

Ligonier Township Supervisors
Regular Meeting Minutes
August 24, 2021

The Supervisors of Ligonier Township met in regular session at 4:30 PM. Present were Chair, John Beaufort; Vice Chair, Paul Knupp; Secretary/Treasurer, Stephanie Verna; Supervisor, D. Scott Matson; and Supervisor, Dan Resenic.

Also present were Manager, Terry Carcella; Solicitor, Michael Korn; Engineer Greg Elliot; Public Works Director, Russ Morgan; Zoning Officer, Jim Nieusma, and Finance Officer, Bethany Caldwell.

Public Comment

1. Mr. David Bridge – concerned about Tosh Road, it is a narrow road. In the past, he has done some of the ROW maintenance himself, mowed along the berms, cleaned up down trees storms. However, he cannot do what he used to and is asking the Township for help. The trees were recently trimmed with boom mower – can the Public Works staff clean up the tree limbs that were taken down and continue with the ROW maintenance.

- A motion was made by Stephanie Verna and seconded by Paul Knupp to approve the minutes from the August 10, 2021 meeting. Motion carried.

Supervisors Comment
(none)

Manager's Report

Penn Line has requested use of the Ligonier Beach Park to store their equipment while they trim trees in the area for West Penn Power Co. They offered woodchips in exchange for the storage use. The supervisors declined the free woodchips.

- A motion was made by Paul Knupp and seconded by Scott Matson to approve Penn Line's request to store their equipment at the beach, out of the way for the community clean ups and auction, along the tree line, back by the cottages. Motion carried.

Mr. Carcella provided an update on Senate Bill 775 regarding first responders and post-traumatic stress injuries, and reasons why Townships are opposed to this legislation.

Correspondence

1. Patrick Caffrey's letter to Senator Ward regarding the Armour Street / California Avenue (Laughlintown) private water line.
2. Patrick Caffrey's letter to County Commissioners regarding the Armour Street / California Avenue (Laughlintown) private water line.

3. Ligonier Valley Chamber of Commerce invitation to attend a banquet in William Stablein's honor, RSPV by September 10.

Public Works Report

Deferred until the Public Works committee meeting to be held immediately after this meeting.

Solicitor's Report

(None)

Treasurer's Report

Supervisor Verna reported the account balances as of August 23:

General Fund	\$345,102
General Fund Reserves	685,681
ARPA Fund	333,476
Liquid Fuels Tax Fund*	45,923
Capital Fund Reserves*	40,067
Ligonier Beach Park*	120,205
Mill Creek Memorial Park*	1,326
Charlotte Hi Acre Waterline*	2,407

Total Funds Balance: \$1,605,735

*denotes funds are restricted

Supervisor Knupp asked about the payment made to "Government Leasing & Financing Inc." This is the first installment payment on the Township's lease for the facility's LED light upgrade and Public Work's boom mower.

- A motion was made by Stephanie Verna and seconded by Paul Knupp to approve the bills for August as presented. Motion carried.

Old Business:

1. Ordinance 01-2021 Property Maintenance – discussion regarding any changes to be made to the ordinance after hearing the public's testimonies.

- A motion was made by Stephanie Verna and seconded by Paul Knupp to advertise that the property maintenance ordinance will be voted on at the next Supervisors meeting on September 14. (Note the version being voted on had section 302.2, referring to grass height removed in its entirety.) Motion carried.

New Business:

1. Mark Ferry Auction Agreement – Ligonier Beach items

This item has been tabled for the September 14th meeting due to lack of documentation and details need to be clarified on who is doing what (auctioneer, staff, etc.)

2. Manager's request to attend the PML Annual Summit on October 7-9, in Lancaster.

Unbudgeted travel/training event in 2021, however the \$325 registration fee has been waived. Supervisor Verna asked for an estimate of other expenses. Lodging estimate is 2 nights @ \$130 = \$260 + gas

- A motion was made by Stephanie Verna and seconded by Paul Knupp to approve Mr. Carcella attending PML annual training in Lancaster on October 7-9, with the cost not to exceed \$400. Motion carried; 4 to 1, with Supervisor Matson voting nay.

Engineer's Report

Mr. Elliot provided an updated on the stormwater & sign inventory project. Supervisor Verna asked for a more in-depth presentation, a demonstration of how the GIS mapping works so they can explore it in more detail and determine how to best use this information for future work plans.

Work continues on the Act 537 Plan - addressing DEP comments.

Ligonier Beach demolition project update-

Mr. Elliot asked for clarification on when the auction might take place as demo cannot be scheduled beforehand. The auction is tentatively scheduled to take place in October after Fort Ligonier Days (October 8-10).

There is an issue with the MAWC's waterline in the basement and the Township would have to pay to have the line relocated. This is a main waterline that serves others customers and at this point it may be a moot point.

The current scope of work includes: demolish the buildings (both building's rooves were tested for asbestos and it was minimal so there is no need for abatement), the fences, the pool's diving board and grading the sandy beach. Scope excludes the pavilions and sidewalk around the pool.

Follow up item for staff - research where the funding is coming from, does the job require prevailing wage? Note that DCNR funds cannot be used for demolition purposes.

Public Comment

Jody Eberhart, a township resident had questions about the Township's recent stormwater inventory project. He asked what GPS/GIS software was used to complete the project and if pictures were included. He suggested the Township engage the local

military engineering brigades for no or low cost solutions. Offered to share more information about the programs he was referring to – the Board asked if he could attend the next public meeting to see the Township Engineer’s stormwater project presentation.

Supervisor Comments

Supervisor Resenic – commented on the property maintenance ordinance. He offered that the ordinance is not set in stone and it should be put in place now and revisited in a year for further refinements based on experience of what is and is not working. The R2 residential zones cover large areas and that includes fields and “gentlemen farms” (5-10 acres). The ordinance is a good start to go after the derelict / junk properties. The enforcement process is complaint driven; the Township is not going to go looking for problems. Ideally, residents would work together to solve their problems.

Supervisor Verna – asked for a formal report from Teeter explaining their position with respect to their contracted project and should include 1) a confirmation of their understanding of the project scope, 2) a project timeline and 3) what else is needed to get the project done.

Supervisor Knupp – asked for clarification on the grass height requirement that was removed from the property maintenance ordinance. It was intended for the areas zoned residential and village only.

Supervisor Matson – no comment

Supervisor Beaufort – The “Friends of Ligonier Beach” committee would like to provide an update on their progress and have asked for another meeting with Township Supervisors and Teeter Associates. Staff directed to get some meeting dates for Supervisors Matson and Beaufort.

- A motion was made by Stephanie Verna and seconded by Dan Resenic to adjourn the meeting at 5:15 PM. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Bethany Caldwell
Assistant Secretary/Treasurer