

Ligonier Township Supervisors
Regular Meeting Minutes
November 14, 2023

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

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

Comments from the Public

1. Deb Messer – Commented on the township’s processes, transparency, and compliance with the right-to-know law and sunshine act.

Comments from the Supervisors

Supervisor Beaufort – Thanked folks for their votes, looks forward to serving for the next 6 years. Reported there were 65 calls among all 3 fire departments for the month of October; 5 structure fires, 6 vehicle fires, and a bad car accident in Wilpen this past Saturday. There have been 387 calls year-to-date, forecasting to pass 400 calls by the end of this year. That’s a lot of getting out of bed, missing dinners, etc. – please consider that when making donations.

Supervisor Verna – Echoed Supervisor Beaufort’s sentiments and thanked everyone for their vote of confidence. If anyone needs to get a hold of her, call the Township for her contact information. The recent main waterline breaks brought concerns we’d have water in an emergency and highlighted the role the fire departments have in our community. Please consider donating either your time or money to the Township’s fire departments.

Supervisor Matson – No comment

Supervisor Resenic – Asked Supervisor Beaufort about burning leaves this time of year, the woods are dry, thoughts? Supervisor Beaufort recalled an unusual situation where a fire department had to put out a tree top that caught fire, because the flames of a burn pile had gotten so high. They discussed the possibility of implementing a fire ban, with the forecast calling for rain this weekend, no action was taken. Supervisor Resenic then congratulated Supervisors Beaufort & Verna on their re-election, and looks forward to working together to do what’s best for the Township.

- A motion was made by Stephanie Verna and seconded by John Beaufort to approve the minutes from the October 24, 2023 meeting. Motion carried.

Correspondence List (Note these items are not read aloud.)

1. Ligonier Valley Education Trust grant – funded the Recreation Board’s request for \$500 for the Kids’ Corner Gardening Program.
2. Board of Assessment Appeals – assessed the total value of property in the township at \$101M in 2024.

Manager Report

Mr. Strelac reported on the meeting he attended with Westmoreland County Townships and Mutual Aid regarding EMS funding. Reminder to the residents that our crew are not professional landscapers, their priority is to clear the Right-of-Way. The crew has been instructed to direct any complaints to him.

Engineer Report

Mr. Faas reported the PennDOT multi-modal grant application for Carey School road was submitted by the deadline and the bridge report for Orme Road was completed.

Solicitor Report

Mr. Hudock reported he entered into a default judgement with Judge Smail that is scheduled for December 1st. He requested an executive session to discuss code enforcement issues.

Police Report

Chief Matruncis presented his October report – Fort Ligonier Days was not as busy due to the rain, only one arrest this year. Singer Accounting completed the department’s 2022 financial audit, there were no findings. The new officer (Anthony Regopoulos) started tonight and another new officer (Cody Meier) will be starting soon. There has been an increase in bitcoin scams, most recently a victim lost \$21,000. Victims are told their computer has been hacked, their information / bank accounts have been compromised. Victims are directed not to tell anyone, to go withdrawal large sums of money, but not at their regular bank, and deposit the money into bitcoin machines. Please look out for your friends & family – especially elders, if you hear a similar storyline, stop them, do not let them withdrawal funds and/or deposit them into these bitcoin machines. It is a scam and very unlikely the authorities can recover the money.

Treasurer’s Report

Fund Balances (month end)	October
General Fund	\$ 446,332
General Fund Reserves	\$ 1,040,863
Liquid Fuels Tax Fund	\$ 113,183
Capital Fund Reserves	\$ 143,396
Ligonier Beach Park Fund	\$ 122,213
American Rescue Fund	\$ 168,847
Developer's Fund*	\$ 7,999
*Escrow	\$ 6,789
*Mill Creek Memorial Park	\$ 1,210
*Hi Acres Waterline	\$ -
Total Funds	\$2,050,833

*denotes funds are restricted

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

Unfinished Business

1. Westmoreland County stormwater grant – no updates, no action taken
2. Residential & commercial sewage line inspection testing – no updates, no action taken
 - A motion was made by John Beaufort and seconded by Stephanie Verna to approve Ordinance 2023-O-07, Burning Ordinance. Motion carried.

New Business

Weimer Avenue – Compass Inn staff would like to close off a portion of Weimer Avenue that runs through their campus as it causes safety issues. They have spent the past 5 years planning changes and will pay for the initial construction and turn the road over to the Township for ongoing maintenance. Their engineer explained the stormwater plan, and it was reviewed and approved by the Westmoreland County Conservation District.

Supervisor Verna said some local residents approached her with concerns about access and their ability to tow a boat, RV, etc. back into their neighborhood. The Compass Inn engineer reported that they have the software to determine if turns can be made, are confident in the ability for those vehicles to navigate the turn, but will take another look to be sure.

Supervisor Matson asked if they'd considered the narrow clearance and plowing the road in heavy snowfall.

Supervisor Resenic asked Mr. Faas if he has looked over the plan and has any concerns. Mr. Faas said he had been working with the engineers, and had no concerns at this time.

- A motion was made by Scott Matson and seconded by John Beaufort to proceed with the next step for the Weimer Avenue vacation and dedication. Motion carried.

McVicker Planning Module

Mr. Strelac pointed out the DEP rejected the Township's Act 537 Plan to build a new sewage treatment plant because it would create another discharge into the Loyalhanna Creek, but they are approving the same concept for Mr. McVicker but on a smaller scale.

Supervisor Resenic asked if this was hypocrisy in government.

Supervisor Beaufort said it's not right that DEP won't approve our Act 537 Plan but will approve a small flow treatment plant, what would happen if there were multiple residential small flow plants? Why not just approve the Township's plan?

- A motion was made by Scott Matson and seconded by John Beaufort to approve the McVicker planning module. Motion carried.
- A motion was made by Scott Matson and seconded by John Beaufort to approve the Alguindigue subdivision. Motion carried.
- A motion was made by Scott Matson and seconded by John Beaufort to approve the Olsen Plan subdivision. Motion carried.

Resolution 2023-R-26 2024, Real Estate Tax Rate

This resolution will increase the 2024 real estate tax rate from 5 mills to 6 mills. For the average person, it will increase their real estate bill by \$15.13. The Township's tax rate is currently lower than 90% of municipalities in the surrounding four counties. With the increase, the Township will still be lower than 88% of municipalities. No action required at this time.

Supervisor Resenic asked about the 2023 amusement tax forecast – at \$75k it is up from 2020, but still down from pre-pandemic revenue.

Resolution 2023-R-27 2024 Fee Schedule,

Changes from the 2023 fee schedule include: demo fee added back in (inadvertently removed last year), sewage planning module review (increase), road opening permit (added), building permits and inspections (added), zoning hearing board variance requests (added), address confirmation letters (new), grading permits (new), junk vehicle registrations (new). No action required at this time.

Resolution 2023-R-28 2024 Budget

The 20 day advertisement requirement has not been met yet. No action required at this time.

Zoning Ordinance

The Planning Commission have completed their review of the Township's Zoning Ordinance and has a list of recommendations. A summary of these changes is attached to the update that is being provided to the Supervisors. Changes include new issues that have developed since the last time the Ordinance was updated in 2015 (e.g. marijuana dispensaries, tiny houses, etc.) Changes do not involve the Zoning Map at this time. Next step involves advertising the potential adoption unless the Supervisors would like to make changes first. Supervisors to look over the Planning Commission's recommendations and possibly vote to advertise it for a hearing at the next meeting.

Comments from the Public

1. Deb Messer – Requested feedback from the Board. A copy of the materials she provided were given to the Township Solicitor.
2. Terrell Funk – Reported the Ligonier Beach Study Committee is scheduled to meet again at the beginning of December and hopes to have a scope for the master site plan and swimming pool feasibility study RFP completed for the DCNR.

Executive Session

The Supervisors went into executive session at 8:00 p.m. to discuss legal strategy regarding code enforcement and resumed the regular meeting at 8:35 p.m.

Comments from the Supervisors

There were no comments from the Supervisors.

- A motion was made by Stephanie Verna and seconded by John Beaufort to adjourn the meeting at 8:36 p.m. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Bethany Caldwell
Assistant Secretary/Treasurer

Ligonier Township, Westmoreland County, PA

Bill Payments for All Vendors

November 13 - 14, 2023

Vendor	Type	Num	Date	Amount
Nov 13 - 14, 23				
Total Service, Inc.	Bill Pmt -Check	ACH	11/13/2023	183.24
Transamerica Life Insurance Company	Bill Pmt -Check	ACH	11/13/2023	19.40
AA Septic Tank Service	Bill Pmt -Check	25837	11/14/2023	625.00
Andrews Sales & Service	Bill Pmt -Check	25838	11/14/2023	199.00
Apex Companies LLC	Bill Pmt -Check	25839	11/14/2023	1,525.00
Atlas Chiropractic of Ligonier - V	Bill Pmt -Check	25840	11/14/2023	85.00
CertaSite LLC	Bill Pmt -Check	25841	11/14/2023	1,529.95
Chemung Supply Corporation	Bill Pmt -Check	25842	11/14/2023	1,130.00
Cleveland Brothers Equipment, Co. , Inc.	Bill Pmt -Check	25843	11/14/2023	57.08
Comcast	Bill Pmt -Check	25844	11/14/2023	552.10
Daniel C. Hudock Attorney at Law	Bill Pmt -Check	25845	11/14/2023	1,978.41
Davies Real Estate Inc	Bill Pmt -Check	25846	11/14/2023	425.00
Dillon McCandless King Coulter & Graham	Bill Pmt -Check	25847	11/14/2023	142.50
Fayette Parts Service, Inc.	Bill Pmt -Check	25848	11/14/2023	444.30
First Commonwealth Bank	Bill Pmt -Check	25849	11/14/2023	1,568.31
Glassmere Fuel Service	Bill Pmt -Check	25850	11/14/2023	5,352.26
International Conveyor and Rubber LLC	Bill Pmt -Check	25851	11/14/2023	1,286.50
Laurel Valley Hardware Inc.	Bill Pmt -Check	25852	11/14/2023	68.53
Ligonier Giant Eagle	Bill Pmt -Check	25853	11/14/2023	37.90
LVTech	Bill Pmt -Check	25854	11/14/2023	1,719.31
ODB Company	Bill Pmt -Check	25855	11/14/2023	913.40
Pennsylvania Municipal Service Co.	Bill Pmt -Check	25856	11/14/2023	187.53
Pennsylvania One Call System, Inc.	Bill Pmt -Check	25857	11/14/2023	20.72
Rick Krouse	Bill Pmt -Check	25858	11/14/2023	295.21
Rolling Hills Industries, Inc	Bill Pmt -Check	25859	11/14/2023	422.00
Royal Oak Retriever, LLC	Bill Pmt -Check	25860	11/14/2023	120.00
Stewart, McArdle, Sorice, Whalen, Farrell	Bill Pmt -Check	25861	11/14/2023	300.00
Sweeper Services LLC	Bill Pmt -Check	25862	11/14/2023	427.59
The EADS Group	Bill Pmt -Check	25863	11/14/2023	270.00
The Latrobe Bulletin	Bill Pmt -Check	25864	11/14/2023	236.80
Town & Country Motors	Bill Pmt -Check	25865	11/14/2023	11.00
Travelers	Bill Pmt -Check	25866	11/14/2023	613.00
Tricia Levander	Bill Pmt -Check	25867	11/14/2023	700.00
UAW LOCAL 204	Bill Pmt -Check	25868	11/14/2023	306.25
UniFirst Corporation	Bill Pmt -Check	25869	11/14/2023	262.68
Unifirst First Aid & Safety	Bill Pmt -Check	25870	11/14/2023	83.84
Valley Landscaping & Lawn Care	Bill Pmt -Check	25871	11/14/2023	416.00
West Penn Power	Bill Pmt -Check	25872	11/14/2023	10.14
Western Pennsylvania Teamsters and Employ	Bill Pmt -Check	25873	11/14/2023	15,449.31
Zach Yesho	Bill Pmt -Check	25874	11/14/2023	150.00
West Penn Power	Bill Pmt -Check	25875	11/14/2023	559.01
Nov 13 - 14, 23				40,683.27

*OK
Jan
11-14-23*

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11/14/23

Ligonier Township-Liquid Fuels
Bill Payments for All Vendors
November 14, 2023

Vendor	Type	Num	Amount
Nov 14, 23			
West Penn Power - Valley Hts	Bill Pmt -Check	1333	126.54
West Penn Power	Bill Pmt -Check	1334	56.31
West Penn Power 791	Bill Pmt -Check	1335	397.39
Nov 14, 23			<u>580.24</u>

OK
JC
11-14-23

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11/14/23

Ligonier Township - ACT 13
Bill Payments for All Vendors
November 14, 2023

<u>Vendor</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Num</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Nov 14, 23 Stephenson Equipment Inc	Bill Pmt -Check	1021	34,540.50
Nov 14, 23			<u>34,540.50</u>

OK
JAC
11-14-23