

June 25, 2024

The regular meeting of the Ligonier Township Supervisors was held Tuesday, June 25, 2024 at 4:30 p.m. in the Municipal Building with Chairman Dan Resenic presiding.

Members Present: Dan Resenic, Erik Ross, Scott Matson, Stephanie Verna, and John Beaufort.

Others Present: Township Manager Michael Strelic, Solicitor Dan Hudock, Engineer Jake Bolby, Public Works Foremen Lance Griffith, Zoning/Code Enforcement Officer Rick Krouse, and Finance Officer Bethany Caldwell.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

There were no comments from the public.

COMMENTS FROM THE SUPERVISORS

Supervisor Matson – Thanked the firefighters for all they do, especially as they don't get paid.

Supervisor Ross – No comment.

Supervisor Verna – No comment.

Supervisor Beaufort – The fire companies' annual donation request letters were mailed. They've been busy with false alarm calls. There is a bluegrass festival in Waterford this weekend, there will be a pancake breakfast and several bands are slated to play.

Supervisor Resenic – Echoed Supervisor Beaufort's comment, with all the requests for donations, the fire departments should be at the top of the list. Please give as much as you can.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

A **motion** was made by Erik Ross and seconded by Scott Matson to approve the minutes from the June 11, 2024 meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

CORRESPONDENCE

1. PennDOT's bridge inspection report letter of transmittal, the ratings are:
 - Peters: good
 - Clifford Woods: good
 - Mill Road: satisfactory
 - Zion Church: satisfactory
 - Austraw: fair
 - Carey School: fair
 - McKelvey: poor
 - Horner Hill: pending, under review by PennDOT

Mr. Strelac explained there are five category codes of how critical the recommended repairs are. None of these bridges listed above had anything in the top 2 levels of priority. PennDOT mandates the inspection of bridges more than 15 feet in length. There are 16 bridges less than 15 feet that don't get this biennial inspection. Bridge maintenance should be discussed by both the Public Works Committee and the Finance Committee during 2025 budget planning. Five of these sixteen uninspected bridges might be eligible for CDBG funding.

2. Mutual Aid – thank you letter for the Township's donation
3. Darrell Arbore, Esq. letter in response to Mr. Gongaware's public comment at the June 11, 2024 Supervisors meeting.

REPORTS:

MANAGER

Mr. Strelac announced that Autumn Leaves will be closed July 10, (weather permitting) for repairs.

ENGINEER

Mr. Bolby reported the School's land development plan was reviewed and a conditional recommendation will be made at the next Planning Commission meeting.

SOLICITOR

Mr. Hudock reported he filed two code complaints on behalf of the Township; the Magistrate is working to get them approved by the District Attorney since there are criminal complaints.

ZONING / CODE ENFORCEMENT

Mr. Krouse presented his Zoning / Code Enforcement report for the month of May.

PUBLIC WORKS

Mr. Griffith thanked the Board for hiring Andrew Baker back in December, he is a good worker and an asset to the team. Coal Loaders has started work on Myers School Road. The crew has been busy preparing for the chip-seal work and once that wraps up, they will focus on the Dirt, Gravel & Low Volume grant projects. The tractor's fuel pump is out again (second time), they are investigating the pump's one-year warranty. As a best practice, he recommended the Township have a back-up tractor so they can continue work while the main tractor is down. Supervisor Ross asked staff to research what is available and bring that information back to the board, Supervisor Matson suggested they look for a tractor with an arm attachment.

FINANCE

The General Fund's budget vs. actual report for the month of May was presented to the Board.

BILLS PAYABLE

A motion was made by Stephanie Verna and seconded by Scott Matson to approve the bills payable as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Ligonier Valley Trail Study Committee:

DCNR rules require five volunteers on this committee; to date 4 letters of interest have been received. No action was taken.

Ordinance 2024-O-05, No Parking Zone – Old Lincoln Highway West

This ordinance prevents parking along an already narrow section of Old Lincoln Highway West.

A motion was made by Erik Ross and seconded by John Beaufort to approve Ordinance 2024-O-05, No Parking Zone along Old Lincoln Highway West. Motion carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

Byers Lane Code Complaint:

Mr. Krouse explained this complaint is over a year old and while there had been some progress made several months ago, it seems all efforts have halted and the owner has stopped communicating with the Township despite multiple attempts.

A motion was made by Erik Ross and seconded by Scott Matson to approve filing a code complaint with the magistrate. Motion carried unanimously.

2024-25 Winter Municipal Snow Agreement:

This agreement covers Springer Road, Owl Hollow Road and Marietta Road, and PennDOT would pay the Township to remove snow on 11.68 miles of state roads. There was a discussion about the condition of Marietta, the road is very rough. Because the road is in bad shape, the Board is concerned the Township's equipment could be damaged.

A motion was made by Erik Ross and seconded by Dan Resenic to approve the PennDOT 2024-25 Winter Municipal Snow Agreement for Springer Road and Owl Hollow Road, but not Marietta Road. Motion carried unanimously.

Ordinance Regulating Chickens:

The Township receives complaints about chickens, approximately once a month. Each time, residents are told this is a rural / agriculture community and there is no ordinance regulating chickens. There was a brief discussion about how such an ordinance would be enforced and the Board confirmed this is a civil issue between property owners. No action taken.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

There was no executive session.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Wade Stoner – suggested the board change the minimum requirements to solicit more volunteer interest for the Ligonier Trail Study committee and cited examples (Ligonier Borough and / or Ligonier Valley School District residents, tax payers as opposed to residents).

Emily Pershing – suggested the township have a height clearance marker attached to one of the township's trucks that would help Public Works when trimming the roads' tree canopy.

Deborah Messer – inquired about Austraw Road's ditches noting they were recently cleaned out and are so deep that if a vehicle ends up in one, it is not getting out. Mr. Griffith to inspect.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS FROM THE SUPERVISORS

Supervisor Matson – Thought Ms. Pershing had a good idea and noted most of the problem areas are on the state roads.

Supervisor Ross – No comment.

Supervisor Beaufort – Noted it all comes down to time and money – these are limited resources that affect our decisions.

Supervisor Verna – Previewed one of bridge inspection reports and asked Public Works incorporate some of the routine maintenance into their work schedules.

Supervisor Resenic – No comment.

MOTION TO ADJOURN


A motion was made by Erik Ross and seconded by Scott Matson to adjourn the meeting. All of the board was in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 5:13 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Bethany Caldwell
Assistant Secretary/Treasurer

Ligonier Township, Westmoreland County, PA
Bill Payments for All Vendors
June 24, 2024

Vendor	Type	Num	Amount
Jun 24, 24			
AA Septic Tank Service	Bill Pmt -Check	26244	187.50
Advent Communications	Bill Pmt -Check	26245	475.99
Fayette Parts Service, Inc.	Bill Pmt -Check	26246	412.86
Glassmere Fuel Service	Bill Pmt -Check	26247	3,216.51
Laurel Valley Hardware Inc.	Bill Pmt -Check	26248	19.08
Ligonier Giant Eagle	Bill Pmt -Check	26249	45.48
Ligonier Valley Police Department	Bill Pmt -Check	26250	119,289.00
LVTech	Bill Pmt -Check	26251	700.00
Port-A-John	Bill Pmt -Check	26252	140.00
Rick Krouse	Bill Pmt -Check	26253	4.00
Russell Standard Corp.	Bill Pmt -Check	26254	2,740.17
UniFirst Corporation	Bill Pmt -Check	26255	137.24
Unifirst First Aid & Safety	Bill Pmt -Check	26256	110.83
Wessel & Company	Bill Pmt -Check	26257	12,250.00
West Penn Power 2813	Bill Pmt -Check	26258	9.65
Windber Stone LLC	Bill Pmt -Check	26259	1,757.14
Jun 24, 24			141,495.45


6/25/24
OK