

**Ligonier Township Supervisors**  
**Regular Meeting Minutes**  
*May 10, 2022*

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

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

**Comments from the Public**

1. Jim Stewart – encouraged the Board to read the letter from the Loyalhanna Watershed (on the agenda under correspondence) aloud to the audience. The Dollar General’s attractive nuisance is a safety hazard. Their proposed location is unfortunately near a section of passing lane on 271 and speed is problematic. He’s had several near misses and his neighbor was t-boned turning into his driveway. He submitted a complaint to PennDOT, it was closed out. PennDOT stated the matter was confidential in nature and directed him to get in touch with his local officials. How can this be when Route 271 is a state road funded by the public tax payers?

- A motion was made by Stephanie Verna and seconded by Erik Ross to approve the minutes from the April 26, 2022 meeting. Motion carried.

**Correspondence**

1. A letter from the Loyalhanna Watershed Association, RE: Dollar General was read aloud and provided to the news reporter.
2. An email from Jim Stewart, RE: ~~Ligonier Beach~~ (clarification edit, the email was regarding the Dollar General)
3. Letter from Gibson Thomsas, RE: NPDES permit renewal for Darlington Sewage Treatment Plant. Supervisor Resenic asked Mr. Faas about the NPDES permit process and if he was aware of any problems. Mr. Faas clarified this is routine procedure and there are not any problems.

**Police Report**

Chief Berger went over his monthly report (attached).

**Engineers Report**

Mr. Faas went over his monthly report (attached).

Mr. Faas reviewed three bridge inspection reports submitted by Tri-State Design & Development Inc. for Mill Creek Road, McKelvey Road, and Clifford Woods Road bridges. The bridges are rated on a 0-5 scale with zero being urgent/critical and five

being routine maintenance. McKelvey Road Bridge was rated four and was the highest priority in terms of work to be scheduled (cleaning). Mill Creek Road Bridge, one of the newer bridges needs masonry repointing and guide rail replacement (out of code). Structurally there is nothing wrong with them. There was a discussion about past practices - pressure washing in the spring but that has been prohibited due to environmental concerns.

### **Solicitor's Report**

Mr. Hudock informed the board tax exemptions were granted by the county for the two parcels that were gifted to the township. (51-11-00-0-106 and 51-11-07-0-019).

Mr. Hudock announced an amendment to tonight's agenda – there are four subdivisions the Planning Commission recently reviewed and recommended for board approval:

Watkins subdivision  
Alexander Dick subdivision  
David Piper subdivision  
Kale Partners subdivision

- A motion was made by Stephanie Verna and seconded by John Beaufort to amend the meeting's agenda, adding the Watkins subdivisions to be considered for approval by the Board this evening. Motion carried.

Richard Cross presented on behalf of the Watkins family. Previous survey indicated the property line ran through the store building. The lot line is being moved over taking from the residential parcel and adding to the commercial parcel. There is a shared septic tank; attorney has drawn up an agreement that the owners will share the costs of the septic system. Supervisor Beaufort asked about the commercial property owner installing a holding tank; Mr. Cross thought they were no longer an option.

- A motion was made by Stephanie Verna and seconded by Scott Matson to approve the Watkins subdivision. Motion carried.

Supervisor Beaufort asked for copy of the shared septic agreement for the Township's files.

### **Staff Reports**

April's Finance report was presented. It was noted that one of the CDs matured and how the reserves are invested would be one of the first items for the new manager to review.

## Treasurer's Report

<b>Account Balances as of</b>	<b>05/10/22</b>
General Fund	\$ 281,215
General Fund Reserves	\$ 682,871
Liquid Fuels Tax Fund	\$ 330,911
Capital Fund Reserves	\$ 40,067
Ligonier Beach Park Fund	\$ 105,098
American Rescue Fund	\$ 5,490
Developer's Fund*	\$ 51,257
*Escrow	\$ 3,500
*Mill Creek Memorial Park	\$ 1,209
*Hi Acres Waterline Replacement	\$ 46,548
<b>Total Funds</b>	<b>\$ 1,496,909</b>
<b>Payroll Expense</b>	<b>05/05/22</b>
Administrative	\$ 5,818
Public Works	\$ 11,246
Elected	\$ 462
Employer Tax	\$ 1,320
Deductions	\$ (580)
Payroll Billing	\$ 140
<b>Total Payroll Fund</b>	<b>\$ 18,406</b>

\*denotes funds are restricted

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

### Old Business

The asphalt zipper auction ended Monday, May 9 at 3:30 p.m. The equipment was listed at \$90k, with a \$130k reserve. The page was viewed 1,501 times and there were 7 watchers. Staff reached out to the company about the possibility of reselling, however they will only sell "new" equipment. Mr. Morgan was directed to research other sales options, inquire with Latrobe and Derry to gauge interest.

### New Business

- A motion was made by Scott Matson and seconded by Stephanie Verna to appoint Michael Strelic as the township's manager at a salary of \$85,000 plus benefits starting May 31, 2022. Motion carried.

Mr. Strelic thanked the board and looked forward to working for the township.

- A motion was made by Scott Matson and seconded by Erik Ross approve the Dollar General building proposal with two modifications and three conditions to

include: 1) that they enter a developer's agreement with the township, 2) obtain a highway occupancy permit (HOP) from PennDOT, and 3) obtain an NPDES permit from DEP. Motion carried.

Supervisor Verna asked about the items mentioned in The EADS report

Supervisor Beaufort asked to see the drawings. Does the building touch the wetlands? No. He asked about the landscaping. What about the stormwater runoff? The plan's details were discussed, how the runoff would be caught and moved with drainage pipes. The neighbors have agreed and signed off. The improvements being made should help with the area's drainage.

- A motion was made by John Beaufort and seconded by Scott Matson to execute the applicant's authorization for agent to apply for highway occupancy permit (Form MS-950AA). Motion carried.
- There was a motion made by John Beaufort and seconded by Stephanie Verna to approve the 2022-23 Winter Municipal Snow Agreement with PennDOT. Motion carried, 4:1 with Scott Matson voting against.

There was a discussion if the agreement amount was enough to cover the costs incurred to maintain these roads.

Last Friday, Mr. Morgan received a text message from Public Works employee Tom Bernosky that he was resigning. The board directed Mr. Morgan to reach out Mr. Bernosky and request that he give notice in writing that he intended to quit.

There have been several discussions about the police department having their own facility. There is a preliminary design of an add-on building to house them. Clarified this was police only as plan is to keep these costs separate. Future issues with the Township Municipal Building will be addressed secondly. This plan addresses several issues – confidentiality, holding cell, evidence storage. Letting the public know we are moving forward and would like to discuss this further at the next meeting.

There was a discussion about the Township's relationship with its Fire Departments. Supervisor Resenic is spearheading a junior fire fighters club at the high school, there are significant educational benefits. Reaching out to the Latrobe School District to learn about their program.

Would like to utilize our newsletter to advertise news. Would like to have a Township radio to get a hold of them in severe weather, pricing. Each department gets \$10k and fuel, they try to supplement with gun bashes, bingos, fish fries and it is the same people hosting all these events. What can the township do to help keep them afloat?

Asked to share their department contact info on the website, facebook, promote their events.

### **Comments from the Public**

Melissa Eller – encouraged the Township to find innovative ways to recruit youth into the volunteer fire departments because the target audience is not looking at the township website. There are benefits for the junior fire fighters - discounts or free tuition at WCCC, graduate with a firefighter certificate can start work immediately. Get info together for First Night Out.

### **Comments from the Supervisors**

Supervisor Verna – Asked for CDBG update at the next meeting. Also reminded there are other ways to volunteer at the fire departments besides actually responding to calls: administrative, fundraising, etc. Appreciate the staff's efforts during the manager's position vacancy and looking forward to Michael joining the team.

Chief Berger asked about insurance to rent a bounce house and the Board confirmed the Township will secure a one-day event insurance policy.

- A motion was made by Stephanie Verna and seconded by Erik Ross to adjourn the meeting at 8:06 p.m. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Bethany Caldwell  
Assistant Secretary/Treasurer

Ligonier Township, Westmoreland County, PA  
Bill Payments for All Vendors  
May 10, 2022

Vendor	Type	Num	Amount
<b>May 10, 22</b>			
AA Septic Tank Service	Bill Pmt -Check	24893	250.00
AFLAC	Bill Pmt -Check	24894	102.92
Apex Companies LLC	Bill Pmt -Check	24895	550.00
Aqua Filter Fresh	Bill Pmt -Check	24896	33.85
Comcast	Bill Pmt -Check	24897	194.89
Credit Card Dept-First Commonwealth Bank	Bill Pmt -Check	24898	508.05
Daniel C. Hudock Attorney at Law	Bill Pmt -Check	24899	2,637.50
Fayette Parts Service, Inc.	Bill Pmt -Check	24900	110.67
Glassmere Fuel Service	Bill Pmt -Check	24901	6,089.03
Guardian Protection Services	Bill Pmt -Check	24902	255.00
James Nieusma	Bill Pmt -Check	24903	40.81
JSB Holding, Inc.	Bill Pmt -Check	24904	394.15
Laurel Valley Hardware Inc.	Bill Pmt -Check	24905	44.00
Ligonier Giant Eagle	Bill Pmt -Check	24906	74.88
Ligonier Valley Police Department	Bill Pmt -Check	24907	47.26
LVTech	Bill Pmt -Check	24908	1,535.00
Pleasant Unity Supply	Bill Pmt -Check	24909	11,582.40
Sable Kennels	Bill Pmt -Check	24910	150.00
SWIF	Bill Pmt -Check	24911	2,112.00
The EADS Group	Bill Pmt -Check	24912	2,695.77
The Latrobe Bulletin	Bill Pmt -Check	24913	435.90
Total Service, Inc.	Bill Pmt -Check	24914	177.99
Tricia Levander	Bill Pmt -Check	24915	700.00
UAW LOCAL 204	Bill Pmt -Check	24916	316.14
UniFirst Corporation	Bill Pmt -Check	24917	176.72
Washington National Insurance Company	Bill Pmt -Check	24918	268.14
West Penn Power	Bill Pmt -Check	24919	196.07
Western Pennsylvania Teamsters and Employ	Bill Pmt -Check	24920	10,111.44
<b>May 10, 22</b>			<b>41,790.58</b>

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5-10-22