

Ligonier Township Supervisors
Regular Meeting Minutes
September 13, 2022

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

Also present were Manager, Michael Strelac; Solicitor, Dan Hudock; Engineer Jake Bolby; Assistant Chief of Police Michael Matrunics, Zoning / Code Enforcement Officer, Scott Hogan; and Finance Officer, Bethany Caldwell.

Comments from the Public

1. Judy Ridgeway (Vice-chair of the Rec Board), noted that Rec Board was listed on tonight's agenda and asked the Supervisors to consider advertising the vacancies.

- A motion was made by Erik Ross and seconded by Scott Matson to approve the minutes from the August 23, 2022 meeting. Motion carried.

Comments from the Supervisors

Supervisor Matson – no comment

Supervisor Beaufort – no comment

Supervisor Ross – Congratulated the Darlington VFD, for taking the lead on a FEMA grant application that was awarded \$792k to purchase new 800mhz mobile radios. This regional project will benefit our County 911 center and 8 other companies: the Waterford and Wilpen VFDs as well as Chestnut Ridge, Bolivar Borough, Derry Borough, New Alexandria Borough, and Slickville (Salem Township) fire departments.

Supervisor Resenic – no comment

Correspondence

1. PennDOT's notice that Peters Road bridge is included in their Districtwide Local Bridge Preservation activities
2. Conservation District notice their Dirt, Gravel & Low Volume Roads grant program is opening
3. Larry Shew's letter of resignation (Rec Board)
4. Kenneth Vallino email of interest in the Rec Board vacancy
5. Jessica Golden letter of interest in the Rec Board vacancy
*Mr. Strelac noted a third letter of interest was received from Janell Emery after the meeting agenda had been posted.
6. Notice from DEP, Coal Loaders request for permit expansion

Manager Report

Mr. Strelac reported that after being out of the office for two weeks, he appreciated the Public Works Crew staying busy despite not having a manager, director, or group leader to direct and coordinate activities. The crew is finishing up Claycomb Road. The admin staff had to close the municipal offices due to Covid last week.

Engineer Report

Mr. Bolby reported they are working on a new bond calculation for Meyers School Road and the Act 537 Plan.

Solicitor Report

Mr. Hudock said he is waiting on a few more items to send with the Meyers School Road closure agreement and should have a copy for execution at the next Board meeting. He has been in touch with the DEP's lawyer and they suggested holding a Zoom meeting Sept 22 between 1-3 PM with Township staff / board members, LTMA staff and engineers to discuss the appeal of the Act 537 Plan rejection.

Ligonier Valley Police Department Report

See attached report, Assistant Chief Matrunic added with school back in session, please be careful around the students and busses.

Staff Reports

Finance – Mrs. Caldwell reported the county recently conducted an audit of the CDBG grant (Trout Avenue waterline replacement). The asphalt zipper was relisted with an opening bid of \$70k – no bids were received and inquiry was made with Blacklick Equipment. Solicited Park & Rec lawn care quotes for the 2022-23 season, processed 14 lien letter requests and 2023 budget planning has begun.

Zoning / Code Enforcement – Mr. Hogan reported that 9 Zoning Permits, 2 Building Permits, and 4 Code Enforcement complaints were filed (and resolved) in August 2022. Of the 10 cases that were backlogged prior to his start date, 6 are now in compliance & closed and he is working on the 4 remaining. He has implemented a new procedure, cross-checking PA One-Calls to the township's zoning log ensuring requests have been permitted.

Treasurer's Report

The fund balances as of August 31, 2022:

Account Balances	August
General Fund	\$ 577,520
General Fund Reserves	\$ 681,651
Liquid Fuels Tax Fund	\$ 331,835
Capital Fund Reserves	\$ 71,682
Ligonier Beach Park Fund	\$ 104,913
American Rescue Fund	\$ 6,544
Developer's Fund*	\$ 72,357
*Escrow	\$ 5,000
*Mill Creek Memorial Park	\$ 18,309
*Hi Acres Waterline	\$ 49,048
Total Funds	\$1,846,503

*denotes funds are restricted

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

Old Business

Myers School Road – tabled until next meeting

There was a discussion on the Nuisance Ordinance amendment that was advertised for adoption last month. Mr. Strelic said while it is no longer an emergency, he advises closing this loophole as no one foresaw portable toilets being an issue in residential neighborhoods.

- A motion was made by Erik Ross and seconded by Scott Matson to amend and supplement the Nuisance Ordinance, adding a section on portable toilets. Motion carried.

There was a discussion about granting conditional approval for the “set the year on fire 5k” even to be held January 1, 2023. The Borough gave a conditional approval, pending Township’s approval.

- A motion was made by Erik Ross and seconded by John Beaufort to approve the January 1, 2023 “set the year of fire 5k,” event on the conditions that Mr. Banko secure an event insurance policy and a special event permit. Additionally, permission to plow the trail in the event it snows was *not* granted, due to the concern this would damage the trail. Motion carried.
- A motion was made by Erik Ross and seconded by John Beaufort to revise the 2022 Holiday Schedule, moving the Fort Ligonier Days holiday from Friday, October 7 to Friday, October 14. Motion carried.

New Business

- A motion was made by Erik Ross and seconded by Scott Matson to accept the McChesney Plan side lot addition. Motion carried.
- A motion was made by Erik Ross and seconded by Scott Matson to accept the Blaxter Plan consolidation and subdivision. Motion carried.
- A motion was made by Erik Ross and seconded by John Beaufort to amend Resolution 6 of 2022. Motion carried.

This resolution *amends* the township's appeal of the DEP's Act 537 Plan denial, in response to the DEP's *amended* Act 537 denial letter.

- A motion was made by Erik Ross and seconded by Scott Matson to amend Resolution 12 of 2019. Motion carried.

This resolution *again* accepts the township's Act 537 Plan, in response to the DEP's *amended* Act 537 denial letter.

- A motion was made by Erik Ross and seconded by John Beaufort approving the Manager's request to attend the Pennsylvania Municipal League's "Municipal Leadership Summit" training in Pittsburgh, October 6th to 9th. Motion carried.
- A motion was made by Erik Ross and seconded by John Beaufort approving the 2023 Minimum Municipal Obligation (MMO). Motion carried.
- A motion was made by Erik Ross and seconded by John Beaufort to apply for a 2023 Community Block Development Grant that would replace another section of the Deeds Road waterline (Phase II). Motion carried.
- A motion was made by Erik Ross and seconded by John Beaufort to apply for 2023 Dirt, Gravel, & Low Volume Roads grant. Motion carried.

There was a discussion about the Recreation Board; Bob Gangawere gave notice two weeks ago that he was retiring and last night Chairman Larry Shew announced his resignation. Supervisor Beaufort recalled the last time there was a vacancy the Township solicited letters of interest. Staff were directed to advertise the vacancies on the Township's website / facebook page. Rec Board members will review the responses and make recommendations to the Supervisors (October meeting).

Executive Session

The Supervisors went into executive session at 7:35 PM to discuss personnel matters and the regular meeting was resumed at 7:51 p.m.

- A motion was made by Erik Ross and seconded by John Beaufort appointing Russell Berkey as the Public Works Crew group leader, retroactively effective August 29, 2022. Motion passed, 3:1 with Supervisor Matson voting no.

Comments from the Public

Mrs. Ridgeway thanked the fire department volunteers for their assistance responding to the Tall Cedars fire last week. She also stated Mr. Gangawere had traveled extensively and shared a lot of ideas and knowledge during his time with Rec Board. She said that Mr. Shew will be sorely missed.

Comments from the Supervisors

Supervisor Matson – Asked for updates on both the Laughlintown private waterline serviced by MAWC and the Ligonier Beach project. There hasn't been much activity on either of these subjects. We have stored some millings at the Beach and are waiting to hear back from the County regarding the demo.

Supervisor Beaufort – Thanked Larry & Bob for their time serving on the Recreation Board.

Supervisor Ross – Announced Ligonier Valley Fire Companies mailed their annual fundraising letters. Please donate if you haven't already done so, it makes a difference as they rely on community support.

Supervisor Resenic – Commended Bob Gangawere and Larry Shew for their work on the Rec Board. Aquatic Facility's Brent Boyer is expected to deliver his Ligonier Beach analysis report in 2 weeks.

- A motion was made by Erik Ross and seconded by Scott Matson to adjourn the meeting at 8:02 p.m. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Bethany Caldwell
Assistant Secretary/Treasurer