

Ligonier Township Supervisors
Regular Meeting Minutes
September 26, 2023

The Supervisors of Ligonier Township met in regular session at 4:30 p.m. Present were Chair, Dan Resenic; Vice Chair, Erik Ross; Secretary/Treasurer, Stephanie Verna; Supervisor, D. Scott Matson; and Supervisor, John Beaufort.

Also present were Manager, Michael Strelac; Solicitor, Dan Hudock; Engineer, Ben Faas; Zoning / Code Enforcement Officer, Rick Krouse; and Finance Officer, Bethany Caldwell.

Comments from the Public

1. Debbie Messer – Filed two Right-to-Know requests.

Comments from the Supervisors

There were no comments from the Supervisors.

- A motion was made by Stephanie Verna and seconded by Scott Matson to approve the minutes from the September 12, 2023 meeting. Motion carried.

Correspondence List (Note these items are not read aloud.)

1. PennDOT notice of estimated liquid fuels allocation
2. Volunteer Fire Relief Association allocation
3. Westmoreland County audit of Township tax collector
4. PennDOT notice of water obstruction permits
5. Stephen Cary firefighter consultant application

Manager Report

Mr. Strelac reported the crew was cleaning up the roads that were chip-sealed, but the hydraulics on the sweeper went out. He is working on the 2024 budget and 5-year plan. He asked the Board Members to send him their emergency contact information.

Engineer Report

Mr. Faas deferred to the later in the meeting (Unfinished Business).

Solicitor Report

Mr. Hudock reported he's been working with Mr. Krouse and will be filing the Sleasman complaint this week. He requested an executive session to discuss the DEP's Act 537 appeal litigation.

Staff Reports

1. Zoning / Code Enforcement – Mr. Krouse provided his August report and gave an update on the Zoning Hearing Board (ZHB) meeting.

Supervisor Resenic asked about a complaint on Owl Hollow Road and Mr. Krouse explained he has been working on the complaint, but noted that the property is agricultural and is therefore protected by multiple state laws that protect farming and farm equipment.

2. Finance – the August Budget vs. Actual report will be presented next month.
 - A motion was made by Stephanie Verna and seconded by Erik Ross to approve the bills as presented. Motion carried.

Old Business

1. Resolution 2023-R-22, LSA grant submittal on behalf of Southern Alleghenies Museum of Art (SAMA). SAMA got clarification on the grant program process - SAMA will pay vendors directly. The Township is the “pass through” for reimbursement. SAMA has already written the grant and all the Township has to do copy and paste the text into the grant’s portal.
 - A motion was made by Dan Resenic and seconded by Erik Ross to approve 2023-R-22. Motion carried.
2. Westmoreland County stormwater grant – the agreement was received Friday. No action is required at this time, as staff need to reach out to the county for clarification on scope of work.
 - A motion was made by Erik Ross and seconded by Scott Matson to appoint Josh Byers to the Zoning Hearing Board with a term expiring 12/31/27. Motion carried.
 - A motion was made by Scott Matson and seconded by Stephanie Verna to approve Wessel & Company as the Township’s auditor. Motion carried.
3. Ordinance 2023-O-06 Fire Department Recognition Ordinance – was tabled to allow the Board and Mr. Hudock more time to review the ordinance’s language.
4. Residential & commercial sewage line inspection testing – This would need an ordinance, rules & regulations, and designate the Municipal Authority to carry out the testing process and enforcement. Testing is usually triggered by an event (sale or refinance). The Board is taking steps to ensure the best prices for our residents – we are in negotiations with MAWC and they’ve commented that they treat more sewage after a rain event. Supervisor Resenic is in favor of pressure testing as it is a more reliable method and harder to dispute its accuracy.
 - A motion was made by John Beaufort and seconded by Scott Matson to direct the solicitor to draft a comprehensive Infiltration & Inflow inspection testing at transfer ordinance while working with the township engineer and LTMA. Motion carried.

New Business

Special Events Permit – After reviewing the Special Events Ordinance, Mr. Strelac noted that the Township cannot revoke a special event permit, it can only issue a fine. The ordinance should be revised. Supervisor Verna noted there is an additional issue that needs to be addressed - the Country Market is out of compliance with their permit. She asked if they were notified. Mr. Strelac explained there have been discussions and they disagree and think they are compliant – they have more vendors but the same number of “spots.” Supervisor Verna asked that the County Market be notified so they can plan accordingly.

Comments from the Public

There were no comments from the public.

Comments from the Supervisors

Supervisor Matson – Said he rides around the Township in the evenings and is seeing some improvements, notably Serena, Claycomb, and Jacob Miller Roads. He would like to see the Fire Departments get \$15k each in next year’s budget.

Supervisor Ross – No comment

Supervisor Verna – Noted there is a lot of gravel at the intersection of Brallier Road and Route 30 and it’s hazardous. There might not be much the Township can do to alleviate the cause, but is concerned as it is unsafe.

Supervisor Beaufort – No comment

Supervisor Resenic – Commended the Public Works Department, he has seen a lot of good activity lately and is pleased to have a working foreman out with the Crew.

Executive Session

The Supervisors went into executive session at 5:00 p.m. to discuss the DEP’s Act 537 appeal litigation and resumed regular meeting at 5:35 p.m.

- A motion was made by Erik Ross and seconded by Stephanie Verna to adjourn the meeting at 5:36 p.m. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Bethany Caldwell
Assistant Secretary/Treasurer

Ligonier Township, Westmoreland County, PA

Bill Payments for All Vendors

September 26, 2023

Vendor	Type	Num	Amount
Sep 26, 23			
AA Septic Tank Service	Bill Pmt -Check	25758	250.00
Advent Communications	Bill Pmt -Check	25759	2,541.16
Comcast	Bill Pmt -Check	25760	747.11
Darlington Volunteer Fire Co.	Bill Pmt -Check	25761	10,000.00
Fayette Parts Service, Inc.	Bill Pmt -Check	25762	48.76
Glassmere Fuel Service	Bill Pmt -Check	25763	3,790.04
Greensburg Machine & Driveline L.L.C.	Bill Pmt -Check	25764	536.44
Groff Tractor & Equipment	Bill Pmt -Check	25765	2,493.60
Idle Park Volunteer Fire Relief Associati	Bill Pmt -Check	25766	16,558.66
Ligonier Agway	Bill Pmt -Check	25767	40.00
Ligonier Giant Eagle	Bill Pmt -Check	25768	55.89
Ligonier Township VFD #1	Bill Pmt -Check	25769	10,000.00
Ligonier Twp VFD # 1 Relief Association	Bill Pmt -Check	25770	16,558.66
Ligonier Valley Library	Bill Pmt -Check	25771	1,500.00
New Enterprise Stone & Lime Co., Inc.	Bill Pmt -Check	25772	1,098.84
Pennsylvania Municipal Service Co.	Bill Pmt -Check	25773	1,866.92
Royal Oak Retriever, LLC	Bill Pmt -Check	25774	60.00
Russell Standard Corp.	Bill Pmt -Check	25775	3,900.00
UniFirst Corporation	Bill Pmt -Check	25776	165.74
Washington National Insurance Company	Bill Pmt -Check	25777	165.36
West Penn Power	Bill Pmt -Check	25778	633.51
Wilpen Co of Ligonier Twp	Bill Pmt -Check	25779	10,000.00
Wilpen Volunteer Firefighters Relief Asso	Bill Pmt -Check	25780	16,558.66
Zach Yesho	Bill Pmt -Check	25781	123.50
			99,692.85

9/26/23

Jan

11:36 AM

09/25/23

Ligonier Township-Liquid Fuels
Bill Payments for All Vendors
September 26, 2023

<u>Vendor</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Num</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Sep 26, 23			
Russell Standard Corp.	Bill Pmt -Check	1329	308,034.36
West Penn Power	Bill Pmt -Check	1330	44.44
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Sep 26, 23			308,078.80
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9/26/23
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