

**Ligonier Township Supervisors
Regular Meeting Minutes**

March 22, 2022

The Supervisors of Ligonier Township met in regular session at 4:30 PM. Present were Chair, Dan Resenic; Vice Chair, John Beaufort; Secretary/Treasurer, Stephanie Verna; and Supervisor, Erik Ross. Absent was Supervisor D. Scott Matson.

Also present were Solicitor, Dan Hudock; Engineer Ben Faas; Public Works Director, Russ Morgan; Zoning Officer, Jim Nieusma, and Finance Officer, Bethany Caldwell.

Comments from the Public (*Agenda Items*)

1. Susan Crouse, from the Laurel Mountain Borough council inquired about the status of the inter-governmental agreements. These need to be in place before staff can apply for grant funding as a multi-municipal grant applicant (private water lines replacement).

Mr. Hudock gave an update – he has been in touch with Curt Fontaine at MAWC and is going to talk to the Laurel Mountain Borough and Ligonier Borough solicitors and is drafting the agreement.

2. Jennifer Shultz, purchased property off of Two Mile Run and is applying for a driveway permit with PennDOT. She requested a speed-limit study as the line of sight distances are insufficient for the current speed posted (45 mph). They are building near the intersection of Slater Road.

Supervisor Ross advised Mrs. Shultz to work with Rep. Rossi office since Two Mile Run is a state road.

Correspondence

1. Letter from the Lincoln Highway Heritage Corridor, RE: support for the Friends of Ligonier Beach (501c3) Ligonier Beach Park concept
2. Email from PA One Call, RE: 2021 refund
3. PennDOT notice of DEP water obstruction permit application

Engineers Report – see attached

There was a discussion about scheduling Public Works to complete the Ligonier Beach DCNR Phase II site prep work (shallow, simple excavation and placement of materials – stone, concrete forms) as part of the township's grant match (50/50). The remaining funds can be spent on materials and bidding out the finishing of the concrete work, as this is a small grant.

Supervisor Resenic asked Mr. Morgan if he had any concerns doing this work in-house? No. How long will this project take? Approximately 2 weeks. What kind of access is this? A long gentle ramp that is ADA compliant.

Mr. Faas reported he met with the Public Works committee on March 18 to discuss the 2022 road projects that were awarded to Russell Standards. The scope was reduced so that funds could be reallocated to cross pipe repair and more extensive base repairs (to be completed in-house).

The Dollar General application is on its second round of comments and is up for discussion at the next Planning Commission meeting. Supervisor Verna asked for a summary of their variance requests. Mr. Faas said there are two modification requests: 1) they cannot meet the requirement for parking lot internal landscaped / curbed islands due to the delivery trucks turning radiuses and 2) they are requesting allowance that their loading zone be in the front, however, they are not asking to put a loading dock in the front. (The delivery trucks have a ramp and they use dollies to unload.)

Supervisor Resenic commented on their sewage application and Mr. Faas deferred to the Sewage Enforcement Officer.

Supervisor Beaufort asked about the site elevation and Mr. Faas said that is an outstanding item as they have asked Dollar General for clarification how it was calculated.

Solicitor's Report

Mr. Hudock will be at the Planning Commission meeting on Thursday – anticipates the Dollar General will have full application, including comments that address concerns and requests for the two variants and at this time the Planning Commission can take action and send it to the Board.

Supervisor Resenic asked about Wilpen code complaint – there are no new updates since the last meeting.

Staff Reports

Mr. Nieuwma stated he sent out several letters, including two homes on old Route 30. One home owner responded he just acquired the property and is planning on renovating, the other is pending and still has time to respond. The Beard property on Cherokee has shown improvement: removed several vehicles, the piles of debris have been stacked, so action is on hold for 30 days. Mrs. William's has re-boarded her building (across the street from Road Toad). She alleges the neighbors are tearing off boards, storing cars on her property and burning trash. The next step is to issue a citation to these neighbors. The house on Darlington Road has been cleaned up. The house on Shangri-La has been demolished, the complainant is satisfied.

Supervisor Resenic asked about the oil tanks? A citation was issued by the magistrate but was returned (bad address). Research turned up another address and it will be resent.

Supervisor Resenic directed staff to contact the Ghetto family about their neighbor. Mr. Nieuwsma reported he talked to Barth Ghetto today when he came in for a permit.

The Recreation Board is requesting approval to expand the Community Garden by 10-12 beds.

The SEO Officer has reviewed and signed the Dollar General's planning module, asking the Board to approve it, so that it can move forward to the County and the DEP for their review.

- A motion was made by John Beaufort and seconded by Erik Ross to approve the Dollar General sewage planning module, so that it can move forward in its review process. Motion carried.
- A motion was made by Erik Ross and seconded by Stephanie Verna to send Mr. Nieuwsma as the Township's representative to the annual Chamber of Commerce award dinner on April 26 at the Fort, at a cost of \$75. Motion carried.

There was a lengthy discussion about the possibility of submitting a DCNR grant application to seek funds for a Ligonier Beach pool feasibility study. What components should be included in the feasibility study? What are the obligations? How do we comply? Need a minimum set of standards and specs for a swimming pool – define what is being studied (e.g. filter media removal & disposal, plumbing pressure/flow tests, well investigation and pump tests, etc.). How much money is left in the project fund that is not already committed? Approximately \$50k. Supervisor Verna stated part of the feasibility study should be whether or not a pool can generate enough revenue to offset expenses. Supervisor Beaufort said these projects take a long time and noted Peters Township was awarded a \$2M grant for a pool they've worked on for 20+ years! Supervisor Resenic said residents have asked for a feasibility study. He directed the Rec Board to move forward with a master site plan that does not include the pool, but this does not mean that the FOLB cannot move forward with their own plans that include a pool. The Board decided to schedule a workshop to continue the Feasibility Study discussion.

Treasurer's Report

Supervisor Verna reported the account balances as of March 22, 2022:

General Fund	\$	211,066
General Fund Reserves		683,446
Liquid Fuels Tax Fund		376,211
Capital Fund Reserves		40,067
Ligonier Beach Park		116,502
American Rescue Fund		5,490

Developer's Fund*	51,257
Escrow	3,500
Mill Creek Memorial Park	1,209
Charlotte Hi Acre Waterline	46,548
Total Funds:	\$ 1,483,979

*denotes funds are restricted

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

Public Works Committee Update

Supervisor Ross provided an update – to date the Township has not received any bids on the zipper, may consider using a broker. Reviewed tree trimming options, including quotes that were gathered last summer. Recommended some trimming be done by the crew using the high-lift and safety harnesses.

This year's lowest bidder for the road work was Russell Standards (\$1.46 unit price) and is chip-seal only (no fiber matting). They recommend cutting the road work contract scope back to \$217k and reallocating funds so that the Public Works crew can do more extensive road base repairs and replace 29 cross pipes.

- A motion was made by Stephanie Verna and seconded by John Beaufort to award the road chip-seal contract to Russell Standards, with costs not to exceed \$217,000. Motion carried.
- A motion was made by Erik Ross and seconded by John Beaufort to approve the Rec Board's request to expand the community gardens. Motion carried.

Health Insurance

Staff continue to work on quotes for the benefits package provided to the full-time staff at the Municipal Authority, Township and Police Department. There may be a significant savings to change carriers for the Police, but quotes are still being reviewed to ensure this would not negatively impact the other departments. The Board was notified of the potential need to schedule and advertise 24 hours in advance for a special meeting if the Township plans to change carriers.

National Night Out

Chief Berger announced there will be a National Night Out event on August 2, from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. in Municipal Lot A. Plan is to get a permit to close off Fairfield, Church Street, Bank Alley, and a section of N. Market Street so that they can do a rescue demonstration. He has been working Borough Council Members Mariah Fisher and Jordan Frei. They are coordinating with other organizations – they notified the Chamber in the event business want to stay open later. They are going to meet with the United

Fire Company, maybe get a character from Idlewild to attend, they're inviting the boyscout troops, the game commission, and Rep. Rossi. He is looking for ideas / ways the Township can participate. The ladder truck was a big hit last year, Kilo will do a demo, bringing back the dunk booth and the tug-of-war game between the police and fire departments. Supervisor Verna suggested the township sponsor an event aimed at kids (popcorn, snow cones) provided it doesn't interfere with anything Mariah has planned. Supervisor Resenic asked staff to get a rental price for an inflatable jump house.

Executive Session

The Supervisors went into executive session at 6:10 p.m. and returned at 6:18 p.m. Supervisor Resenic certified compliance with the Pennsylvania Sunshine Laws as the discussion pertained to personnel matters.

- A motion was made by Erik Ross and seconded by John Beaufort to adjourn the meeting at 6:18 p.m. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Bethany Caldwell
Assistant Secretary/Treasurer