

Ligonier Township Supervisors
Regular Meeting
December 10, 2019

The Ligonier Township Supervisors met in regular session at 7:00 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance opening the meeting. Secretary/Treasurer Verna took roll call. Present were Vice Chair, John Beaufort; Secretary/Treasurer, Stephanie Verna; Supervisor, Paul Knupp and Supervisor, D. Scott Matson. Absent was Chair, Wade Thomas.

Public Comment - None

- A motion was made by Stephanie Verna and seconded by Paul Knupp to approve the November 12, 2019 regular meeting minutes. Motion carried.

Supervisors Comment - None

Public Works

Mr. Morgan reported proposed fiber matting 2020 & seal chip and provided names of roads and square miles (in "red" are actual numbers per square yard based off of 2019). Mr. Carcella noted we are short on the budget to do all the roads proposed.

Ligonier Valley Police Department Report

The Assistant Chief reported on 2 major incidents:

- 1) In Darlington there was an attempted homicide, during a theft, in process. Drug activity (crystal meth & heroine). There is an ongoing investigation with warrants out.
- 2) Several burglaries in town, with help from the public and video surveillance, an arrest was made. He was released and reoffended and has since been arrested again and in jail.

Engineer's Report

The Conservation District is resubmitting another draft stormwater ordinance to the DEP and recommend postponing advertising the township's stormwater ordinance for adoption until final approval is received.

Solicitor's Report

Solicitor Korns reported that an executive session was held prior to the meeting (approximately 6:30 p.m.) and he certified compliance with the Pennsylvania Sunshine Laws as the session pertained to personnel matters.

The Township has two vacant Auditor positions – a 2-year term and a 6-year term, both of which were won by Scott Matson. Since this is a conflict, Scott will not be sworn in and this will create a vacancy after 30 days.

Hi Acres – Charlotte Drive meeting – Moving forward with the grant application

Zoning Officer Report

Intern programs – two programs available for interns. Supervisor Verna asked their academic level and if the schools were accredited. Yes, they are accredited schools for those currently

attending college. Supervisor Verna also asked the duration. The timeframe is three months (summer), part time.

Code Enforcement Report

Mr. Ashley resolved all outstanding complaints but one. The house next to Graham's Antiques is slowly being cleaned up and the house will be demolished.

Joe Davis – Subdivision Plans:

1. Richard Panichelli plan & Sheila Miller near end of Stoner Lane, served by public water & sewage, would like to subdivide their plot into two lots: Lot #1, 2.8 acres and Lot #2, 2.6 acres. A 20 ft. private drive does not meet current street standards. A modification request has been submitted.
 - A motion was made by John Beaufort and seconded by Stephanie Verna to approve Richard Panichelli's subdivision plan. Motion carried.
2. Jerry A Mattern Plan #2 - 118 acres on Hoosier Way – his property was subdivided into two lots prior and they would like to subdivide their property again.
 - A motion was made by John Beaufort and seconded by Stephanie Verna to approve Jerry Mattern's subdivision plan. Motion carried.

Correspondence

1. DCNR Grant Award Letter
2. Westmoreland County Assessment Office – Real Property Value
3. Westmoreland County Audit of Judge Denise Thiel – No findings
4. Westmoreland County Audit of Keystone Collections – No findings
5. Comcast Price Changes – Minor price change
6. DEP Act 537 Review Letter – An issue needs to be resolved. Unsure of our direction until the meeting. Supervisor Knupp asked if we need to request an extension. Mr. Carcella responded, "No".

Approval of Bills

- A motion was made by Stephanie Verna and seconded by Paul Knupp to approve the bill pay list as presented. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report

Supervisor Verna reported the account balances as of December 10:

General Fund account	\$513,077
Act 13 Account	\$52,991
Ligonier Beach Project Account	\$393
Developers Account	\$16,344
Liquid Fuels Account	\$44,257
Equipment Fund	\$12,272
Capital Reserve CDs	\$603,427
Sweep Account	\$58,627
Total account balance:	\$1,301,658

Old Business: None

New Business:

1. Ligonier Township 2020 Budget

\$2.7M total budget was properly advertised, asking for a vote to approve

- A motion was made by Stephanie Verna and seconded by Paul Knupp to approve the 2020 Budget. Motion carried.

2. 2020 Re-organization Meeting & Appointments

Mr. Carcella noted a time needed to be set for the meeting of January 6th. Solicitor Korn to open and turn over to the Supervisors. Meeting time set for 4:30.

- A motion was made by Paul Knupp and seconded by Stephanie Verna to set the reorganizational meeting time at 4:30. Motion carried.

3. PELRAS Conference (March 18-20, 2020) Request to Attend

To make sure staff are properly trained. This training is in the budget. This year's attendance is Mr. Nieuwma and Mrs. Caldwell.

- A motion was made by Stephanie Verna and seconded by Paul Knupp to permit Mr. Carcella to attend the conference with the two staff members (J. Nieuwma, B. Caldwell). Motion carried.

4. Act 13 Capital Fund Spending Revision – Resolution 2019-36

We do not want to use general fund dollars for recreation. The budget is tight and we would like to utilize these funds from the state rather than Township tax dollars.

Supervisor Knupp asked if equipment funds came out of this account.

- A motion was made by Paul Knupp and seconded by Stephanie Verna to approve Resolution 2019-36. Motion carried.

5. LV Tech's IT Backup Proposal

Currently we have a backup process in place and exchange drives with the Borough. There is a time and cost factor we have explored. To be more efficient and effective, we are proposing LV Tech to maintain (secured with Cloud). The police follow the same process, and they will have to continue this process and the Borough will need to come up with their own process.

- A motion was made by Paul Knupp and seconded by Scott Matson to approve this change in process. Motion carried.

6. 2020 Tax Millage – Resolution 2019-37

This resolution keeps the millage rate the same.

- A motion was made by Paul Knupp and seconded by Stephanie Verna to approve the Resolution, setting the Township's millage rate at 4 mills. Motion carried.

Public Comments - B

None

Supervisors Comments

Supervisor Verna asked Mr. Carcella to keep the LVPD in mind as we move forward on the LV Tech backup.

Supervisor Knupp commented good job on the grant – good job to the police.

Supervisor Beaufort echoed Supervisor Knupp's comments.

Ms. Boring of Markosky Engineering thanked the Board for the position as the Township's Engineer and offered support to help make the transition seamless.

Supervisor Beaufort mentioned this was to be the Chair, Wade Thomas' last meeting.

- A motion was made by Paul Knupp and seconded by Stephanie Verna to adjourn at 7:38 p.m. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Bethany Caldwell
Assistant Secretary/Treasurer