

Ligonier Township Supervisor  
Minutes  
10 January 2012

The Supervisors of Ligonier Township met in regular session with all three Supervisors present: Chairman Keith A Whipkey, Timothy R Komar, and William C Penrod Jr.

From the audience, several residents spoke in support of a resolution presented to the Supervisors at last week's work session regarding opposition to legislative efforts to take local participation away from the gas drilling process. Specifically, Senate Bill 1100 and House Bill 1950 included such provisions. A motion was made by Komar and seconded by Whipkey to approve a resolution seeking to protect local rights to enforce applicable provisions the Zoning Ordinances. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Komar and seconded by Penrod to approve the minutes of the 13 December meeting. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Komar and seconded by Whipkey to approve the minutes of the 27 December Special meeting. Motion carried. Penrod abstained as he was absent for that meeting.

A motion was made by Penrod and seconded by Komar to approve the minutes of the 3 January re-organization meeting. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Komar and seconded by Penrod to approve the Treasurer's report for December. Motion carried. Whipkey recommended that the budget for 2012 be re-opened based upon results of a year-end analysis. He explained that the 2012 budget was originally passed based upon the results of operations through October plus an estimate of the expected income/expense of the next two months. As noted in the December Treasurer's report, three departments ended the year with substantial over-budget balances. This resulted in the over-estimation of the balance in the bank account at year-end. Normally, this would not affect the next year budget, but the departments have all been cautious of their spending in the past year, and it is believed that the "over-spending" resulted from insufficient budgets in these departments to account for rising costs. It was recommended that the Supervisors decide whether to draw from earmarked capital accounts to balance the budget, or pass the tax increase this year – one year in advance of the increase determined necessary for next year and already announced. The decision will be made this week, and the amended budget will be made available for public inspect for 10 days prior to final passage (as per the Second Class Township Code).

A motion was made by Penrod and seconded by Komar to approve payment of the current bills. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Komar and seconded by Penrod to accept the Police Incident report for December. Motion carried.

Zoning Office – Cynthia J Turley

1. A waiver of time request was made by Douglas Tate for his subdivision request until 10 April. Following request for audience comment, and hearing none, a motion was made by Komar and seconded by Penrod to approve the request. Motion carried.

Old business:

1. Supervisors encouraged residents to return forms from Berkheimer Tax Administration asking for changes in address or employment in order to assist with a smooth transition to the new wage tax collection system.

(2)

2. Township Solicitor Judith Cizek reported that the Municipal Authority of Westmoreland County will be applying for PennVest funding for the Boucher Lane project in May. She is currently working with the MAWC Solicitor, Ken Burkley, to draft the mandatory connection ordinance. She believes the draft will be ready for the February meeting.
3. A motion was made by Komar and seconded by Whipkey to appoint Vita Charge of Latrobe as servicers of the Township computers for 2012 at a cost of prepaid service at \$55 per hour. Motion carried.
4. A motion was made by Komar and seconded by Penrod to appoint Cindy Turley as Flood Plane Administrator for 2012 at a fee of \$20 per application. The Township may be reimbursed up to 50% of the charged amount.

New business:

1. A motion was made by Penrod and seconded by Komar to approve the low bid of Standard Bank to provide the Tax Anticipation Note for the Township for 2012 at .75% fixed and payable 31 December 2012 or sooner. Motion carried. Other bids were First Commonwealth at 1.9% fixed, First National at 2.6% adjustable , and Commercial Bank declined to quote. This money will be used to cover expenses in the months prior to receipt of real estate taxes.
2. Cizek has been in touch with PAMS to prepare contracts for the collection of various other Act 511 taxes not including the 2012 and future Wage Taxes. She asked that the current old tax ordinances be reviewed and updated so that collecting services can be empowered with all modern collection procedures. She believes that the updates will be available for action at the February meeting, and this time frame is acceptable to PAMS.
3. A motion was made by Komar and seconded by Penrod to approve the Police Contract for 2012-2014. Motion carried.
4. A motion was made by Komar and seconded by Penrod to adjust the office hours of the Township Building from 7 am to 3:30 pm Monday through Friday. Motion carried.
5. From the audience, Scott Matson and other recommended that the Township hire on-call snow removers to assist the Township crew during heavy snow sessions. Komar responded that the use of on-call crews would be more costly to the Township than to pay the crew overtime. He also stated that, when the crew is called in early for plowing, they typically go home early that day to save overtime costs altogether. Whipkey pointed out that many independent plows are already under contract or agreement with individuals to plow their driveways. Who is going to do this function if we take away independent contractors? Also, it is impossible to cover all areas of the Township 24/7/365. We are experiencing financial strains already and must consider increasing taxes.

A motion was made by Komar and seconded by Penrod to adjourn the meeting at 7:45 pm. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Keith A Whipkey  
Secretary

