

Ligonier Township Supervisors
Regular Meeting Minutes
August 9, 2022

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

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

1. Bob McDowell (resident), said he went to the library and looked up Ligonier Echo articles regarding the Coal Loaders request to close Myers School Road. The first request was June 2019 for 6 months. The road has been closed for 3 years, now they're asking for a total of 5 years. There are alternative routes. There was a traffic study indicating vehicles use the road. It's an inconvenience.
2. Pat Caffrey (resident), asked about the California / Armour Avenue private waterline replacement project. MAWC estimated the job 7 years ago and it has gone to the County and asked there is a \$52M pandemic money, the price has increased \$60k. Galvanized line – how can he light a fire under MAWC and / or the County. MAWC built a new HQ, a new facility, the new estimate is \$190k. Captive audience that can't go anywhere else for water, rate payers pay full tariff. Would like to know what is going on and if the Board has any suggestions. The Board did suggest that Mr. Caffrey
3. Patty Ostroksy (resident), commented on the Darlington-Rector Road bridge project. It is often closed due to heavy rain runoff (floodplain). The road should be raised and a larger storm pipe should be installed. Concerned about the temporary bridge that was installed for construction – worried about fully loaded fire trucks crossing over the bridge. There is poor signage. She knows it is a state road, but pointed out the Board has a responsibility to protect the safety and welfare of its residents.
4. Aaron Menser – Is not in support of the Myers School Road closure, there is no reason they cannot tar and chip the road now and use a flagger if need be.

Comments from the Supervisors

Supervisor Matson – No comment

Supervisor Beaufort – Commented on Darlington-Rector Road, they've been working on the road for years. In the past it couldn't get it done to the "trout stream," Rep. Rossi has been involved, but communication and coordination could be much better.

Supervisor Ross – Echoed Supervisor Beaufort's comments about the environmental hold up. Said Rep. Rossi's staff did notify the VFD.

Supervisor Verna – No comment

Supervisor Resenic – Myers School Road has been a problem for him, feels the Township is being taken advantage of – while they have offered to fix up a side of the road, he feels they have abused our generosity. It is time to open the road or pay a significant amount of money to benefit the township.

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

Correspondence

1. Fort Days, Inc. requesting permission to post event signs – request will be granted, the Township does not charge non-profits sign permit fees.
2. Fort Days, Inc. requesting permission to set up detours during the event, Mr. Strelac seeking clarity on the routes being requested
3. Rebecca Wisner letter, regarding Supervisors
4. Court of Common Pleas, served notice of a lawsuit that will clear liens on 217 Trestle Ln. – will clear title
5. Mason Reed, sent a letter requesting Swank Rd. be chip-sealed if time and budget allows

Supervisor Resenic asked Chief Berger to have an officer ensure the Fort Days signs are not put in the line of sight.

Manager Report

Mr. Strelac gave a report on the following:

Public Works – Chip-sealing is scheduled to begin August 12 weather permitting (no rain) The department has been busy prepping these roads, laying 70 tons of asphalt. They are down 2 guys and this task usually requires 4-5 guys.

Planning Commission – made 2 motions at their last meeting, 1) suggest the Township issue a moratorium on new billboards and 2) offered their support the 2023 CDBG application to continue replacing a section of waterline serving Deeds Road. Two subdivisions were dropped off for their next meeting and there are 1-2 in the pipeline.

Zoning activities continue, to give a sense of the volume Mr. Strelac issued in one day: one demolition permit, building permits for picnic building and a porch, a driveway permit, 4 lien letters, 2 phone calls deck extension and barn, 911 address permit.

Code Enforcement activities are on hold; one complaint came in regarding a port-a-potty in a residential neighborhood and surprisingly this is not a violation of our ordinances.

Community Development – National Night Out was a success.

Parks & Rec – Mill Creek Memorial Park concrete was poured and looks nice, received a letter from a resident that is planning to hold a 5k in the Township January 1, 2023. There was a lot of discussion about the Ligonier Beach planning and Rec Board member expressed their displeasure at being excluded from the process.

Engineer Report

Mr. Faas clarified the township should have received a notice that a permit application was in process when it was submitted to replace the culvert at the Darlington Road bridge.

Solicitor Report

Mr. Hudock deferred his report to later in the agenda.

Ligonier Valley Police Department Report

A couple hundred participants. Thanked Bob & Linda, the auxiliary club. Department has been hit hard by Covid, Mutual Aid was out and used the fogger in the building and the vehicles.

Finance Report

July's budget report was presented.

Treasurer Report

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

Old Business

There was no old business.

New Business

- A motion was made by Erik Ross and seconded by Scott Matson to amend a motion made at the March 22, 2022 meeting that awarded a chip-seal contract to Russell Standards at an amount not to exceed \$217,000; the revised amount not be exceeded is \$228,000. Motion carried.
- A motion was made by Erik Ross and seconded by Stephanie Verna approving Michael Strelic as a Pennsylvania Municipal League voting delegate. Motion carried

A Resolution was presented to formalize the Township's position – to take it to Coal Loaders to sign an agreement. Mr. Resenic would like to reopen the road, does not want to keep it closed unless Coal Loaders is willing to pay \$5k starting September 1.

Mr. McDowell said there might be a 10-ton weight limit.

Mr. Ross – sufficient amount of time. The road is bonded. In favor of reopening the road unless Coal Loaders will compensate the township. (Michael to check on the bond amount.)

Supervisor Verna stated we can tactfully negotiate to get additional repairs or move forward and reopen the road and risk losing the (additional) repairs. (Verbal agreement only.)

- A motion was made by Stephanie Verna and seconded by John Beaufort authorizing the township solicitor to take the proposed agreement to Coal Loaders; agreement request they reopen Myers Road with conditions previously outlined. Motion carried.

Mr. Strelic notified the Board the recommendation to issue a moratorium on billboards is illegal, we may incur costs trying to defend it in court, alternatively, no one may challenge.

Linda McDowell (Zoning Hearing Board) said that they did not want to approve the request, but felt they had to, asked Mr. Gongawere to contact the Board and outline their concerns.

Supervisor Verna asked Mr. Hudock for his legal opinion.

- A motion was made by and seconded by authorizing a six-month moratorium on all advertising signs in all zoning districts. Motion carried.

Executive Session

The Supervisors went into executive session at 8:01 PM and resumed regular meeting at 8:40 p.m. and certified compliance with the Pennsylvania Sunshine Laws as the discussions pertained to personnel matters.

- A motion was made by Erik Ross and seconded by Scott Matson authorizing the manager to extend job offers to Cody Wainwright and Zachery Yesho at a rate \$19.10 per hour as Public Works Operators. Motion carried.

The Public Works Director discussion and the UAW Local 204 MOU for the purpose of changing pay rates was tabled. It was noted the Public Works UAW contract discussion will begin soon.

Comments from the Public

There were no comments from the public.

Comments from the Supervisors

Supervisor Matson – Thanked staff and looking forward to the future. Asked for clarification on when the township does and does not have to get roads bonded; for example, when trees are being logged they need a bond, but is building a new housing

development is exempt? This can be a condition of the Developer's Agreement. There are exclusions. Mr. Strelac to research this topic.

Supervisor Beaufort – Please donate to the fire companies. There was a report of fire calls, 15 of the 20 calls were for alarms. Would like staff to administer fine letters (passed by ordinance) – in the crimes code. Staff to check the ordinance, develop a process. Risking the lives of the volunteers. Creates a “false alarm” mentality and one time there will be a real alarm.

Supervisor Verna – Requested Mr. Strelac to work with group leader on the logging in and out of heavy equipment and use and tools, review the policy, effective next Monday. National Night Out – volunteer fire department, game commission, ambulance, police – lots of family, fortunate to live in a good community. Recognized the Borough and their staff, especially Mariah Fisher that put in a lot of work. Looking forward to it next year.

Supervisor Ross – Would like to see Myers School Road resolved sooner rather than later.

Supervisor Resenic – Thanked staff, glad to hear National Night Out was a success.

- A motion was made by Stephanie Verna and seconded by Erik Ross to adjourn the meeting at 8:55 p.m. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Bethany Caldwell
Assistant Secretary/Treasurer

Ligonier Township, Westmoreland County, PA

Bill Payments for All Vendors

August 5 - 9, 2022

Vendor	Type	Num	Date	Amount
Aug 5 - 9, 22				
Total Service, Inc.	Bill Pmt -Check	ACH	08/05/2022	178.98
AA Septic Tank Service	Bill Pmt -Check	25060	08/09/2022	187.50
Comcast	Bill Pmt -Check	25061	08/09/2022	194.89
Credit Card Dept-First Commonwealth Bank	Bill Pmt -Check	25062	08/09/2022	341.83
Dillon McCandless King Coulter & Graham	Bill Pmt -Check	25063	08/09/2022	1,182.50
Fayette Parts Service, Inc.	Bill Pmt -Check	25064	08/09/2022	123.76
Glassmere Fuel Service	Bill Pmt -Check	25065	08/09/2022	3,005.51
JSB Holding, Inc.	Bill Pmt -Check	25066	08/09/2022	402.00
Lehigh Hanson Heidelberg Cement Group	Bill Pmt -Check	25067	08/09/2022	1,409.65
Ligonier Giant Eagle	Bill Pmt -Check	25068	08/09/2022	29.90
LVTech	Bill Pmt -Check	25069	08/09/2022	1,605.00
Pennsylvania Municipal Service Co.	Bill Pmt -Check	25070	08/09/2022	46.62
The EADS Group	Bill Pmt -Check	25071	08/09/2022	553.40
Tricia Levander	Bill Pmt -Check	25072	08/09/2022	700.00
UAW LOCAL 204	Bill Pmt -Check	25073	08/09/2022	275.59
UniFirst Corporation	Bill Pmt -Check	25074	08/09/2022	165.84
Valley Landscaping & Lawn Care	Bill Pmt -Check	25075	08/09/2022	616.00
Washington National Insurance Company	Bill Pmt -Check	25076	08/09/2022	126.74
West Penn Power	Bill Pmt -Check	25077	08/09/2022	181.50
Western Pennsylvania Teamsters and Employ	Bill Pmt -Check	25078	08/09/2022	11,753.11
Wex Bank-Sunoco Universal	Bill Pmt -Check	25079	08/09/2022	50.00
Daniel C. Hudock Attorney at Law	Bill Pmt -Check	25080	08/09/2022	3,800.00
Aug 5 - 9, 22				26,930.32

OK
Saw
8-9-22

Ligonier Beach Property Project
Bill Payments for All Vendors
August 9, 2022

<u>Vendor</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Num</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Aug 9, 22 The EADS Group	Bill Pmt -Check	1015	08/09/2022	184.50
Aug 9, 22				<u>184.50</u>

OK
SA
8-9-22