

**Ligonier Township Supervisors**  
**Regular Meeting Minutes**  
*January 10, 2023*

The Supervisors of Ligonier Township met in regular session at 7:00 p.m. Present were Chair, Dan Resenic; Vice Chair, Erik Ross; Secretary/Treasurer, Stephanie Verna; Supervisor, D. Scott Matson; and Supervisor, John Beaufort.

Also present were Manager, Michael Strelac; Solicitor, Dan Hudock; Engineer Ben Faas; Chief of Police John Berger, and Finance Officer, Bethany Caldwell.

**Comments from the Public**

There were no public comments.

**Comments from the Supervisors**

There were no Supervisor comments.

- A motion was made by Scott Matson and seconded by Stephanie Verna to approve the minutes from the December 27, 2022 meeting. Motion carried.
  
- A motion was made by Scott Matson and seconded by Stephanie Verna to approve the minutes from the January 3, 2023 organization meeting. Motion carried.

**Correspondence**

1. Steve Kozar, Assistant Emergency Management Coordinator resignation

**Manager Report**

Mr. Strelac reported that heavy rains last week required a couple days of cleanup. Multiple roads had to be closed including McKelvey, Peoples, McDowell, and state route 381. Some roads that remained open, still required cleanup such as Country Club, Serena, Kissell Springs, Orme and others. Although we haven't had a lot of snow accumulation to date, we have had a couple light snows that still required the plows out making sure the bus routes are cleared. The trees along White City Road were trimmed back, this work was delayed due to last week's floods. In addition, group leader Berkey got permission from the land owner to remove the dead trees and the crew continued to trim trees along Baton Road as well. The General Dollar's contractor stopped in to pick up permits and plans, so we should see site activity soon. We carried 13 Code Enforcement complaints over from last year, 8 of them were about raw sewage in the road, so our new Sewage Enforcement Officer will be busy. The last day to make an appeal against the federal broadband map is this Friday (each individual needs to make an appeal with respect to their property, we cannot do it on their behalf). The County Planning Department is holding a broadband related press event at the Ligonier Valley High School on the 19<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 am. At last night's Rec Board meeting, they discussed putting up signage regulating e-bikes on the trail, but we'd need to create a policy first, so that may be before the Board in the near future. Interviews for the Public Works Director position are scheduled this week and the Public Works Operator position has

been posted. Hope to have a code enforcement / zoning officer job offer approved at the next meeting. And finally, we are working on a list of roads for the 2023 chip-seal projects and will need to have a Public Works Committee meeting soon.

**Engineer Report**

Mr. Faas reported he will be meeting with MAWC in February to discuss the grant application for funding to replace private water lines in the Township. If the grant is awarded, the grant’s match money details need to be worked out.

**Solicitor Report**

Mr. Hudock did not have anything to report.

**Police Report**

Chief Berger went over his annual report (see attached).

**Treasurer’s Report**

<b>Fund Balance</b>	<b>October</b>	<b>November</b>	<b>December</b>
General Fund	\$ 619,809	\$ 690,600	\$ 539,060
General Fund Reserves	\$ 681,507	\$ 682,944	\$ 688,522
Liquid Fuels Tax Fund	\$ 87,311	\$ 80,051	\$ 70,418
Capital Fund Reserves	\$ 71,682	\$ 71,682	\$ 71,682
Ligonier Beach Park Fund	\$ 100,213	\$ 100,213	\$ 72,213
American Rescue Fund	\$ 341,075	\$ 341,075	\$ 341,075
Developer's Fund*	\$ 54,757	\$ 54,757	\$ 54,757
*Escrow	\$ 4,500	\$ 4,500	\$ 4,500
*Mill Creek Memorial Park	\$ 1,209	\$ 1,209	\$ 1,209
*Hi Acres Waterline	\$ 49,048	\$ 49,048	\$ 49,048
<b>Total Funds</b>	<b>\$2,011,111</b>	<b>\$2,021,322</b>	<b>\$ 1,837,727</b>

\*denotes funds are restricted

- A motion was made by Stephanie Verna and seconded by Erik Ross to approve the bills as presented. Motion carried.

**Old Business**

Mr. Strelic recapped the Township’s limited options to increase revenue. Supervisor Verna asked about a recent meeting with Idlewild’s management. Mr. Strelic said it was a good meeting and he learned the company has put its plans to develop the parcel across the highway on hold, but they have made significant investments in the park.

- A motion was made by Erik Ross and seconded by John Beaufort to advertise the Township is going to increase its amusement tax cap from \$1 to \$2. Motion carried.

Supervisor Ross reported that he talked to our new Emergency Management Coordinator, Patrick McDowell who is still putting his team together. The board tabled the appointment of Mr. McDowell’s assistant.

## **New Business**

The 2023 Fee Schedule needs to be amended to include the newly appointed Sewage Enforcement Officer (The EADS Group) fees. This item was tabled as Supervisor Resenic said he is concerned about fees increasing and asked Mr. Strelac to work with Mr. Faas, analyze the rates and come back to the Board with a recommendation.

Mr. Strelac said there are tax records from 2012-2018 stored in the Public Works department. First step to clean up these records is passing a records keeping ordinance. Then resolutions can be presented for approval, they will list the records up for destruction.

- A motion was made by Erik Ross and seconded by Scott Matson to advertise the Township's adoption of a Records Retention Ordinance. Motion carried.

## **Executive Session**

There was no executive session.

## **Comments from the Public**

Patrick McDowell – Introduced himself and thanked the board for his appointment. He is 20+ year member of the Darlington VFD and has been working at the Westmoreland County Department of Public Safety. He hopes to build upon what John Beaufort (former Emergency Management Coordinator) has done.

## **Comments from the Supervisors**

Supervisor Verna – Requested staff compile information on the Township's General Fund Reserves so that the finance committee can work on a CD investing strategy.

Supervisor Resenic – Personally thanked Supervisor Beaufort for all he's done for the Ligonier Valley Police Department. It was a personal goal for Supervisor Resenic to get on the LVPD Commission. There have been comments about people leaving the Township from time to time. He cited an article from the New York Times that stated 40 million people left their jobs last year; the Township is not the only employer facing staffing shortages. One person left because they wanted a \$10k raise after being here for only three months. Another person left for a six-figure salary – we can't compete with that. Another person left due to one of the worst negotiated union contract he's ever seen – two tiers of pay with no way for the lower tier to get to the higher tier. His goal is to make the new contract more fair and equitable; the senior employees can't be rewarded at the expense of the junior employees. We need a fair labor contract.

- A motion was made by Erik Ross and seconded by Stephanie Verna to adjourn the meeting at 7:29 p.m. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Bethany Caldwell  
Assistant Secretary/Treasurer