

**Ligonier Township Supervisors
Regular Meeting
December 10, 2013**

The Supervisors of Ligonier Township met in regular session with Timothy R. Komar, Albert H. Shadron and Grover T. Binkey present. Chairman Komar brought the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

It was announced that the media was recording this meeting.

A motion was made by Albert Shadron and seconded by Grover Binkey to approve the minutes of the November 12, 2013 meeting. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Grover Binkey and seconded by Timothy Komar to approve the minutes of the special meeting held on December 5, 2013. Motion carried. Albert Shadron was absent from this meeting.

A motion was made by Grover Binkey and seconded by Albert Shadron to pay the current months bills. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Albert Shadron and seconded by Grover Binkey to accept the Police Incident report for November 2013. Motion carried.

Chief Matrunics announced that there is now a Med Return Drug Collection Box in the main lobby. Residents can deposit unused drugs anytime during normal business hours and will not have to wait for the drug reclamations days. Firearms Permits will not be held in December, but will resume starting in January. Chief Matrunics addressed the need to keep the roadways clear during bad weather so that the snow plows will be able to clear the roads.

A motion was made by Grover Binkey and seconded by Albert Shadron to approver the Treasurer's report for November 2013. Motion carried.

Zoning Office – Report is attached

Old Business –

- 1) A motion was made by Grover Binkey and seconded by Albert Shadron to approve Hoffman's Kennel as dog catcher for 2014.
- 2) A motion was made by Grover Binkey and seconded by Albert Shadron to approve a donation request by the Ligonier Valley Library in the amount of \$1,500.00. Motion carried. Komar abstained citing a conflict of interest as a relative is an employee of the library.
- 3) A motion was made by Grover Binkey and seconded by Albert Shadron to approve a

donation to the three township volunteer fire departments in the amount of \$6,900.00 each. Motion carried.

- 4) Wessel & Company was unable to attend to give an update on the audit. Rae Ann Tronetti of Deltron Management spoke on behalf of Wessel & Company. Ms. Tronetti stated that two former employees have been under review, one the beginning of June and the other sometime in July of this year. Preliminary findings were turned over to the Westmoreland County DA's office. One former employee's findings are pretty much complete. The Westmoreland County DA's office is looking at certain cases to determine if they can be prosecuted under theft of services. She stated that they were waiting on electronic data from ebay for two years worth of history on the other former employee. That information came in to the County Detectives office last Friday and they are in the process of getting that information to Wessel & Co. where they are going to do an analysis using end key software and other electronic data software to analyze the information. Once that is complete, in approximately two weeks, that information will be turned over to the District Attorney's office. One of these former employees is currently under investigation by the State Ethics Commission. That employee received a "five day letter", which basically notifies them that they are under investigation for violating the State Ethics Act for generating a financial gain by using township equipment. Ms. Tronetti stated that that investigation is separate from theirs. She has been in touch with the special investigator from the State Ethics Commission who is currently working on this and she believes he is going back five years versus the County DA's office who is going back two years. Once that information is available she feels we will be updated. She stated that she has no further information on that.

Ms. Tronetti stated that she has run software on township computers, including the police department and found no evidence of violation of the employee manual, with the exception of very few sites, such as music sites.

- 5) A motion was made by Grover Binkey and seconded by Albert Shadron to donate \$1,500.00 to the Ligonier Valley Library. Motion carried. Timothy Komar abstained, stating that a relative is an employee of the library.
- 6) A motion was made by Grover Binkey and seconded by Albert Shadron to donate \$6,900.00 to the three township volunteer fire departments. Motion carried.

New Business -

- 1) A motion was made by Albert Shadron and seconded by Grover Binkey to adopt Resolution 13-R-19, limiting the members pension contributions by police officers for the year 2014. Motion carried.
- 2) A motion was made by Grover Binkey and seconded by Albert Shadron to donate \$500.00 to the Kiwanis Club for Christmas treats for the kids. Motion carried.

- 3) A motion was made by Grover Binkey and seconded by Albert Shadron to start the Process of opting back into the UCC. Motion carried.
- 4) Summary of year's events – A township safety committee was established a few years ago through PennPrime, the township worker's comp company. Penn Prime sent an update that stated over the last five years, with grants, savings and free training, the township has received over \$37,000.00 worth of benefits from having a ten minute meeting once a month and a four hour training once a year.

The township received \$25,000.00 from the Pennsylvania Conservancy for work to be done on Hidden Valley Road.

Application has been made for a \$200,000.00 grant to expand the sewer line project through parts of Laughlintown. Komar stated that we should know about this by the first of the year.

- 5) A motion was made by Albert Shadron and seconded by Grover Binkey to continue using Divium to maintain the township website.
- 6) A motion was made by Timothy Komar and seconded by Grover Binkey to table the suspension of the fire hydrant tax until more information is gathered.
- 7) A motion was made by Grover Binkey and seconded by Albert Shadron to approve a Tax Anticipation Note with First Commonwealth Bank at a rate of 1.18%, plus a one time fee of \$94.00. Binkey stated that two supervisors have to be involved to borrow the money.

Grover Binkey spoke about his year. "This is my last official meeting. I wish the new supervisors lots of luck. I didn't have a clue what we would run into this year. It's been interesting. I'm not sure how it's going to turn out. It's not going to be real good for somebody, I can assure you of that, from what I read and what I've seen and what I know. Good luck gentlemen. Have a good year."

Albert Shadron spoke – "Well, I'm sort of the same way as Grover is. I mean we kinda jumped right into the fire, but I thank everybody for letting me have this opportunity. Paul and Scott, good luck to you next year. I haven't officially gotten my letter in yet, but I just want everybody to know that 11:59 pm on the 31st, I am officially resigning. I am not going into the new year. I don't want and any slack about anything. I just want to go into the new year, hopefully it will be a luckier and better one than I had this year. Thank you.

Dan Stevens asked where we stand with the financial audit. Rae Ann Tronetti stated that Wessel and Co. and herself are going through this fraud examination, they are auditing the books as they go. Mr. Stevens questioned whether the books have been properly audited. Ms. Tronetti stated that she is a certified public account and a certified fraud examiner with 25 years experience in local government. Wessell & Co. has the same

background. She stated that the books have been properly looked at. It is now up to the township whether or not they want a gagits audit done at a cost of approximately \$20,000.00. Komar stated that we expect to close out the year with money in the bank. Kim Thomas requested to go on record as agreeing with Dan Stevens that a forensic audit should be done on the township books. Gary Thistlethwaite stated that he feels that a report needs to be done so the residents have something to look at. Komar stated that this is out of the supervisors hands. The detective told him that this is out of our hands, they have this.

A motion was made by Grover Binkey to approve a forensic audit be done. Motion died due to lack of a second.

A motion was made by Grover Binkey and seconded by Albert Shadron to adjourn the meeting at 8:50 pm. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara L. Hollick
Assistant Secretary