

August 27, 2024

The regular meeting of the Ligonier Township Supervisors was held Tuesday, August 27, 2024 at 4:30 p.m. in the Municipal Building with Vice Chair Erik Ross presiding.

Members Present: Erik Ross and John Beaufort were present in person, Dan Resenic attended via phone, and Scott Matson joined the meeting in process. Stephanie Verna was absent.

Others Present: Solicitor Dan Hudock, Engineer Ben Faas, Public Works Foreman Lance Griffith, Zoning/Code Enforcement Officer Rick Krouse, and Finance Officer Bethany Caldwell. Township Manager Michael Strelic was absent.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

There were no comments from the public.

COMMENTS FROM THE SUPERVISORS

Supervisor Resenic – recognized Jessica Golden for her efforts securing a \$24k grant from the Ligonier Endowment Fund and a \$2,600 grant from Somerset Trust to refurbish the Ligonier Valley Trail. He thanked these organizations for their generous contributions to our community.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

A motion was made by John Beaufort and seconded by Dan Resenic to approve the minutes from the August 13, 2024 meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

CORRESPONDENCE

There was no correspondence.

REPORTS:

ENGINEER

Mr. Faas reported he will be inspecting Ramsey Road Bridge in mid-September and preparing some cost estimates to be used for a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) application. He was also on-site at Myers School Road and reported it looked good.

SOLICITOR

Mr. Hudock reported he continues to work with staff on code complaints.

ZONING / CODE ENFORCEMENT

Mr. Krouse presented his July report and noted 3 properties came off the Code Complaint list – one ceased activities, another secured the proper permit, and a third cleaned up their place.

PUBLIC WORKS

Mr. Griffith reported the Dirt, Gravel & Low Volume grant work on Mallard Lane was completed. There are a few outstanding issues with chip-sealing that he will address with the vendor. Projects up next include work on Jinks Trail, High Acres, Settler Road, a few small paving jobs and then sealing.

Supervisor Ross reported the Public Works Committee met and discussed priorities: scheduling paving work to be done the year before that same road is chip-sealed (this will take a few years to fully implement) and scheduling the chip-seal work to 5 zones that align with the 5-year rotational plan (to get better prices on chip-seal contracts). Next up is a 10-year plan to tackle small bridges (20 feet and under) – reconditioning, repairing and/or replacing them, so that this work can be incorporated into future budgets and applicable grant programs.

Supervisor Beaufort asked about the Township's plans for Claycomb Road. Mr. Griffith said the plan is to wait and see how the road holds up over winter and then reassess.

Supervisor Beaufort asked about the Hidden Valley project. Mr. Griffith said the crew would resume work sometime after September (weather dependent), as there is some higher priority stormwater work that needs done first. Supervisor Beaufort asked if work includes seeding the hillside. Yes, some of it.

FINANCE

Mrs. Caldwell presented the General Fund's Budget vs. Actual report for the month of July.

BILLS PAYABLE

A motion was made by John Beaufort and seconded by Dan Resenic to approve the bills payable as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Volunteer Fire Department Changes:

Waterford VFD's callout change request was tabled at the last month's meeting, pending receipt of a letter from Bethlen Homes acknowledging Waterford will not respond to AED and ambulance assist calls at the Home as they have both the equipment and trained staff on-site.

A motion was made by John Beaufort and seconded by Dan Resenic to approve Waterford's VFD callout change request. Motion carried unanimously.

Ligonier Township Fire Co. #1 Waterford, requested the following additional fire department readout reporting changes:

Station 42 removed from all zone 2 vehicle accidents

Station 43 removed from zone 1 vehicle accidents and automatic fire alarms.

Station 45 removed from all of zone 2 vehicle accidents

Chief Rob Beaufort explained to the Board this request isn't really asking for changes, it's more about updating the readouts to reflect their current practices.

A motion was made by John Beaufort and seconded by Dan Resenic to approve Waterford's VFD callout change request. Motion carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

Kevin McVicker Plan 2:

This request to split 2.18 acres from the farm on Wilpen Road has been reviewed and recommended by the Planning Commission, however the applicant's paperwork was not received in time, so this item was tabled.

Moore Consolidation Plan:

This request to consolidate 3 lots in Oakwood Hills has been reviewed and recommended by the Planning Commission.

A motion was made by John Beaufort and seconded by Dan Resenic to approve the Moore Consolidation Plan. Motion carried unanimously.

Supervisor Matson joined the meeting at 4:48 p.m.

Kimberly Black Sewer Planning Module:

This is for a subdivision that will be on the September Planning Commission agenda. The proposed creation of a new parcel requires an approved septic location. That septic sewer system has been tested and approved by our sewage enforcement officer. The DEP paperwork requires a signature of either the chair or the secretary.

A motion was made by Scott Matson and seconded by John Beaufort to approve the Kimberly Black Sewer Planning Module. Motion carried unanimously.

Resolution 2024-R-13, LSA Cat 4 Grant, 5-ton dump truck:

The Township is planning to replace the oldest 5-ton in the Township's fleet (from 2007) and would like to offset some of this expense with a grant.

A motion was made by Dan Resenic and seconded by Scott Matson to approve Resolution 2024-R-13, LSA Cat 4 Grant Application for a 5-ton dump truck. Motion carried unanimously.

Resolution 2024-R-14, LSA State Grant, 10-ton dump truck:

The Township has a 10-ton International truck on order and needs to order another one. Again, the hope is to offset costs with a grant.

A motion was made by John Beaufort and seconded by Scott Matson to approve Resolution 2024-R-14, LSA State Grant Application for a 10-ton dump truck. Motion carried unanimously.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

There was no executive session.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

There were no additional comments from the public.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS FROM THE SUPERVISORS

Supervisor Beaufort – said he’s driven on some of the roads that were recently tar and chipped and he thinks the crew did a good job.

Supervisor Matson – echoed Supervisor Beaufort’s comment, citing Kissell Springs, Autumn Leaves, and Griffith Roads are better than they’ve ever been. Regarding the Police Department– we regionalized to save money, but the township’s payments to the police department were \$114k, this year they’re up to \$119k. He is not arguing against having a good police department, but he is against this new building proposal – we were offered funding, but the tax payers are still on the hook and what happens when we need to adopt a fire tax...

Supervisor Beaufort – clarified they did save money; LVPD Commission was able to keep the budget flat for the regional department’s first 5 years. There were additional savings realized with officer retention improvements. He agreed that the dwindling volunteers for the fire departments is a problem.

Supervisor Resenic – said he’d like to get some data, facts and figures on the proposed Police Department building. His plan is to contact that County’s 911 call center for the types of emergency calls and where they originate. He’d like to see the proposal’s set of plans, just a basic floor plan to give to another firm and verify the numbers are credible using prevailing wage and today’s cost of materials. His concern is accurate information, how do they know if the estimate is off or grossly underestimated? A new building with all the bells & whistles, including the property it sits on – in a flood plain, for \$2M?

Supervisor Ross – No comment.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

A motion was made by Dan Resenic and seconded by John Beaufort to adjourn the meeting. All of the board was in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 5:01 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Bethany Caldwell
Assistant Secretary/Treasurer

Ligonier Township, Westmoreland County, PA

Bill Payments for All Vendors

August 26, 2024

Vendor	Type	Num	Amount
Aug 26, 24			
West Penn Power	Bill Pmt -Check	ACH	709.71
Comcast	Bill Pmt -Check	ACH	552.10
AA Septic Tank Service	Bill Pmt -Check	26367	275.00
Apex Companies LLC	Bill Pmt -Check	26368	2,527.50
Appalachian Fluid Power Inc	Bill Pmt -Check	26369	160.39
Bedford Valley & Jacobs Petroleum	Bill Pmt -Check	26370	919.00
Black's Specialty Service	Bill Pmt -Check	26371	167.81
Fayette Parts Service, Inc.	Bill Pmt -Check	26372	19.53
Glassmere Fuel Service	Bill Pmt -Check	26373	3,521.12
Government Leasing & Finance Inc	Bill Pmt -Check	26374	15,687.91
Judy Ridgway - v	Bill Pmt -Check	26375	22.88
Laurel Valley Hardware Inc.	Bill Pmt -Check	26376	24.41
Ligonier Giant Eagle	Bill Pmt -Check	26377	52.87
Ligonier Township Municipal Authority	Bill Pmt -Check	26378	240.00
Ligonier Valley Police Department	Bill Pmt -Check	26379	119,289.00
New Enterprise Stone & Lime Co., Inc.	Bill Pmt -Check	26380	13,860.69
Pleasant Unity Supply	Bill Pmt -Check	26381	2,036.40
Port-A-John	Bill Pmt -Check	26382	140.00
Tresco Paving Corp	Bill Pmt -Check	26383	1,344.02
UniFirst Corporation	Bill Pmt -Check	26384	260.21
Washington National Insurance Company	Bill Pmt -Check	26385	165.36
West Penn Power 2813	Bill Pmt -Check	26386	9.64
Westmoreland County Land Bank	Bill Pmt -Check	26387	52.75
West Penn Power 6175	Bill Pmt -Check	26388	128.77
Aug 26, 24			162,167.07

Out + Pay
SC
8/27/24