

**Ligonier Township Supervisors
Regular Meeting Minutes
August 23, 2022**

The Supervisors of Ligonier Township met in regular session at 4:30 p.m. Present were Chair, Dan Resenic; Vice Chair, John Beaufort; Supervisor, D. Scott Matson; and Supervisor, Erik Ross.

Also present were Manager, Michael Strelac; Solicitor, Dan Hudock; Engineer Ben Faas; and Finance Officer, Bethany Caldwell.

Comments from the Public

1. Trevor Seiling (a resident of Oakwood Hills) began by recognizing the new Zoning / Code Enforcement Officer Scott Hogan. He explained that Mr. Hogan hit the ground running. The former Zoning / Code Enforcement Officer asked Comcast to remove a port-a-potty they had installed in his residential neighborhood. It was removed but now it's back. Comcast's building has bright lights installed, the HVAC system is so loud, it's heard through his double-pane windows, there is 10-foot fence with razor wire around the property - he has small kids and this is a nuisance. He cited paragraph 73 section 64 from the PA State code. It appears Comcast is not following processes (getting approval from the local authorities) and there are environmental concerns. He asked the Board to take action.

Comments from the Supervisors

Supervisor Matson – no comment

Supervisor Beaufort – no comment

Supervisor Verna – no comment

Supervisor Ross – no comment

Supervisor Resenic – Asked Mr. Seiling if he was satisfied with Mr. Hogan's service? Absolutely! Thinks Mr. Hogan will be an asset for the Township.

- A motion was made by Stephanie Verna and seconded by Erik Ross to approve the minutes from the August 9, 2022 meeting. Motion carried.
- A motion was made by Erik Ross and seconded by John Beaufort to approve the minutes from the August 17, 2022 special meeting. Motion carried with Supervisor Verna abstaining as she did not attend this meeting.

Correspondence

1. Notice from Campbell Oil & Gas, re-permitting gas well in Blairsville – it was noted the well's location is in Derry Township.

Manager Report

Mr. Strelic reported staff is happy to have a new Zoning / Code Enforcement Officer on board. The township's chip-seal road work was completed this past Saturday. The Public Works department now has a seven man crew and the ability to run different teams – i.e., one team sweeping up the loose gravel from the chip-sealed roads, another team responding to trees down on the roads, and another team working on the Claycomb Road project. The new Public Works Director / Equipment Operator position has been posted and we're receiving applications.

Supervisor Resenic asked about the status of the two sweepers – both are working, but only one of the two is suited for cleaning up the chip-sealed roads. There was a discussion about possible reuses for the reclaimed chips – residential requests, fill for LTMA projects?

Engineer Report

Mr. Faas deferred his report until the "Old Business" section of the agenda.

Solicitor Report

Mr. Hudock deferred his report too.

Treasurer Report

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

Old Business

Mr. Hudock reported that he met with representatives from Coal Loaders last Wednesday on-site along with Mr. Strelic and Mr. Faas. Coal Loaders requested Myers School Road closure continue until the fall of 2024 - they are still committed to fixing up the road as previously specified and would agree to a penalty being imposed if they did not reopen the road by the new deadline. They did not agree to pay a fee to keep the road closed; they would rather reopen it and work around traffic. At this point there are two options – reopen it now or finalize the agreement to keep it closed.

Mr. Matson was in favor of keeping it closed due to its current condition, winter is coming and it will be difficult to plow.

Mr. Beaufort asked about liability – is there a way we can we keep the big trucks off it? Mr. Faas explained that we'd need to redo the bonds and that process would involve studying the road and developing new estimates of what it would take to make the necessary repairs.

Mr. Resenic said he was not pleased with how things have transpired and asked if this was unusual – to be in a situation where these issues were not resolved at the onset of closing the road.

- A motion was made by Dan Resenic to deny Coal Loaders request to extend the road closure, and instead give them notice to get the road ready to be reopened in 60 days. Motion died, due to lack of second.
- A motion was made by Dan Resenic and seconded by Scott Matson to keep the road closed 2 years per Coal Loaders request, while finalizing the proposed agreement with terms that include road restoration, re-estimating the bonds and paying a penalty if the road is not reopened by the new final deadline. Roll call vote: Supervisors Matson, Beaufort and Verna voted yes; Supervisors Resenic and Ross voted no. Motion carried 3:2.

Mr. Ross said timing was his issue, two years is too long.

New Business

- A motion was made by Erik Ross and seconded by Scott Matson to transfer the township's dog kennel contract to the Ligonier Valley Police Department and share the costs with the Borough. Motion carried.

Conditional approval for January 1 “set the year on fire 5k”

Supervisor Verna asked for clarification on who is clearing the trail and how, as well as who will provide traffic control around Peoples Road. She stated that she does not want to prevent anyone from organizing an event during a time of the year when not much else is going on. The board directed staff to get more information from the event's coordinator before they make a motion.

- A motion was made by Stephanie Verna and seconded by Erik Ross to approve an amendment of R-22-01 Fee Schedule that includes a \$20/hour fee charged for the board room rentals. Motion carried.

The Board clarified that room rental to occur during normal business hours when staff are present and renters should not book the room during regular township meeting dates/times.

- A motion was made by Erik Ross and seconded by Stephanie Verna to advertise the Township's potential change to the public nuisance ordinance that would include a section on port-a-johns. Motion carried.

Supervisor Resenic asked for clarification that this wouldn't impact residents renting a port-a-john for family events, single day use, etc. That was not the intent of this amendment – this change is to prevent longer term usage, with the prohibition becoming effective after one month.

Comments from the Public

There were no other comments from the public.

Comments from the Supervisors

Supervisor Matson – Asked about the process of implementing weight limits on Township roads. Mr. Faas said a study needs to be conducted first.

Supervisor Beaufort – no comment

Supervisor Verna – Asked staff to give an update at the next meeting regarding the sale of the Zipper and an update on the equipment logs. She suggested staff focus on the five most expensive pieces of equipment and develop some process of checking them in / out. This is needed especially in the absence of leadership. Her second comment was about the LVPD filing a petition establishing the regionalized department was recognized by the PD union. The petition has been received, now the Township needs to send a letter back consenting with the FOP – the consent letter will expedite the process. She does not think the Board needs to take any official action, just asking the Chairman to sign the letter.

Supervisor Ross – Would like to see the Coal Loaders / Myers School Road issue resolved sooner rather than later. Mr. Hudock said he hopes to bring an agreement to the next meeting to be executed.

Supervisor Resenic – Asked if any of the Public Works crew members stepped forward to be the group leader – No. He then asked about Mr. Strelic's vacation and if the board wanted Mr. Hogan to be the point of contact during his absence? Mr. Hogan will be the point of contact for public works related issues and he can work with Mrs. Caldwell on other administrative issues. None of the Supervisors are to intervene individually. Would like Mr. Strelic to prepare a schedule for the crew before he leaves. He also asked Supervisor Verna about the Public Works Director / Equipment Operator interview process. Supervisor Verna would like staff to conduct an initial screening – why are they interested in the job, what are their salary expectations, how soon can they start and from there create a list of candidates to be interviewed.

- A motion was made by Stephanie Verna and seconded by Erik Ross to adjourn the meeting at 5:18 p.m. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Bethany Caldwell
Assistant Secretary/Treasurer