

**February 25, 2025**

The regular meeting of the Ligonier Township Supervisors was held Tuesday, February 25, 2025 at 4:30 p.m. in the Municipal Building with Chairman Erik Ross presiding and opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Secretary Verna called the roll.

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

**Others Present:** Township Manager Michael Strelac, Solicitor Dan Hudock, Public Works Foremen Lance Griffith, Zoning/Code Enforcement Officer Rick Krouse, Finance Officer Beverly Warfel, and LTMA manager Anthony Griffith.

### **COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC – Agenda Items**

There were no comments from the Public.

### **COMMENTS FROM THE SUPERVISORS**

There were no comments from the Supervisors.

### **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

**A motion** was made by Supervisor Verna and seconded by Dan Resenic to approve the minutes from the February 11, 2025, meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

### **CORRESPONDENCE –**

- a) Campbell Oil & Gas notified they are applying to permit a natural gas well in Derry.
- b) PennDOT notified the Township they will perform Traffic Data Collection on local roadways.
- c) The Township received notification from PennDOT we were approved for liquid fuel monies at \$3,100 more than budgeted.

### **REPORTS:**

#### **MANAGER REPORT**

Mr. Strelac reported that next meeting he would bring before the board a request to purchase a five ton truck for Public Works. The final quote came in yesterday. The Township budgeted \$120,000. The quote came in a hair under the budgeted amount.

Mr. Strelac also noted the Township has been notified it has been awarded a Multi Modal Grant through the State for \$587,000. The Township received one of the two grants awarded in Westmoreland County. The award was applied for with cooperation between the Township, Ligonier Borough, and the School District. Since the projected budget for the project was \$1.2M, we will need to seek additional funds.

### **SOLICITOR REPORT**

Mr. Hudock reported he is working on a couple of code issues with Mr. Krouse – The property located at 576 Old Lincoln Highway which has a deadline of March 3rd to avoid trial. The second property is the Beard property on Cherokee Lane. The Township will be on this property to inspect conditions.

Bethlen/Concordia Homes filed an appeal to receive tax exempt status. Now that an appeal has been filed, he would need to enter an appearance on behalf of the Township. The Township would be a participant with the School District to oppose the appeal for tax exempt status.

**A motion** to participate with the School District in opposing the approval of tax exempt status of the Bethlen/Concordia Homes for its independent living cottage located on the premises was made by Supervisor Beaufort and seconded by Supervisor Resenic. The motion was approved unanimously.

### **LIGONIER TOWNSHIP MUNICIPAL AUTHORITY (LTMA)**

Mr. Griffith spoke to the difficulty in getting approval from the DEP to build a sewage facility in the Township which would allow for the expansion of sewer lines further into the Township. Supervisors confirmed that there was no current intention to sell the LTMA when asked by Mr. Griffith.

### **STAFF REPORTS**

- a) Zoning / Code Enforcement – Mr. Krouse reported that he has been in contact with owners of 576 Old Lincoln Highway who must submit a plan to mediate the property by March 3<sup>rd</sup>. If they do not summary trial is scheduled for March 23.
- b) Public Works – Mr. Griffith reported that all trucks up and running. The crew will most likely begin to cold patch this week. They will soon be back to tree trimming. Sweeping up anti-skid may start next month, depending on weather.
- c) Finance – Mrs. Warfel indicated the January Financial status was included in their packets. There is only one issue where we are currently over budget, which is as a result of the damage to the building last November. She will report to the Board next meeting with suggestions for offsetting the expense. She and Mr. Strelic are working on the monthly report requested by Supervisor Verna.

### **TREASURER REPORT**

Treasurer Verna

- a) Approval of the Bill Pay List:  
General Fund \$128,719.86  
The Ligonier Beach Fund \$2,706.59.

### **BILLS PAYABLE**

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

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS** – There was no unfinished business.

**NEW BUSINESS**

- a) Dumpster Day date, time, fees – Mr. Strelac presented the information regarding the Township's participation with Dumpster Days for 2025.

**A motion** was made by Supervisor Beaufort and seconded by Supervisor Resenic to move forward with Dumpster Day on Saturday, April 26, from 8:00 A.M. – Noon, with the same fee schedule as previous years. The motion carried unanimously.

- b) Resolution 2025-R-01 document destruction – Mr. Strelac recommended that Resolution No. 2025-R-01, which approves the destruction of certain records be passed by the Board, due to the fact there is limited space at township facilities to maintain records of no value.

**A motion** was made by Supervisor Beaufort and seconded by Supervisor Verna to approve Resolution No. 2025-R-01, which approves the destruction of certain records pursuant to the Pennsylvania Municipal Records Act and Ordinance No. 2023-OR-01. The motion was carried unanimously.

- c) Bethlen Home/Concordia property tax exemption appeal  
Discussion and motions on this agenda item were taken during the solicitor report.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION** – There was no need to go into Executive Session

**ADDITIONAL COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC – All other**

Chris Hefner – Clarified that recent posts on a community facebook page that he administers of past articles related to the LTMA were to raise awareness. Spoke to the possible conflict of interest by Supervisor Ross serving on the Police Commission.

**ADDITIONAL COMMENTS FROM THE SUPERVISORS**

Supervisor Beaufort complimented the Wilpen Volunteer Fire Company which held their banquet last weekend. They serviced 230 calls during 2024 and have four volunteers with 50 years of service. He wants to bring to the public's attention their commitment to service.

Supervisor Verna expressed her excitement about receiving the grant for the pedestrian bridge. She wishes to encourage moving forward with the project and seeking the financing required. She would like each resident to keep in mind the town receives only 5 cents on every dollar of real estate taxes. Maintaining a balanced budget will become more challenging as we face rising costs and a somewhat fixed income as the portion of new development that comes to the township is limited. She noted that the quality of services provided deliver great value to the community.

Supervisor Resenic commented that he has been looking back a few years, before the current staff. He believes Mr. Strelac, Mr. Griffith and Mr. Krouse serve as an impeccable staff. The township is in the best shape it has been in a long time, but our work isn't done yet. He would love to see the sewer expand. We are a pristine area but we have to do a little work to keep it that way.

Supervisor Ross addressed Mr. Hefner's comments regarding his service on the Police Commission. Any possibility of a conflict of interest regarding his service on the commission will be determined by the Pennsylvania Ethics Commission and we are waiting on their response.

**MOTION TO ADJOURN**

**A motion** was made by Supervisor Resenic and seconded by Supervisor Beaufort to adjourn the meeting. All of the board was in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 5:39 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Beverly Warfel  
Assistant Secretary/Finance Officer