

January 6, 2025

The Supervisors of Ligonier Township met at 7:00 p.m. on the first Tuesday of the year for the purpose of organizing and conducting business. The meeting was called to order by the Township's Manager, Michael Strelac and opened with the Pledge of Allegiance. Supervisors D. Scott Matson, Stephanie Verna, John Beaufort, Dan Resenic and Erik Ross were present.

ORGANIZATION OF THE BOARD

Township Manager called for nominations for the Chair: Dan Resenic nominated Erik Ross as Chairman. Stephanie Verna nominated John Beaufort as Chairman.

Supervisor Ross, Resenic and Matson voted for Supervisor Ross.
Supervisors Verna and Beaufort voted for Supervisor Beaufort.

Supervisor Ross was appointed as **Chair of the Board** for 2025 in a 3:2 vote.

Supervisor Ross called for nominations for the Vice Chair: Supervisor Matson nominated Dan Resenic. Supervisor Verna nominated John Beaufort.

A motion was made by Scott Matson and seconded by Erik Ross to appoint Dan Resenic as **Vice Chair of the Board** for 2025. Motion carried, 3:2

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC – AGENDA ITEMS

Barb Nalle – read the State's ethics policy, commented on Supervisor Ross' lawsuit, and asked the Board to reappoint Supervisor Verna to the LVPD Commission.

Bob Derk – commended the LVPD and asked the Board to reappoint Supervisor Verna to the LVPD Commission.

Wade Stoner – supports the LVPD and its current regional structure and commented on the Supervisor Ross' lawsuit and conflict of interest.

Dan Stevens – agreed with previous comments, commented on the lack of sewage in the Township, and urged the Board to make sure they have the right candidates for the appointments and asked the Board to reappoint Supervisor Verna to the LVPD Commission.

Ron Nordstrom – asked the Board to put the best qualified people in these positions and strongly supports Supervisor Verna being reappointed to the LVPD Commission.

Shawn Knepper – asked the Board to carefully consider appointments and to please reappoint Supervisor Verna to the LVPD Commission.

Steve Skupas – concerned about Supervisor’s Ross lawsuit and its conflict of interest.

APPOINTMENTS

A motion was made by Dan Resenic and seconded by Scott Matson to reappoint Stephanie Verna as **Secretary** for 2025. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Scott Matson and seconded by Dan Resenic to reappoint Stephanie Verna as **Treasurer** for 2025. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Dan Resenic and seconded by Scott Matson to appoint Michael Strelac as **Assistant Secretary** for 2025. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Dan Resenic and seconded by Scott Matson to appoint Michael Strelac as **Assistant Treasurer** for 2025. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Scott Matson and seconded by Dan Resenic to set the **Treasurer’s bond** at \$600,000. **Authorized signers** for all Ligonier Township’s financial accounts shall include the following: John Beaufort, Stephanie Verna, Erik Ross, Dan Resenic, and Michael Strelac in 2025. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Dan Resenic and seconded by Scott Matson to reappoint Berkheimer as the **Act 511 taxes and wages and local services tax collector** in 2025. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Dan Resenic and seconded by John Beaufort to reappoint Michael Strelac as **representative** and Alyssa Boyd as **alternate** to the **Act 32 Westmoreland County Wage Tax Committee** in 2025. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Dan Resenic and seconded by Scott Matson to reappoint Stephanie Verna and Michael Strelac as the **Chief Administrative Officers of the Non-Uniformed Pension Plan** for 2025. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Dan Resenic and seconded by John Beaufort to reappoint Michael Strelac as the **Open Records Officer**. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Stephanie Verna and seconded by John Beaufort to appoint John Fraser, as the **Chair of the Vacancy Board** in 2025. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Scott Matson and seconded by Dan Resenic to reappoint Wessel & Company as the **Township’s Certified Public Accountant** performing the 2024 Township Audit. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Scott Matson and seconded by Dan Resenic to reappoint Daniel Hudock as the **Township's Legal Counsel** for 2025 at the hourly rate of \$125 per hour. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Dan Resenic and seconded by Scott Matson to reappoint Ben Faas and Jake Bolby as the **Township's Engineers**, and EADS Engineering as the **alternate engineers** at a contracted rate of \$123-\$133 per hour and a flat meeting attendance rate of \$125 per meeting in 2025. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Scott Matson and seconded by Dan Resenic to reappoint Mike D'Arrigo as the **Township's Sewage Enforcement Officer (SEO)**, and Apex Companies as the **alternate SEO** for 2025. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Stephanie Verna and seconded by Dan Resnic to reappoint Sheila Grimm to the **Planning Commission** for a 5-year term expiring 12/31/2029. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Dan Resenic and seconded by Scott Matson to appoint Robert Barron to the **Recreation Board** for a 5-year term expiring 12/31/2029. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Scott Matson and seconded by Dan Resenic to appoint Cindy Steele George to the **Recreation Board** for a 5-year term expiring 12/31/2029. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Scott Matson and seconded by Dan Resenic to reappoint Dan Resenic to the **Ligonier Township Municipal Authority Board** for a 5-year term expiring 12/31/2029. Motion carried, 4:1, with Stephanie Verna noting no

A motion was made by John Beaufort and seconded by Dan Resenic to reappoint Doug Kurtz to the **Zoning Hearing Board** for a 5-year term to expire 12/31/2029. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Dan Resenic and seconded by Scott Matson to reappoint Patrick McDowell as the **Emergency Management Coordinator** in. Motion carried.

A motion was made by John Beaufort and seconded by Dan Resenic to reappoint Steve Smithly (Darlington), Gary Roberts (Wilpen), and Glen Kramer (Waterford) as the **Assistant Emergency Management Coordinators** in 2025. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Scott Matson and seconded by Dan Resenic to appoint Erik Ross to the **Ligonier Valley Police Commission** for a 4-year term expiring 12/31/2028. A competing motion was made by Stephanie Veran and seconded by John Beaufort to appoint Stephanie Verna to the Ligonier Valley Police Commission. A roll call vote was taken. Scott Matson, Dan Resenic,

Erik Ross voted for Erik Ross. Stephanie Verna and John Beaufort voted for Stephanie Verna. The motion appointing Erik Ross carried, 3:2.

Supervisor Resenic – asked the Township’s solicitor if he had any concerns with appointing Erik Ross to the commission. Mr. Hudock explained it is the LVPD Commission’s concern.

A motion was made by and seconded by to reappoint Mr. Matson as the Township’s **alternate** on the **Ligonier Valley Police Commission** for a 2-year term expiring 12/31/2026. Scott Matson, Dan Resenic, Erik Ross voting aye, Stephanie Verna, John Beaufort voting no. Motion carried, 3:2.

A motion was made by Scott Matson and seconded by Dan Resenic to recommend the appointment of Bob McDowell as a **Ligonier Valley Police Department Commissioner** for a 2-year term expiring 12/31/2026. A competing motion was made by Stephanie Verna and seconded by John Beaufort recommending the appointment of Scott Gongaware. A roll call vote was taken. Scott Matson, Dan Resenic, Erik Ross voted for Bob McDowell. Stephanie Verna voted for Scott Gongaware. John Beaufort abstained. The motion recommending Bob McDowell carried, 3:1.

Supervisor Beaufort disagreed with the idea of voting on the recommendation after the appointment had already been made. He suggested the Supervisors let it go and instead focus on fixing the language in the LVPD Commission Charter to better define the process and avoid procedural issues in the future.

SELECT DEPOSITORIES

A motion was made by Dan Resenic and seconded by Stephanie Verna to select First Commonwealth Bank as the **depository** for the General Fund, the Developers / Escrow Fund and the Ligonier Beach Park Fund in 2025. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Dan Resenic and seconded by Stephanie Verna to select Commercial National Bank as the **depository** for the Liquid Fuels Fund and the Capital Fund in 2025. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Dan Resenic and seconded by John Beaufort to select the Pennsylvania Local Government Investment Trust (PLGIT) and Janney Montgomery Scott as the **depositories** for the General Fund Reserves in 2025. Motion carried.

ESTABLISH REGULAR MEETINGS & PAY

A motion was made by Dan Resenic and seconded by John Beaufort to designate the second Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. and fourth Tuesday of each month at 4:30 p.m. at the

Municipal Complex located at 1 Municipal Park Drive, as the **regular meeting location, time and dates** for the Ligonier Township **Supervisors** in 2025, with the exception of January, where the first meeting occurred today (as required by state law) and November, where both meetings shall be moved to Monday (Veterans Day and day before Thanksgiving). Motion carried.

A motion was made by Dan Resenic and seconded by Stephanie Verna to establish payment of the **Supervisors' stipends** on a quarterly basis, limited to the amount stipulated by the Second Class Township code (\$2,500 annual). Motion carried.

A motion was made by Dan Resenic and seconded by John Beaufort to follow the **IRS standard mileage rate** at 70 cents per mile in 2025. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Dan Resenic and seconded by Stephanie Verna to designate the fourth Thursday of each month at 6:00 p.m. at the Municipal Complex located at 1 Municipal Park Drive as the **Planning Commission's regular meeting location, time, and dates** in 2025, with the exceptions of November and December (Thanksgiving & Christmas), which are designated for the third Thursdays (November 20th & December 18th). The **Planning Commission members** are compensated at a rate of \$30 per meeting to be paid quarterly in 2025. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Dan Resenic and seconded by Scott Matson to designate the third Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at the Municipal Complex located at 1 Municipal Park Drive as the **Zoning Hearing Board's regular meeting location, time, and dates** in 2025, with the exception of May, where the meeting shall be moved to the third Monday (primary election). The **Zoning Hearing Board members** are compensated at a rate of \$30 per meeting to be paid quarterly in 2025. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Dan Resenic and seconded by Stephanie Verna to designate the second Monday of each month at 5:00 p.m. at the Municipal Complex located at 1 Municipal Park Drive as the **Recreation Board's regular meeting location, time, and dates** in 2025. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

A motion was made by Dan Resenic and seconded by Scott Matson to designate November 28 and December 26 as the township's "**Floating Holidays**" as per Article 14, Section 1 of the UAW Local 204 union agreement. Motion carried.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

An executive session began at 7:39 p.m. and ended at 7:52 p.m. for the purpose of discussing personnel matters and potential litigation related to the following agenda items.

APPOINTMENTS & SALARIES

Finance Officer for 2025. No motion to make. Interviews to start as soon as possible. The Board thanks Bethany Caldwell for her service.

A motion was made by Dan Resenic and seconded by Stephanie Verna to reappoint Rick Krouse as the **Code Enforcement Officer** and **Zoning Officer** for 2025, at an hourly rate of \$20.20, and with five additional personal days above and beyond what he is entitled to through the employee handbook. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Dan Resenic and seconded by Scott Matson to reappoint Michael Strelac as the **Township Manager** for 2025, at an annual wage of \$90,000. Motion carried.

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

The Chairman of the Board of Supervisors makes the following appointments for 2025:

Personnel:	Supervisors Ross and Resenic
Budget & Finance:	Supervisors Ross and Verna
Public Works:	Supervisors Resenic and Matson
Community Development:	Supervisors Verna and Beaufort

MEETING MINUTES

A motion was made by Dan Resenic and seconded by Stephanie Verna to approve the December 10, 2024 meeting minutes. Motion carried.

BILLS PAYABLE

A motion was made by Stephanie Verna and seconded by Dan Resenic to approve the bills payable as presented. Motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE

1. 57 letters of support for LVPD
2. Mutual Aid number of calls per month
3. Idlewild re: Fort Days detour
4. FOLB re: Ligonier Beach pool feasibility study

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business.

NEW BUSINESS

LVPD Commission's December appointment of citizen member of Commission:

A motion was made by Dan Resenic and seconded by Scott Matson to pursue a preliminary injunction against the LVPD Commission. Scott Matson, Dan Resenic, Erik Ross voted aye, Stephanie Verna, John Beaufort voted no. Motion carried, 3:2.

Liquor License Transfer:

The Township received a request for a letter of intent to transfer a liquor license.

A motion was made by Dan Resenic and seconded by Stephanie Verna to authorize the Township Manager to send a letter of intent to James McConnel, Laurel Highlands Group Inc., and the Pennsylvania Liquor Control Board. Motion carried.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Dan Stevens – commented on the Board’s actions, what is in the best interest of the public and said the Board has created a hostile work environment.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS FROM THE SUPERVISORS

Supervisor Ross – Looks forward to 2025

Supervisor Beaufort – No comment

Supervisor Matson – commented on the Fire Departments’ donations and his personal donations made to both the VFDs and PD.

Supervisor Verna – Thanked Mrs. Caldwell for her service. Appreciates the public attending and all their comments. Boards are supposed to have balance with skill sets that complement each other.

Supervisor Resenic – No comment

MOTION TO ADJOURN

A motion was made by Dan Resenic and seconded by Scott Matson to adjourn the meeting. All of the board was in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 8:09 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Bethany Caldwell
Assistant Secretary / Treasurer