the Mill Road bridge closed on April 7th for structural reasons and we are now in the process of seeking an emergency permit from the DEP and approval from the department to begin immediate replacement of the Mill road bridge. Our Engineer will speak to this matter further in her report.

A recent report on the summer recreational program was to be discussed at the next meeting of the Recreation committee. Because of low participation it is my recommendation that we discontinue the program for Wilpen and reevaluate other options with the YMCA. Nuisance ordinance packet to be reviewed and have a work session to discuss.

Public Works report by Russ Morgan that tree clearing on Peoples Rd., Carey School Rd., and Myers School Rd. was completed. They cleared a bank for safety to prepare for bridge work that is up coming. Maintenance on equipment has been done and is an ongoing process. The cleaning/sweeping of the roads has been completed and they reclaimed of 780 tons of Anti-skid to be reused in next winter season. The sealing of roads will begin with approximately 20 miles of sealing to be completed starting in Oakwood. The drain pipe at Tall Timbers needs replace and at first review it appeared that 400 ft. of pipe would need replaced; however, after Ligonier Township Municipal Authority worked with us with their specialized camera it was found that only 60ft. will need replaced, which is a substantial cost savings to the Township.

Police Report – Chief Matrunics reported:

Miles Driven	6,197
Total Street Hours	984
Court Hearings	21
DUI Task Force Hours	19
Vehicle Accidents (Report)	5
Vehicle Accidents (Non-Report)	2
Incident Reports	
Vehicle Code Citations	42
Criminal Arrests	4
Theft by Deception	7
Theft (Unlawful Taking Vehicle)	0

Assist EMS	4
Assist PSP	2
Assist Latrobe PD	1
Assist Derry PD	1
Assist Ligonier Borough	3

Recognized part-time officers that the valley has been relying on for as Borough and Township part-time officers for many years. There was a 3 am burglary incident and due to their swift reactions, investigation, and follow-up leads they came up with an arrest. Officer Vittone was working for the borough and Officer Murphy was working for the township. "On the 6th day of April 2016 we commend and thank you for your service."

Chief Matronics expanded on the presentation by Mr. Podlucky that it was Hoops for Hope and officers got to play and Chief Matronics himself got to play, and noted that the K-9 Program is continuing, with that being said the K-9 vehicle is outside for all to see and get inside it. We are still working on a dog, Sgt. Friscarella explained that the gentleman from the facility where the dogs come from has gone to Europe (there now) to acquire more dogs as there were not enough at the facility to pick from only 12. Chief Matronics, Sgt. Friscarella and few other select people along with the master trainer will go to the facility to pick out a dog best for the township.

In light in all the changes in society involving police like the New Florence incident we want to keep our officers protected with an extra vest that is a level 4 plate in the vest that can handle larger rounds, each car is equipped with one and they run \$300 to \$400 each. A resident donated \$2,000 check for the purchase of additional firearms and some rifles were purchased

May 3, 2016 a mock vehicle accident will be conducted at Ligonier Valley High School. Please do not be alarmed if you see a helicopter and activities in the parking lot.

Sgt. Friscarella thanked the board of supervisor for their support of the K-9 Program.

Engineer's Report- Dorothy reported that 8 bridge inspections completed and 7 of the bridges fair well; however, Mill Rd. bridge did not pass on the load rating analysis and had to be closed. They are working on escalating the replacement of the Mill Rd. bridge already scheduled for this year with applying for an emergency permit. A detour is in place for the closure with the detour information placed on the township website and signs are going up tomorrow (April 13, 2016)

Solicitor's Report – Michael Korn's deferred to later in agenda

Zoning Officer's Report- Richard Bell reported:

Total Income from (16) Lien Letter Requests - \$325.00

Zoning Permits Issued Income

13 \$ 1744.20

Sewage Permits Issued

1 \$ 65.00

Sign Permits

6 \$ 125.00

Right-Of-Way Permits

1 \$ 80.00

Demolition Permits

2 \$ 100.00

Building/UCC Permits

12 \$ 9,771.28

Timber Permits

2 \$ 50.00

Total Income Generated \$12,260.48

Nuisance/Code Complaints

My office received two (2) nuisance/code complaints during this reporting period.

1. One complaint involved a possible nuisance residence on Two Mile Run Road. This office is investigating.
2. The second complaint was in reference to a nuisance residence on Darlington Road. The property owner was sent an enforcement notice.

This office was also involved with an incident involving the Westmoreland County Humane Society and the Sheriff's Office regarding a situation at 235 Owl Hollow Road.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no Zoning Hearing Board due to a lack of agenda.

There was a Planning Commission that was held on March 24, 2016. This meeting was the initial meeting regarding the Comprehensive Plan. The minutes are archived.

Todd Griffith subdivision was discussed and all requirements have been met with Mrs. Elkus verbal approval, her signature is required.

- A motion was made by Scott Matson and seconded by Gary Thistlethwaite to approve the Todd Griffith subdivision with the condition of Mrs. Elkus approval signature. Motion carried.

Correspondence

1. **Westmoreland County Planning Department HUD Letter-** to be discussed with solicitor and the board of supervisors.
 2. **Cohen Law Group Franchise Agreement Negotiations with Comcast.**
- A motion was made by Paul Knupp and seconded by Scott Matson to approve the Cohen Group Franchise Agreement Negotiations with Comcast. Motion carried.
3. **Westmoreland Conservation Watershed Advisory Committee Meeting on April 21, 2016 at Township Building**
 4. **Plenary Walsh Plan to Replace Bridge near Wilpen – Seeking permits**
 5. **DEP Recycling grant award from 2013 - \$2688.00**
 6. **Ligonier Township Municipal Authority Letter – Asking for help with the CBG grant for Deed's Road water line.**
- A motion was made by Paul Knupp and seconded by Gary Thistlethwaite to approve to help Ligonier Township Municipal Authority with the CBG Grant for water lines. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report-Terry Carcella stated that the General Fund account balance is \$440,599.24 the Act13 account balance is \$119,329.91, the K-9 account balance is \$31,296.16, the Liquid Fuels account balance is \$375,099.35 the Developer's account balance is \$12,550.00, Liquid Fuels Investment Account is \$9,851.27, the Equipment Fund \$26,920.98, and the Capital Reserve CD's \$413,463.28 for a total of \$1,425,110.19. No action required.

- A motion was made by Bruce Robinson and seconded by Paul Knupp to approve to pay bills of April 11, 2016 bill payment list and March 21, 2016 bill payment list. Motion carried.

Old Business

None

New Business

Michael Lamb from Wessel and Company reported that the audit went very smooth and the township is in a lot better financial state now than in the past years. A positive increase year-end of \$123,000.

- A motion was made by Bruce Robinson and seconded by Scott Matson to accept Wessel and Company's 2015 Audit report. Motion carried.

Liquid Fuels 2013 and 2014 Audit Report

- A motion was made by Paul Knupp and seconded by Gary Thistlethwaite to accept the Liquid Fuels audit for 2013 and 2014. Motion carried.

- A motion was made by Bruce Robinson and seconded by Paul Knupp to approve Resolution #06-2016 Vucina Recognition for 59 years Fire Service at Ligonier #1 Waterford. Motion carried.
- A motion was made by Gary Thistlethwaite and seconded by Scott Matson to approve the advertisement of used township equipment for bids on Municibid. Motion carried.

Terry explained the hydrant districts have a rate of \$.05 for the 2017-time period and maintaining the 780 ft. per law. A maximum frontage of 150 ft., any property of a less than a dollar not be charged, land lock parcel be a flat fee of \$5.00, and the maximum shall not exceed \$7.50. Street light are looking to be upgraded to LED in 2017 and a survey with the residents will be done to see if all lights are needed.

- A motion was made by Bruce Robinson and seconded by Wade Thomas to approve Resolution #07-2016 Fire Hydrant/Street Light Fees. Motion carried with Roll Call Vote 3-2, Knupp and Matson No.
- A motion was made by Paul Knupp and seconded by Bruce Robinson to accept C.O.G. road materials and oil bids. Motion carried.
- A motion was made by Scott Matson and seconded by Gary Thistlethwaite to table reviews for Roxanne Shadron and Laurel Ross until next meeting. Motion carried.
- A motion was made by Bruce Robinson and seconded by Paul Knupp to table the EADs comprehensive plan project until next meeting. Motion carried.

Maple Drive Cul De Sac improvements need done for safety, ease of road maintenance, and care of the property. No Action required.

- A motion was made by Paul Knupp and seconded by Gary Thistlethwaite to approve Resolution #08-2016 Laurel Mountain Ski Lodge, Public/Private Economic Development Project Grant Application with an 80% grant and a 20% match by the Ski Lodge. Motion carried.
- A motion was made by Paul Knupp and seconded by Bruce Robinson to approve Resolution #09-2016 PA Letter for K-9 Program \$10,000.00 donation form John Peck to purchase the dog and training. Motion carried.

The supervisors went into executive session at 7:51 pm and returned at 8:30 pm. Solicitor Michael Korns verified that he attended the executive session and the topics discussed were in compliance with the Pennsylvania Sunshine Act.

Supervisors Comments

Supervisor Scott Matson – Should think about blacktop and not tar/chip since price of oil is down and widen roads where needed for safety. Mr. Bell should be employee of the month.

Supervisor Paul Knupp – Job well done for Public Works and Staff and very pleased how things are going

Supervisor Bruce Robinson – No comment

Supervisor Gary Thistlethwaite – No comment.

Supervisor Wade Thomas – No comment.

A motion was made by Gary Thistlethwaite and seconded by Scott Matson to adjourn the meeting at 8:45 PM. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Roxanne Shadron
Assistant Secretary/Treasurer

