

**Ligonier Township Supervisors
Regular Meeting Minutes**

March 14, 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; Emergency Management Coordinator, Pat McDowell; and Finance Officer, Bethany Caldwell.

Comments from the Public

1. Sherri Vizzuett – (Washington County resident, visits the Township on weekends) commented on the Ligonier Beach.

Comments from the Supervisors

Supervisor Matson – No comment.

Supervisor Ross – Thanked Emergency Management Services, Volunteer Fire Departments, and Public Works staff for all their hard work after the severe wind storm.

Supervisor Verna – Asked that a list of roads be placed online so that realtors can assist potential buyers and identify which roads are privately maintained and which roads are Township Roads. Asked for an update on the Ligonier Beach Demo project, it's a mess!

Supervisor Beaufort – Also commented on the state of the Ligonier Beach demo project, it looks like the contractor took anything that might have value to them and left. He recommended staff reach out to the County Commissioners. The three volunteer fire departments combined had 49 calls last month (February) and responded to vehicle accidents, alarms, a bad trailer fire, etc. Fifty percent of one company's calls alone were due to false alarms. After the windstorm (March 3), Waterford VFD had 51 calls in less than 24 hours! The storm hit hardest along bottom of mountain in the Laughlintown, Rector, and Waterford villages.

Supervisor Resenic – Commented on the good cooperation between Patrick McDowell's team and the Emergency Services (ambulance, fire, police, and public works). He asked Mr. McDowell to give a report tonight after the Police Report. Chris Light informed him that MAWC is trying to get the contractor assigned to the Ligonier Beach waterline relocation moving, it's frustrating!

- A motion was made by Stephanie Verna and seconded by Erik Ross to approve the minutes from the February 28, 2023 meeting. Motion carried.

Correspondence List

There was no correspondence.

Manager Report

Mr. Strelac reported the severe wind storm was the big event since the previous meeting, and several residents told him they've never experienced anything like it. Public Works Crew worked their usual shift that Friday (March 3), went home and were called out that evening to clear roads working until 1:00 a.m. Saturday morning they were at again, working a full shift and were able clear the roads to the point they were passable. Clean up continued into the following week. While there is always room for improvement, the township is fortunate to have a great crew that works hard. And finally, Barb's in Rector is closing and staff hope the new owner (Carol's Corner) will continue what they started.

Engineer Report

Mr. Faas continues to monitor Dollar General's progress which has slowed down due to weather. Regarding the Township's Act 537 sewage plan, he met with DEP staff last Friday and they asked for more information on the financial estimates. The next meeting has not been scheduled yet.

Solicitor Report

Mr. Hudock is working on the Act 537 plan. He is currently waiting to hear back from both MAWC and the DEP.

Police Report

Chief Berger reiterated that everyone (EMS, fire, police, and public works) did a great job working together after the storm. Officer Abigail Gerlach will be starting next month.

Emergency Management Coordinator Report

Mr. McDowell reported the EMC team held its first meeting Thursday before the storm. Ligonier Township was one of the worst hit areas, there were over 100 incidents total (requiring police + ambulance), a chimney fire, roof damage, vehicle destruction, but most importantly – no one was injured from the storm! State routes had to be closed due to trees tangled in wires and that required utility assistance. West Penn was stretched thin with so many customers out of power (approximately 33% of Township customers lost power), they brought out-of-state workers in to assist with restoration. Several poles had to be replaced along SR 271 creating an "island" for those residents and people had to shelter at Waterford Fire Hall. They learned from this experience – what they did right (constant communication, opening up alternate back road routes when the state roads were closed, deputies making rounds checking in on people) and where they can improve. Some folks were out of power for days, had it been 10 degrees colder this would have been more of a concern. While there were no 911 calls requesting shelter this time, they are exploring ways to let residents know warming stations are open (perhaps through Township's social media – something official). This needs to be done right, some people are too proud to ask, but will accept help when it's offered and another concern is rumors spread faster than the truth (online). Reminder – if you see wires down, do not touch them! The municipal building will serve as the main command center but might use the area's VFD if that is closer, depends on each event. Supervisor Resenic asked Mr. McDowell to evaluate the EMC technology needs.

Treasurer Report

Fund Balances (month end)	February
General Fund	\$ 237,865
General Fund Reserves	\$ 928,041
Liquid Fuels Tax Fund	\$ 35,369
Capital Fund Reserves	\$ 68,673
Ligonier Beach Park Fund	\$ 72,213
American Rescue Fund	\$ 341,075
Developer's Fund*	\$ 54,757
*Escrow	\$ 4,500
*Mill Creek Memorial Park	\$ 1,209
*Hi Acres Waterline	\$ 49,048
Total Funds	\$1,737,993

*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

The LVPD Rent discussion was deferred to allow Mr. Strelie more time to develop a rental agreement. Rent may begin at the start of next year, so that it can be planned for in the 2024 budget.

Supervisor Resenic requested a meeting among Mr. Strelie, Mrs. Caldwell and the FOLB to develop a plan to move forward with the Ligonier Beach Feasibility Study in a way that local tax payers' dollars are not used. As an example, he cited the Township's solicitor fee for reviewing the FOLB MOU as a reimbursable expense. Supervisor Beaufort asked for clarification – is the Township unwilling to spend any taxpayer money on the Beach? Supervisor Resenic said the township pays to maintain the property. Mr. Strelie said the Township has another DCNR grant that includes plans to match with in-kind labor. Supervisor Resenic clarified that “not spending the tax payers' dollars” is with respect to the Feasibility Study grant related work only. Supervisor Beaufort asked how much time we had to get the project done – we do not have an answer as we haven't received our agreement yet (typically get a 2 year period with option to extend).

New Business

- A motion was made by Erik Ross and seconded by Stephanie Verna to approve the “Set Your Year on Fire 5k” special event permit. Motion carried.

Supervisor Verna asked if event insurance would be secured by organizer – yes.

- A motion was made by Erik Ross and seconded by Scott Matson to approve ordinance 2023-O-3, “Healthcare Contributions.” Motion carried.

The Healthcare Contribution ordinance revised the contribution rate from 20% to 10% of the cost. Historically, non-union full-time employees have opted out of health insurance because they had it elsewhere. While trying to recruit a new Public Works Director, several leading candidates backed out of the process citing “the benefits package not being competitive with what they currently have” as their reason. Supervisor Verna said she voted in favor of this ordinance because the health care is so expensive, that 20% of the premium is a lot for the employee; this is a \$2k raise for the employee. She pointed out there is language in the ordinance indicating health insurance is single coverage only, however purchasing family coverage is not an option with the Township’s current carrier – this needs to be addressed later.

- A motion was made by Stephanie Verna and seconded by John Beaufort to approve a Dumpster Day event that will be held on Saturday, April 22, from 8:00 am to noon. Motion carried.

There was a discussion about how to host the event and the consensus was to continue past practices: verify residency requirement met by ID reviews and collect funds. LVPD to assist with traffic if necessary.

- A motion was made by Erik Ross and second by Stephanie Verna to accept the PCCD’s Local Law Enforcement grant on behalf of the LVPD. Motion carried.
- A motion was made by Stephanie Verna and seconded by Erik Ross to approve the “Public Works Director/Operator” position title change to “Public Works Foreman” and updated position description. Motion carried.

There was a brief discussion about changing the Public Works Director title to Public Works Foreman (and updating the position description) as this would better align with the construction industry’s salary requirements and help attract ideal candidates.

Executive Session

There was no executive session.

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 – No comment.

Supervisor Verna – Said with respect to the Ligonier Beach MOU - at the macro level it seems we are burning more calories and we haven’t even started, she is frustrated with the chicken or egg situation we find ourselves in and would like to see the project advance forward.

Supervisor Resenic – Clarified he did not intend that the FOLB would be charged for staff's time at the initial meeting to discuss how to move the project forward.

- A motion was made by Erik Ross and seconded by Stephanie Verna to adjourn the meeting at 7:48 p.m. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Bethany Caldwell
Assistant Secretary/Treasurer

Ligonier Township, Westmoreland County, PA
Bill Payments for All Vendors
 March 13 - 14, 2023

Vendor	Type	Num	Amount
Mar 13 - 14, 23			
Total Service, Inc.	Bill Pmt -Check	ACH	183.24
Comcast	Bill Pmt -Check	ACH	199.89
AA Septic Tank Service	Bill Pmt -Check	25428	225.00
Advanced Fire Company, Inc.	Bill Pmt -Check	25429	966.81
Andrews Sales & Service	Bill Pmt -Check	25430	174.98
Apex Companies LLC	Bill Pmt -Check	25431	1,420.00
Black's Specialty Service	Bill Pmt -Check	25432	105.60
Clark's Heating Service INC	Bill Pmt -Check	25433	909.71
Daniel C. Hudock Attorney at Law	Bill Pmt -Check	25434	1,287.50
Fayette Parts Service, Inc.	Bill Pmt -Check	25435	382.65
First Commonwealth Bank	Bill Pmt -Check	25436	1,215.43
Glassmere Fuel Service	Bill Pmt -Check	25437	3,742.46
Groff Tractor and Equipment	Bill Pmt -Check	25438	432.00
Laurel Valley Hardware Inc.	Bill Pmt -Check	25439	38.57
Laurel Valley Motors	Bill Pmt -Check	25440	3,908.59
Ligonier Giant Eagle	Bill Pmt -Check	25441	58.26
LVTech	Bill Pmt -Check	25442	1,661.18
McInchok Sanitation	Bill Pmt -Check	25443	148.50
PennPrime	Bill Pmt -Check	25444	15,213.00
Pennsylvania Municipal Service Co.	Bill Pmt -Check	25445	65.79
Royal Oak Retriever, LLC	Bill Pmt -Check	25446	60.00
The Latrobe Bulletin	Bill Pmt -Check	25447	88.20
Tricia Levander	Bill Pmt -Check	25448	700.00
UAW LOCAL 204	Bill Pmt -Check	25449	323.34
UniFirst Corporation	Bill Pmt -Check	25450	177.74
Unifirst First Aid & Safety	Bill Pmt -Check	25451	112.70
Washington National Insurance Company	Bill Pmt -Check	25452	91.48
Western Pennsylvania Teamsters and Employ	Bill Pmt -Check	25453	16,348.50
PennPrime	Bill Pmt -Check	25454	5,159.00
Mar 13 - 14, 23			55,400.12

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Ligonier Township-Liquid Fuels
Bill Payments for All Vendors
March 14, 2023

<u>Vendor</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Num</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Mar 14, 23 West Penn Power	Bill Pmt -Check	1311	199.39
Mar 14, 23			<u>199.39</u>

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3.14.23