

March 25, 2025

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

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

Others Present: Township Manager Michael Strelac, Engineer Drew Walker, Solicitor Dan Hudock, Zoning/Code Enforcement Officer Rick Krouse, Public Works Foreman Lance Griffith, and Finance Officer Beverly Warfel.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC – Agenda Items

Jason Frye – spoke to the Ligonier Country Market and his support for opening the market. However, he stated that he disagrees with the policies of its board and also feels the market is not complying with the conditional use established by the Township in 2008.

COMMENTS FROM THE SUPERVISORS

Supervisor Verna provided an update regarding discussion with the Borough and School District concerning the DCED Multi Modal Transportation Grant for the Carey School bridge project.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

A **motion** was made by Supervisor Beaufort and seconded by Supervisor Resenic to approve the minutes from the March 11 meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

CORRESPONDENCE

- a) Country Market Emails - 147 emails regarding the Country Market
- b) Loyalhanna Watershed re: Fry Property Acquisition
- c) EADS re: Laurel Mountain Borough Water Line Project – includes 3 Township properties
- d) Peters Road Bridge Closure – work starting on April 3
- e) A letter of interest for the vacated position of Supervisor Matson

REPORTS:

MANAGER REPORT – Mr. Strelac indicated there were two tornadoes which hit the Township during the last storm. This caused some damage and closed some roads. He thanked the volunteer fire departments, West Penn, road crew, and residents for stepping up and helping to clear debris. Idlewild is in the process of being sold. He doesn't expect to see any immediate change in its operation or the revenue received by the Township.

ENGINEER REPORT – Mr. Walker, who replaced Mr. Faas for the evening, spoke to the stop work order on the Hydrogreen Project.

SOLICITOR REPORT – Mr. Hudock visited the Beard property with Mr. Strelac to review any change in the property in the past year. There hasn't been a whole lot of progress. The

property was somewhat better than 2 years ago, but not much. He was questioned as to the next steps.

STAFF REPORTS:

ZONING / CODE ENFORCEMENT- Mr. Krouse indicated that his report was in front of the Supervisors and contains four active complaints. If the owners issued citations remain noncompliant with his directives he will ask the board to move forward with the next step in the process.

PUBLIC WORKS – Mr. Griffith indicated that the new sweeper rental did not arrive on the 17th of March as expected. It has been delayed to the 27th. The lessor will be subtracting \$1,000 from the rental agreement due to their not meeting the delivery deadline. Sweeping will commence soon.

The grader currently is in the shop and has been torn apart for a couple of weeks, but work should be completed by the middle of next week. The repair will keep work moving forward. The crew will begin sweeping and tree trimming soon and grading after that. Additionally, the delivery of the new truck is expected April 1st.

FINANCE OFFICER- Mrs. Warfel indicated the Finance Report for February was in their packets. She and Supervisor Verna will be meeting after the meeting this evening to hopefully finalize the report she has requested from Mr. Strelic and herself.

TREASURER REPORT – Treasurer Verna requested approval of the Bill Pay Lists:

General Fund \$ 22,919.34

Ligonier Beach Project 10,156.10

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

UNFINISHED BUSINESS –

- a) **Ligonier Country Market Special Events Permit** – An updated application correcting the issues the Zoning/Code Enforcement Officer identified has been supplied and other corrections and submissions have been made.

A motion was made by Supervisor Verna and seconded by Supervisor Resenic to approve the Special Events Permit for Ligonier Country Market with the condition it complies with the dates approved in the Conditional Use Requirements established in 2008. Motion carried unanimously.

- b) **Stewart-Landi plan** – Mr. Strelic indicated this is the purchase of a small bit of land from one neighbor to another to resolve a setback issue and is now ready for approval.

A motion was made by Supervisor Verna and seconded by Supervisor Beaufort to approve the Stewart-Landi plan. Motion carried unanimously.

- c) **Cable Franchise Services authorization** – Mr. Strelac reviewed the bid from Cohen Law Group to navigate and negotiate the new Cable Franchise Agreement with Comcast, which expires October 2026. This authorization to engage would be for a fee not to exceed \$11,730 to navigate and negotiate the new contract.

Supervisor Verna requested getting clarification as to what is the halfway point where the second third of payment is expected. The Board expects final payment to be made when the work is completed by a signed agreement with Comcast.

A motion was made by Supervisor Verna and seconded by Supervisor Resenic to enter into agreement with the Cohen Law Group to perform cable franchise services. Motion carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

- a) Supervisor Matson resigned March 11th.
- b) Supervisor vacancy

Mr. Strelac explained that according to the Second Class Township Code, the board has 45 days to accept his resignation, 30 days from acceptance to replace him, and if unable to do so the vacancy board has 15 days to fill the vacancy.

A motion was made by Supervisor Verna and seconded by Supervisor Beaufort to accept Mr. Matson's resignation and to request letters of interest in the position by interested parties be received by 5 p.m. on April 4th, to allow review of the letters prior to the April 8th meeting with a possible appointment at that time.

- c) Police Commission Litigation – As discussed in Mr. Gongaware's letter last meeting and the last two solicitor reports by Mr. Hudock.

A motion was made by Supervisor Beaufort and seconded by Supervisor Resenic to dismiss the Township's injunction and litigation against the LVPD Commission. Motion passed unanimously.

- d) The Board briefly the discussion from last meeting regarding the Holding Tank ordinance. After discussion, the Board opted to begin to enforce the current holding tank ordinance and directed Mr. Strelac and Mr. Krouse to present the Board with a plan to enforce the holding tank ordinance and a timeline on how they will approach same. The Board took no other action.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

There was no call for an executive session.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC – All other

Chris Hefner – Asked how the Board would be advertising for the letters of interest for filling the vacancy on the Board. Mr. Strelac indicated that the information will be available on the website, on the Facebook page, and in the newspaper.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS FROM THE SUPERVISORS

Supervisor Resenic reinforced the comments made by Mr. Strelac during his report regarding the good job of the road crew during the last storm. He also thanked Mr. Krouse for his good work.

Supervisor Beaufort had no comment.

Supervisor Verna asked that interested parties submit their letter of interest, including their credentials for the position and why they wish to serve the Township in the capacity of supervisor.

Supervisor Ross echoed comments about the tornadoes. He appreciates the Ligonier Valley Police helping out, and “hats off” to the road crew for what they are doing. He complimented Mr. Griffith for their efforts.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

A motion was made by Supervisor Resenic and seconded by Supervisor Verna to adjourn the meeting. All of the board was in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 5:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Beverly Warfel
Assistant Secretary/Finance Officer