

Ligonier Township Supervisors
Regular Meeting Minutes
December 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; Secretary/Treasurer, Stephanie Verna; Supervisor, D. Scott Matson; and Supervisor, Erik Ross.

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. Annie Casler Stewart, asked about the Rec Board vacancies, the process of appointing new members and why the alternate was not selected to fill the vacancies. She expressed displeasure with a recent interaction with a newly appointed Rec Board member and suggested the Board reconsider their appointment.

Comments from the Supervisors

There were no comments from the Supervisors.

- A motion was made by Erik Ross and seconded by Stephanie Verna to approve the minutes from the November 22, 2022 meeting. Motion carried.

Correspondence

1. Dennis Swogger, "Thank You" note to the Public Works Crew

Manager Report

Mr. Strelac thanked the Board and staff for their work on the 2023 budget. He met with MAWC and county this week at the Ligonier Beach to discuss the demo tentatively scheduled for late January. The lead applicant for the Zoning Officer position has tentatively accepted the offer, still working out a start date and pay rate.

Engineer Report

Mr. Faas handed out a map and estimates to replace the private waterlines in the Township. These customers are served by MAWC, so the municipality would have to provide an ownership letter for the grant application. There was discussion about the required match money, if all the projects were bundled together the project cost would exceed \$500k and be eligible for an H2O grant. This program requires a 33% match. The match could be fronted by a Penn Vest loan or it could be charged back to the customer via their MAWC bill. Mr. Faas estimated the cost to put an application together is \$2k + \$100 application fee.

Supervisor Matson asked how all these private water lines ended up in the Township. Mr. Faas explained each situation is different, sometimes it was a developer that didn't follow building codes, sometimes a homeowner's well failed and they tapped into the line.

- A motion was made by John Beaufort and seconded by Scott Matson to pass a resolution authorizing Mr. Faas to submit a DCED H2O grant to replace the Township's private waterlines. Motion carried.

A site visit has been scheduled with the DEP to go over the Act 537 Plan.

Solicitor Report

Mr. Hudock said that while a meeting has been scheduled with the DEP to go over the Act 537 Plan, it is not open to the public. Staff from the Loyalhanna Watershed to attend this meeting as well.

Police Report

Chief Berger went over his monthly report and while the number of complaints are down, criminal arrests were up – DUIs, DUI crashes, domestic assaults, stolen property, and drugs found. He commended Assistant Chief Matronics for all the time and work he has put into investigating a bad accident.

Treasurer Report

Fund Balances (month end)	November
General Fund	\$ 690,600
General Fund Reserves	\$ 682,944
Liquid Fuels Tax Fund	\$ 80,051
Capital Fund Reserves	\$ 71,682
Ligonier Beach Park Fund	\$ 100,213
American Rescue Fund	\$ 341,075
Developer's Fund*	\$ 54,757
*Escrow	\$ 4,500
*Mill Creek Memorial Park	\$ 1,209
*Hi Acres Waterline	\$ 49,048
Total Funds	\$2,021,322

Payroll	November
Administrative	\$ 11,932
Public Works	\$ 23,736
Elected	\$ 923
Employer Tax	\$ 2,730
Deductions	\$ (1,232)
Payroll Billing	\$ 222
Total Payroll	\$ 38,310

*denotes funds are restricted

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

Old Business

2023 Operating Budget and 2023-2027 Five-Year Plan

Supervisor Verna asked if we pass a five-year plan now, are we bound to the plan, are there consequences? Mr. Strelic clarified they'd still need to vote to approve each year's annual budget (changes can be made).

- A motion to approve the 2023 Operating Budget and 2023-2027 Five-Year Plan with amendments and technical corrections as discussed in today's budget workshop meeting was made by Erik Ross and seconded by Dan Resenic. Motion carried 4:1 with Supervisor Verna voting nay.
- A motion to approve the 2023 Capital Budget and the 2023-2027 Capital Improvement Plan was made by Erik Ross and seconded by Scott Matson. Motion carried 4:1 with Supervisor Verna voting nay.
- A motion was made by Erik Ross and seconded by Scott Matson to approve the 2023 Real Estate Tax Rate at 5 mills (no changes). Motion carried.
- A motion was made by Erik Ross and seconded by Stephanie Verna to approve the 2023 Fee Schedule. Motion carried.

Changes from the 2022 Fee Schedule were noted as follows: increases to the Special Events Permit Fees and Road Inspection Fees, addition of Right-to-Know request fees and removal of the \$0 stormwater exemption fee.

Amusement Tax amendment – tabled, staff to meet with Idlewild personnel first.

New Business

Zoning/Code Enforcement Officer position – tabled.

Authorization to repair furnace, cost not to exceed \$5,700 – tabled, staff still in the process of collecting quotes. LTMA to pay for the repair, 85% of cost credited towards monthly rent.

Water grants – see motion made under Engineer Report.

Executive Session

There was no executive session.

Comments from the Public

There were no comments from the public.

Comments from the Supervisors

Supervisor Matson – Noted the Waterford business corridor is looking good, it's being cleaned up. He asked about the Dollar Store's progress (unknown).

Supervisor Beaufort – Asked for a list of members on the various commissions, boards, committees and the terms that will be expiring at the end of the year in preparation for the Organization meeting in January. There was a discussion about the process and role of the alternates. Supervisor Resenic directed the question to the solicitor. Mr. Hudock said it depends on the committee and its governing source.

Supervisor Verna – Wants clarity on the alternates' roles; to be fair to the volunteers and manage expectations. She asked Mr. Hudock for a clear position on the Planning Commission, Recreation Board, and Zoning Hearing Board alternates. She asked staff to distribute a list of the current members for each group, whose term are expiring, and a list of who has submitted formal interest in serving each group. One of the reasons she ran for office is because she didn't appreciate the way she was treated by the supervisors. Now that she's sitting on the other side of the table, she understands why they sometimes behave the way they do. She encouraged residents to come forward and is appreciative of the folks that take the time to contact her and educate her on different matters. She is an accountant and brings that skill set to the Township. She noted the township has experienced significant increases due to staff turnover. The township is running a deficit budget and is relying on ARPA funds from the federal government to balance the budget. She did not want to approve the 2023 budget at this point in time, due to the 5 year projection showing a terrible downward spiral. She thanked Assistant Chief Matronics for his dedication investigating a recent accident. She also recognized Supervisor Beaufort and his service to the LVPD Commission. Supervisor Beaufort has been instrumental and she is going to miss working with him in that capacity.

Supervisor Ross – no comment

Supervisor Resenic – echoed Supervisor Verna's sentiments and believes the Supervisors want to do what's best for the township. They might not always agree, that is the nature of living in a democracy. It could be worse, in some countries if you go out dissenting you are hung the next day for protesting.

Merry Christmas All!


- A motion was made by Stephanie Verna and seconded by John Beaufort to adjourn the meeting at 7:46 p.m. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Bethany Caldwell
Assistant Secretary/Treasurer

Ligonier Township, Westmoreland County, PA
Bill Payments for All Vendors
December 13, 2022

Vendor	Type	Num	Amount
Dec 13, 22			
Total Service, Inc.	Bill Pmt -Check	ACH	178.98
AA Septic Tank Service	Bill Pmt -Check	25261	250.00
Advent Communications	Bill Pmt -Check	25262	210.00
AFLAC	Bill Pmt -Check	25263	102.92
Daniel C. Hudock Attorney at Law	Bill Pmt -Check	25264	1,925.00
Dillon McCandless King Coulter & Graham	Bill Pmt -Check	25265	760.00
Fayette Parts Service, Inc.	Bill Pmt -Check	25266	447.98
First Commonwealth Bank 6887	Bill Pmt -Check	25267	168.04
Glassmere Fuel Service	Bill Pmt -Check	25268	4,809.67
Good Year	Bill Pmt -Check	25269	678.90
JSB Holding, Inc.	Bill Pmt -Check	25270	402.00
Laurel Valley Hardware Inc.	Bill Pmt -Check	25271	80.42
Laurel Valley Motors	Bill Pmt -Check	25272	1,024.37
Ligonier Giant Eagle	Bill Pmt -Check	25273	44.89
Ligonier Valley Police Department	Bill Pmt -Check	25274	113,542.83
LVTech	Bill Pmt -Check	25275	1,661.18
McInchok Sanitation	Bill Pmt -Check	25276	148.50
Moseye Graphics	Bill Pmt -Check	25277	190.93
Napotnik Welding Supplies	Bill Pmt -Check	25278	7.64
Pennsylvania Municipal Service Co.	Bill Pmt -Check	25279	55.80
Pennsylvania One Call System, Inc.	Bill Pmt -Check	25280	67.47
PSATS	Bill Pmt -Check	25281	318.97
Royal Oak Retriever, LLC	Bill Pmt -Check	25282	60.00
Smith Propane & Oil	Bill Pmt -Check	25283	1,677.23
SWIF	Bill Pmt -Check	25284	4,498.00
Terry Carcella	Bill Pmt -Check	25285	10,000.00
The EADS Group	Bill Pmt -Check	25286	1,015.52
The Latrobe Bulletin	Bill Pmt -Check	25287	130.00
Travelers	Bill Pmt -Check	25288	613.00
Tricia Levander	Bill Pmt -Check	25289	700.00
TSB Inc.	Bill Pmt -Check	25290	361.37
UAW LOCAL 204	Bill Pmt -Check	25291	323.34
UniFirst Corporation	Bill Pmt -Check	25292	173.84
West Penn Power	Bill Pmt -Check	25293	859.08
Western Pennsylvania Teamsters and Employ	Bill Pmt -Check	25294	11,443.95
First Commonwealth Bank 6887	Bill Pmt -Check	25295	30.00
Dec 13, 22			158,961.82


 12-13-2022