

Ligonier Township Supervisors
Regular Meeting
November 10, 2015

The Ligonier Township Supervisors met in regular session at 7:00 PM with the Pledge of Allegiance opening the meeting. Secretary Bruce Robinson took roll call. Present were D. Scott Matson, Paul Knupp, Bruce Robinson, and Gary Thistlethwaite and Chairman Wade Thomas

Press Release

The Board of Supervisors of Ligonier Township has been in preliminary discussions with larger local water and sewage authorities associated with the sale of the assets of the Ligonier Township Municipal Authority (LTMA). The sale of the LTMA's assets could generate additional capital for the Township to fund various projects without interruption in the water and sewage services provided to our rate payers. Before any decisions can be made, however, it is necessary to value the LTMA's assets and assess its liabilities. The expenses of the initial valuations are being assumed by the prospective purchasers. One of those prospective purchasers, the Municipal Authority of Westmoreland County (MAWC), recently sent correspondence to the LTMA requesting detailed financial information in order to determine its value. These types of requests are routine in these circumstances and are a part of any prospective purchaser's due diligence.

Once the initial valuations are completed, the Township will commission an independent valuation for comparison purposes. No decision has been made to sell the LTMA's assets, and transfer responsibility for its debt, to any other entity until all valuations are finalized.

We are hopeful that the Board of the LTMA will be responsive to these requests and cooperate with the valuation process.

Public Comment

1. **Paul C. Hefner** – transparency, diligence, and accountability from elected officials. Why sale LTMA? Just seen as an income stream as they do not need our infrastructure and our customer base.
2. **Mickey Corb** – lives at 127 Mountain Road owning 23 acreages and it has been rezoned from Residential to with the new ordinance as Agriculture and is valued at less now.
3. **Deborah J Miller** – is 3rd generation here in Ligonier, what is the difference between Borough and Township water?
4. **Christian Simmons** – Do you have any children/grandchildren in the township, I do with well water. People have a voice. Does it have anything to do with fracking?
5. **Florence Barton** – resident for 16 years. That Ligonier has been self-sufficient and she is concerned on change of it for her and the residents of Ligonier Township.

6. **Maggie Nied** – almost end of year. Wade and Scott respect you as respectful businessman, but not as supervisors. Add ordinance that you must be a taxpayer to be a supervisor. Agenda not out in time for review before meetings. A stick and paste ordinance that we paid too much for. Added fracking when the people did not want it. Do not sell our water, because you will not be able to get it back at a reasonable price.
- A motion was made by Bruce Robinson and seconded by Paul Knupp to approve the minutes of the October 27, 2015. Motion carried

Staff Reports

Manager's Report - Terry reported that a press release from the Walsh Granite Group on the bridge replacement projects, reported that the State Route 711 bridge tentatively will open November 20th; the Route 259 bridge paving is being done this week with tentative opening on November 17th; and the Wilpen bridge replacement paving is being done this week as well with an anticipated opening on November 13th.

Two bids not on the agenda for decking as we were not aware that there would be any bids to report on. One bid from LB Foster in the amount of \$64.5 per foot for a total of \$39216.00. The other is from Black Forest Iron and Bridge in the amount of \$39,330.00 or option for banded with in the amount of \$40,535.00 or last option with guide rails and post in the amount of \$38,360.00. Terry suggested that the committee review and discuss these options at their meeting on Thursday and again with the engineer for a recommendation at the December 8th meeting.

2016 Budget has been advertised and is available to review in Township Office. Action on the Budget will be at the December 8th meeting.

We will have a balanced budget of projected income and expenses in the amount of \$2,261,674.92 for 2016.

The public works department has begun winter prep of equipment for anticipated adverse weather conditions later this month. We plan to meet with our public works committee of Supervisor's and staff this Thursday and plan our projects for next year. The public works department will begin training of our part time employees and we may explore the possibility of splitting the crew and implementing shifts and alternative scheduling for the plow schedules this season.

Ligonier Township will begin paper recycling service here at the municipal complex beginning this Friday, November 13, 2015 for paper products only with Royal Oak Recycling out of Pittsburgh. Next month we plan to introduce cardboard dumpsters. The location and signage directing the items collected will be located near the police department entrance and under constant video surveillance. I would like to investigate the prospect of finding a location for

collection of leaves and composting for Township residents to take their leaves for recycling. This could be discussed with our supervisor's committee at future meetings.

I want to address how well we have implemented planning in Ligonier Township. In most instances for nearly all entities of our Ligonier Township local government structure we have not planned well or at all over the years. We are deficient in our "Comprehensive Plan" of 1990 that was never accepted by the Supervisors and never recorded with Westmoreland County. We are deficient in our Act 537 planning for sewage facilities. We have a plan that is not updated or approved at this time. We are taking steps to address both of these plans for our Township. These are both time consuming and expensive projects but needed to advance and move Ligonier Township forward.

Police Report – Chief Matrunics reported October they patrolled 4722 miles working 878 hours. Covering 4 crimes, 10 vehicle accidents, 12 citations, and 13 crime complaints. Theft of unlocked cars-items out of them with values about \$2,500.00 or more and this is the second time this has happened, asking all to lock their cars and call 911 if you see anything.

Aggressive Driving is currently going on until November 22, 2015 with bus routes being considered. Again Chief Matrunics stresses that you cannot pass buses at the school, it is an automatic 60 day suspension of license violation.

Engineer's Report – Dorothy with Markosky Engineering reported that the proposal for Zion Church Bridge is ready and will be discussed on Thursday. There is a Traffic Signal Lights Grant called Arley that is 100% reimbursable and applications are closed now, but will open in June 2016. Might be able to get reimbursed for the traffic light projects if there is a need to keep them and a need analysis would need to be completed to see.

Solicitor's Report – Michael Korn's report that an Executive Session was held at 6:30 PM returning at 6:50 PM and certified that he was in attendance and items discussed were in compliance with the Pennsylvania Sunshine Law.

Michael Korn's reported Terry is within his authority to do the Champion Energy contract to provide reduced the electric bills for the Township.

The State Ethics Board provided their ruling that Bruce Robinson can be involved with all aspects to include voting on the possible sale of LTMA.

Michael congratulated Paul Knupp and Gary Thistlethwaite on their new terms and is looking forward to working with them.

Zoning Officer's Report- Rich reported the following:

Total Income from (11) Lien Letter Requests -	\$110.00
<u>Building Permits Issued</u>	<u>Income</u>
6	\$ 911.50
<u>Sewage Permits Issued</u>	
1	\$ 130.00
<u>Zoning Hearing Board Fee</u>	
1	\$ 375.00
<u>Demolition Permit</u>	
1	\$ 25.00
<u>Driveway Permits</u>	
1	\$ 25.00
<u>Total Income Generated</u>	\$ 1,576.50

Nuisance/Code Complaints

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

A complaint was received regarding an outdoor wood burner and the smoke it produces. This complaint was turned over to DEP.

A complaint was received regarding a residence on Griffith Road still not being in compliance. I have sent an enforcement notice to the resident and he/she has thirty (30) days to either appeal the decision or come into compliance. Failure to do so will result in a fine being levied through the District Magistrate.

Follow-ups – Owners of the burnt out residence on Fern Lane in Darlington have requested that I research any government entities that could assist them in the clean-up of their property. Research complete and the residents will have thirty days to bring their property into compliance.

OLD BUSINESS

There are no minutes from the Planning Commission meeting because of a lack of an agenda.

NEW BUSINESS

This office has received several complaints regarding abandoned dwellings throughout the township. I am in the process of putting together a Blight/Abandonment folder that includes pictures of the property, tax map number and owner of the property. Once this list is compiled, I can give the Board of Supervisors a list of options that the township can review.

Correspondence

1. Elizabeth Gaston comment on the Burning Ordinance.
 2. William Snyder Resignation as Township Auditor – he is moving
- A motion was made by Scott Matson and seconded by Bruce Robinson to accept William Snyder's resignation as Township Auditor. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report-Terry Carcella stated that the General Fund account balance is \$82,576.84, the Act13 account balance is \$132,725.43, the K-9 account balance is \$77,150.00, the Liquid Fuels account balance is \$93,001.81, the Developer's account balance is \$12,550.00, and the Liquid Fuels Investment Account is \$9,848.59 for a total of \$707,852.67. No action required.

- A motion was made by Bruce Robinson and seconded by Gary Thistlethwaite to approve to pay bills of November 9, 2015 bill payment list. Motion carried 4-1, Scott Matson voting No.

Old Business

Terry explained about the painting of the freightliner, \$2,500.00 for cab only and \$4,000.00 for complete truck. Terry suggested just painting the cab for now.

- A motion was made Paul Knupp and seconded Wade Thomas to accept the painting quote for the freightliner truck for cab only. Motion not carried with a roll call vote of 1-4 with Paul Knupp voting for it.

New Business

- A motion was made by Bruce Robinson and seconded by Gary Thistlethwaite to proceed with the animal control and code enforcement agreement with Ligonier Borough, with a meeting with the Borough. Motion carried.

A petition was received to abandon alley in park plan of lots. There was discussion and it was noted that there is a water line and they need to make sure that they have an easement for the water line and Paul Knupp is going to look into this. Michael Korn suggested that work on getting the easement and all four companies to sign it and then do a resolution for it.

- A motion was made by Bruce Robinson and seconded by Paul Knupp to advertise Ordinance 09 of 2015 Municipal Manager Amendment. Motion carried.
- A motion was made by Scott Matson and seconded by Gary Thistlethwaite to approve Resolution R-12 of 2015 Police Pension Elimination of Contribution for 2016. Motion carried
- A motion was made by Scott Matson and seconded by Gary Thistlethwaite to approve the request to purchase through Co-Stars police K-9 2016 vehicle for replacement. Motion carried.
- A motion was made by Paul Knupp and seconded by Bruce Robinson to request for Township Manager to attend the 2-Day APM Conference in February 2016 at Bedford. Motion carried.
- A motion was made by Paul Knupp and seconded by Gary Thistlethwaite to proceed with Ligonier Borough on Police Handgun/Dual Employee Usage and Liability with a meeting with the Borough. Motion carried.

Supervisor Scott Matson – Thanked the road crew for the pipe work they have done. Addressed Maggie Nied.

Supervisor Paul Knupp – Thanked everyone for being here tonight and your comments. Mention about the new municipal road sign and that all pole lights are working. Please with office.

Supervisor Bruce Robinson – No Comment.

Supervisor Gary Thistlethwaite – Thank everyone for coming out and voting last week.

Supervisor Wade Thomas – No Comment.

- A motion was made by Bruce Robinson and seconded by Paul Knupp to adjourn the meeting at 7:50 PM. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Roxanne Shadron
Assistant Secretary/Treasurer