

March 11, 2025

The regular meeting of the Ligonier Township Supervisors was held Tuesday, March 11, 2025 at 7:00 p.m. in the Municipal Building with Chairman Erik Ross presiding.

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

Others Present: Township Manager Michael Strelac, Solicitor Dan Hudock, Engineer Ben Faas, Chief Michael Matrunics, and Finance Officer Beverly Warfel.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC – Agenda Items

Wade Stoner – referred to comments at the previous meeting by Chris Hefner regarding Mr. Ross serving on the Police Commission.

COMMENTS FROM THE SUPERVISORS

Supervisor Beaufort spoke regarding the lawsuit involving the Scott Gongaware appointment to the Police Commission.

Supervisor Verna questioned as to whether or not the filing of financials for those choosing to run for office had been met.

Supervisor Matson addressed the busyness of work and life and that, although he had appreciated working with the Township Board, this would be his last meeting. He tendered his resignation and retired from the meeting.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

A motion was made by Supervisor Verna and seconded by Supervisor Resenic to approve the minutes from the February 25, meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

CORRESPONDENCE

- a) Auditor Engagement Letter – This correspondence indicates the understanding of the services Wessel & Company will provide Ligonier Township during the requested audit of 2024.
- b) MAWC Sewer Lateral Inspection – Notice that as of 03/15/25 the fee to inspect all properties that receive sewage service from the MAWC will be increasing to \$350 for the required sewer lateral inspection upon sale or transfer of property.
- c) Mutual Aid February Calls per Municipality – Sets forth there were 2544 mutual aid calls for the month of February
- d) Mutual Aid Donation Information – Provides a listing of donation needs for the Education and Operations Divisions of the Mutual Aid Ambulance Service
- e) Scott Gongaware Re: Police Commission Litigation
- f) Country Market letters regarding withholding Special Event Permit

REPORTS:

MANAGER REPORT – Mr. Strelac reported the salt borrowed from PennDOT this winter has been returned. He indicated the two resolutions that should be passed, if the Board desires, would be the resolution for the Hydrogreen plant and the Deputy Tax Collector. Nothing other than these two are time sensitive.

SOLICITOR REPORT – Mr. Hudock – Commented on the Scott Gongaware letter submitted under correspondence.

POLICE REPORT – Chief Matrunics – covered his report which can be viewed in the Police Commission Minutes for today

ENGINEER REPORT – For his report, Ben Faas opened the sealed bids, which were then addressed under New Business. See the bid summary below.

TREASURER REPORT – Treasurer Verna

a) Fund Balances for previous month end

Fund Balances (month end)	February 2025
General Fund	\$ 491,681
General Fund Reserves	\$ 1,337,535
Liquid Fuels Tax Fund	\$ 163,102
Capital Fund Reserves	\$ 44,877
Ligonier Beach Park Fund	\$ 95,480
Developer's Fund*	\$ 60,498
*Fire Insurance Escrow	\$ 40,539
*Escrow	\$ 15,250
*Mill Creek Memorial Park	\$ 1,209
*Ligonier Trail	\$ 2,500
*Community Garden	\$ 1,000
Total Funds	\$ 2,193,173

b) Approval of the bill pay lists: General Fund \$35,536.38, Liquid Fuels \$27,886.43

A motion was made by Supervisor Verna and seconded by Supervisor Resenic to approve the payment of bills. Motion carried unanimously.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS – there was no unfinished business from the last meeting

NEW BUSINESS

a) **2025 seal coat program bid opening** – Engineer Faas opened the sealed bids

The Township received 5 bids as follows:

Russell Standard, total Cost: \$324,979.77
Unit cost, per square yard single seal: \$1.71/sq. yd.
Per square yard triple seal: \$6.07 / sq. yd.

Quaker Sales, total Cost: \$343,916.95
Unit cost, per square yard single seal: \$1.81/sq. yd.
Per square yard triple seal: \$7.25/sq. yd.

Midland Asphalt, total Cost: \$411,995.20
Unit cost, per square yard single seal: \$2.16/sq. yd.
Per square yard triple seal: \$6.00/sq. yd.

Ligonier Construction, total Cost: \$536,674.25
Unit cost, per square yard single seal: \$2.75/sq. yd.
Per square yard triple seal: \$6.75/sq. yd.

Youngblood Paving, total Cost: \$469,369.45
Unit Cost, per square yard single seal: \$2.59/sq. yd.
Per square yard triple seal: \$6.15/sq. yd.

A motion was made by Supervisor Resenic and seconded by Supervisor Beaufort to accept the bid of \$ 324,979.77 made by Russell Standard. Motion approved unanimously.

b) Ligonier Country Market

c) **Ligonier Country Market Special Events Permit** – It was determined to withhold approval of the Permit for the resolution of deficiencies.

d) **Hydrogreen land development plan** – Mr. Strelic set forth the recommended conditions for the approval of the Hydrogreen land development plan. Mr Faas indicated technical difficulties had been resolved and that only the items remaining on the conditions of approval sheet.

A motion was made by Supervisor Verna and seconded by Supervisor Beaufort to conditionally approve the Hydrogreen land development plan, subject to submission of proof of all applicable permits, entering into all agreements and contracts required by the Township, and the posting all financial bonds required, with the remittance of funds due to the Township by the end of business on March 14. Motion carried unanimously.

e) **Hydrogreen holding tank cleaning contract** – Mr. Strelic presented the Board copies of the cleaning contract. There was discussion on the current processes of inspection of holding tanks.

A motion was made by Supervisor Resenic and seconded by Supervisor Beaufort to approve the Hydrogreen holding tank cleaning contract. Motion carried unanimously.

- f) **Stewart-Landi plan** – Mr. Strelac spoke regarding the submission of the Final Subdivision Plan which creates one lot from Lot #2 of the Frances Hays Todd Estate Plan. Required property owner signatures have not been completed yet, and the plan was recommended to be held until the following meeting.

Being held over until ready for approval.

- g) **Resolution 2025-R-02:** Mr. Strelac presented the resolution for a 5-ton dump/plow acquisition. This will include a purchase price not to exceed \$69,621 and up fitting of the truck not to exceed \$49,000. It additionally authorizes a transfer of funds of \$120,000 from the General Fund to the Capital Fund for payment.

A motion was made by Supervisor Beaufort and seconded by Supervisor Verna to approve Resolution 2025-R-02. Motion carried unanimously.

- h) **Resolution 2025-R-03:** Mr. Strelac presented a resolution to authorize the Township Manager and Finance Officer to enter orders for and on behalf of the Township for funds deposited with Janney, one of our investment firms. This ensures availability of funds should any unexpected circumstance arise.

A motion was made by Supervisor Beaufort and seconded by Supervisor Verna to approve Resolution 2025-R-03. Motion carried unanimously.

- i) **Cable Franchise Services authorization** – Mr. Strelac indicated there is a bid from Cohen Law Group to navigate and negotiate the new Agreement with Comcast. This authorization to engage would be for a fee not to exceed \$13,800 to navigate and negotiate the new contract, and review revenue under the existing contract.

Held to next meeting.

- j) **Deputy Tax Collector** – Mr. Strelac indicated that Alyssa Boyd, Tax Collector has selected a Deputy Tax Collector, Dianne Gove. In order to comply with Act 48-2015 of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, the collector must obtain signatures from the taxing district and return the form to the Surety Company.

A motion was made by Supervisor Verna and seconded by Supervisor Resenic to approve the appointment of Dianne Gove as the Township's Deputy Tax Collector. Motion approved unanimously.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

No executive session.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC – All other

Jason Frye – Owner of a family farm, Pleasant Lane Farms, is being excluded by the Country Market. He is not asking the Market’s Special Use Permit be withheld, but that the Board check into the non-compliance of the Market with the conditions of the Special Use Permit the Board issues. He believes the spirit of the Permit is violated, and suspects many of the conditions of the Permit have also been violated.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS FROM THE SUPERVISORS

Supervisor Resenic looks forward to seeing the information Mr. Frye will provide in writing to the Board, so it can make an informed decision regarding the Special Use Permit.

Supervisor Beaufort indicated the Special Use Permit was issued in 2008, and the Board should take a close look at it.

Supervisor Verna addressed the correspondence received from Mutual Aid. Mutual Aid is looking for donations for its annual fund drive. This is a service this community clearly uses and deserves great consideration. She also expressed her thanks to Scott Matson for his years of service on the Board, his great work ethic, and his dedication to the community.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

A motion was made by Supervisor Verna and seconded by Supervisor Resenic to adjourn the meeting. All of the board was in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 8:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Beverly Warfel
Assistant Secretary/Finance Officer