

March 12, 2024

The regular meeting of the Ligonier Township Supervisors was held Tuesday, March 12, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. in the Municipal Building with Chairman Dan Resenic presiding.

Members Present: Dan Resenic, Erik Ross, Stephanie Verna, Scott Matson, and John Beaufort.

Others Present: Township Manager Michael Strelac, Solicitor Dan Hudock, Engineer Ben Faas, and Finance Officer Bethany Caldwell.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

There were no comments from the public.

COMMENTS FROM THE SUPERVISORS

Supervisor Matson – No comment

Supervisor Ross – No comment

Supervisor Beaufort – Last month was good for the Volunteer Fire Companies, it was slow - one company had 7 calls, while another had 14 calls. Sunday night they were out on the mountain, which had to be closed and they spent a lot of time there. Waterford VFD is having a gun bash and proceeds go to the fire hall and both of the Latrobe and Ligonier K9 units. Wilpen and Waterford VFDs are having fish fries on Fridays and Darlington will be having its Easter candy fundraiser.

Supervisor Verna – No comment

Supervisor Resenic – No comment

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

A motion was made by Erik Ross and seconded by Scott Matson to approve the minutes from the February 27, 2024 meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

CORRESPONDENCE

1. Westmoreland County Industrial Development Corporation annual report – Mr. Strelac noted Ligonier is not mentioned in this report due to the lack of activity / projects in the Township.
2. The Ligonier Valley Police Department has been named person of the year by the Chamber of Commerce.

REPORTS:

MANAGER

Mr. Strelac reported the tax collector's third party bill preparer (OSG) mailed out two tax bills, one with the correct tax millage rate and the other with an incorrect rate. Out of the 309 municipalities in the four-county area (Westmoreland, Allegheny, Somerset, Cambria), last year Ligonier at 5 mills was ranked

the 277th highest, and now at 6 mills the Township is tied for the 275th highest and the municipalities we are tied with do not have their own police department. In other words, 88% of municipalities have higher taxes on the actual value of homes. To get to the average, we'd have to increase our tax rate to 27 mills. Fifty-two municipalities raised taxes last year and he expects that number to increase as ARP money expires and Allegheny County deals with the appeals from the common level ratio lawsuit. Changing topics, Mr. Strelac attended the County Association of Township Supervisors meeting last Friday and said he heard from the head of the county's broadband rollout that the highest priority areas will be done in about 6 months and the rest of the Township will take approximately 3 years to complete.

SOLICITOR

Mr. Hudock worked with staff on code enforcement issues and is coordinating a meeting with a property owner's lawyer to discuss an issue in Laughlintown.

POLICE

A copy of the Ligonier Valley Police Department's monthly report was provided to the Board.

TREASURER

Supervisor Verna read the fund balances as of February 29, 2024:

Fund Balances (month end)	February
General Fund	\$ 563,607
General Fund Reserves	\$ 1,066,937
Liquid Fuels Tax Fund	\$ 91,809
Capital Fund Reserves	\$ 34,472
Ligonier Beach Park Fund	\$ 122,213
American Rescue Fund	\$ -
Developer's Fund*	\$ 5,477
*Escrow	\$ 4,000
*Mill Creek Memorial Park	\$ 1,209
*Kids Corner grant	\$ 268
Total Funds	\$ 1,884,514

BILLS PAYABLE

A motion was made by Stephanie Verna and seconded by John Beaufort to approve the bills payable as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Ordinance 2024-O-01 Zoning Ordinance:

Mr. Strelac explained the next step in the process is to send the revised ordinance to the County for their review and they have 30 days to respond. Supervisor Resenic acknowledged that Supervisor Verna put a lot of time into reviewing the ordinance and asked if the Board was ready to move forward. Supervisor Verna thanked the Planning Commission for their work.

A motion was made by John Beaufort and seconded by Stephanie Verna to send 2024-O-01 to the County for review. Motion carried unanimously.

Ordinance 2024-O-03 Property Maintenance Code:

Held, no action taken.

NEW BUSINESS

Ligonier Beach Master Site Development Plan & Pool Feasibility Study:

DCNR has approved the study committee's Request for Proposals (RFP) scope of work.

A motion was made by Stephanie Verna and seconded by John Beaufort to advertise the Ligonier Beach Master Site Development Plan & Pool Feasibility Study Request for Proposals. Motion carried, 4:1 with Scott Matson voting nay.

Supervisor Verna said she read through the RFP, it was very professional, thoughtful, thorough, exceptional work, and had no critique.

Supervisor Resenic congratulated the Friends of Ligonier Beach (FOLB) on their hard work.

2024 seal coat program RFP:

Supervisor Verna asked about the road maintenance five-year plan tracking spreadsheet and the methodology used to rate the roads. Mr. Strelac explained he updates the spreadsheet as he receives new information, examples include grant awards, residents bringing issues forward, and/or the Public Works crew reports. Supervisor Verna asked staff to post the road's five-year plan on the website so residents can see when their road is scheduled for maintenance, she doesn't want people to think they're being ignored and this would also emphasize the distinction between state and township roads. She cautioned that in the past we've have multiple versions of this road list and wants to ensure we keep using the same document. She asked staff to document intentional choices, especially when work is postponed and/or roads are rescheduled. Supervisor Matson said he would like to see the work planned by quadrant to save money instead of running all over the township. Supervisor Ross said the Public Works committee is addressing the worst roads first, getting them back up to par and then we will transition to a more geographical / location work plan approach.

A motion was made by Erik Ross and seconded by Scott Matson to advertise the 2024 Seal Coat Program Request for Proposals. Motion carried unanimously.

Lewis Thomas Plan 3:

This final subdivision plan to create one lot was reviewed and recommend by the Planning Commission. Mr. Strelac noted there is one odd thing, the 10 acre exception for sewage, and added while we cannot address this issue now, it might be brought to the Board for consideration in the future.

Supervisor Beaufort asked about the 10 acre exception.

A motion was made by Scott Matson and seconded by Stephanie Verna to approve the Lewis Thomas Plan 3. Motion carried unanimously.

Ligonier Country Market Special Event Application

The Ligonier Country Market submitted their special event application. Supervisor Verna noted the original agreement specifies there are to be 75-125 vendors with a maximum of "up to 130" selling from

either pop up tents or trucks, in a 10x10 space. The current application map shows 130 vendor spaces and some of the spaces appear larger than a 10x10 space. She clarified the market is a great asset, but the footprint needs to be reduced so it is compliant. She noted the following discrepancies between the PennDOT road closure application and the Township's special event application: 4,000 vs 2,500 attendees; 16 vs 14 parking lot attendants; and the LVPD hired to provide crowd control vs. traffic control. Supervisor Verna asked that these discrepancies be addressed now so they have time to work through them. Supervisor Beaufort agreed a meeting should be scheduled soon. Supervisor Resenic asked that the Loyahanna Watershed be included in the meeting as they own the property and hold the lease.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

There was no executive session.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Jeffrey Crowe – commented on the Ligonier Beach and its history.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS FROM THE SUPERVISORS

Supervisor Resenic – Please support your local fire departments – if you don't want to cook on a Friday night, attend one of their fish fries instead.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

A motion was made by Erik Ross and seconded by John Beaufort to adjourn the meeting. All of Board was in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Bethany Caldwell
Assistant Secretary/Treasurer

Ligonier Township, Westmoreland County, PA
Bill Payments for All Vendors
March 11, 2024

Vendor	Type	Num	Amount
Mar 11, 24			
Total Service, Inc.	Bill Pmt -Check	ACH	187.92
AA Septic Tank Service	Bill Pmt -Check	26041	562.50
Apex Companies LLC	Bill Pmt -Check	26042	565.00
Appalachian Fluid Power Inc	Bill Pmt -Check	26043	218.78
Atlas Chiropractic of Ligonier - V	Bill Pmt -Check	26044	85.00
Cleveland Brothers Equipment, Co. , Inc.	Bill Pmt -Check	26045	56.39
D.D.T.A. Services Inc	Bill Pmt -Check	26046	16.68
Daniel C. Hudock Attorney at Law	Bill Pmt -Check	26047	2,519.25
Fayette Parts Service, Inc.	Bill Pmt -Check	26048	84.69
First Commonwealth Bank	Bill Pmt -Check	26049	763.14
Glassmere Fuel Service	Bill Pmt -Check	26050	4,197.86
Greensburg Machine & Driveline L.L.C.	Bill Pmt -Check	26051	1,386.98
JSB Holding, Inc.	Bill Pmt -Check	26052	422.00
Laurel Valley Hardware Inc.	Bill Pmt -Check	26053	163.50
Ligonier Giant Eagle	Bill Pmt -Check	26054	83.67
LVTech	Bill Pmt -Check	26055	1,743.31
Mclnchok Sanitation	Bill Pmt -Check	26056	297.00
Napotnik Welding Supplies	Bill Pmt -Check	26057	15.08
Penn Turf, Inc.	Bill Pmt -Check	26058	321.60
PennPrime	Bill Pmt -Check	26059	14,887.00
Pennsylvania Municipal Service Co.	Bill Pmt -Check	26060	28.83
Pennsylvania One Call System, Inc.	Bill Pmt -Check	26061	34.96
Royal Oak Retriever, LLC	Bill Pmt -Check	26062	60.00
Rudd Equipment Company	Bill Pmt -Check	26063	169.60
SWIF	Bill Pmt -Check	26064	1,033.00
The EADS Group	Bill Pmt -Check	26065	232.65
The Latrobe Bulletin	Bill Pmt -Check	26066	34.60
Tricia Levander	Bill Pmt -Check	26067	1,000.00
UAW LOCAL 204	Bill Pmt -Check	26068	358.08
ULine	Bill Pmt -Check	26069	188.89
UniFirst Corporation	Bill Pmt -Check	26070	201.79
Washington National Insurance Company	Bill Pmt -Check	26071	165.36
West Central Equipment, LLC	Bill Pmt -Check	26072	166.90
West Penn Power	Bill Pmt -Check	26073	201.23
Western Pennsylvania Teamsters and Employ	Bill Pmt -Check	26074	17,165.90
PennPrime	Bill Pmt -Check	26075	2,449.00
Mar 11, 24			<u>52,068.14</u>

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sa ✓
3-12-24

1:08 PM

03/11/24

Ligonier Township - ACT 13
Bill Payments for All Vendors
March 11, 2024

<u>Vendor</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Num</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Mar 11, 24 First Commonwealth Bank - V	Bill Pmt -Check	1029	3,425.96
Mar 11, 24			<u>3,425.96</u>

OK
SAV
3-12-24

Ligonier Township - Escrow Account
Bill Payments for All Vendors
March 11, 2024

Vendor	Type	Num	Date	Amount
Transfer to General Fund for Community Gardens	ACH	ACH	03/11/2024	175.00
Shawn and Maranda Underwood	Check	1060	03/11/2024	29,112.13
				<u>29,287.13</u>

OK
SAV
3-12-24