

January 28, 2025

The regular meeting of the Ligonier Township Supervisors was held Tuesday, January 28, 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, Solicitor Dan Hudock, Engineer Ben Faas, Public Works Foremen Lance Griffith, and Zoning/Code Enforcement Officer Rick Krouse.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Barbara Nalle – commented on legal costs between the Township and Police Commission, members recusing themselves from votes, and the comprehensive plan.

Wade Stoner – spokesman for Restore Ethics and Accountability in Ligonier (REAL), commented on the formation of REAL.

Deb Messer – commented on the right-to-know requests submitted to the Township.

COMMENTS FROM THE SUPERVISORS

There were no comments from the Supervisors.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

A motion was made by Dan Resenic and seconded by Stephanie Verna to approve the minutes from the January 6, 2025 meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

CORRESPONDENCE

Auditor General examination letter

REPORTS:

MANAGER

Mr. Strelac reported that the Public Works crew has done excellent work throughout the challenging winter, and cautioned about increased overtime.

Supervisor Verna asked to investigate opportunities for savings elsewhere in the budget.

ENGINEER

Mr. Faas reported that the list of roads to be resurfaced is ready, and that he is working on the Harvey Road Bridge grant project.

SOLICITOR

Mr. Hudock reported that he filed the code complaint against the Beard property. Mr. Hudock gave the board an update on the legal status of that complaint. Mr. Hudock also reported that the court ruled in the Township's favor on the police commission alternate filing. That lawsuit is on hold while the police commission works it out.

ZONING / CODE ENFORCEMENT

Mr. Krouse presented his Zoning/Code Enforcement report for the month of January. Mr. Krouse stated that there has not been a lot of movement on code complaints due to the weather.

PUBLIC WORKS

Mr. Griffith reported that the salt supplier is not delivering. Mr. Griffith also reported on multiple problems with trucks down throughout the winter season. Quotes are coming in for a new 5-ton Ford F-550. The Township will try to get the upfitting from the same place as the truck dealer.

FINANCE

Mr. Strelac deferred the report. There was brief discussion about CD investment terms.

BILLS PAYABLE

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

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

none

NEW BUSINESS

Emergency declaration

Township Manager Michael Strelac explained the issue that led to the Township declaring an emergency.

A motion was made by Dan Resenic and seconded by Stephanie Verna to lift the state of emergency. Motion carried unanimously.

LVPD Commission alternate

Mr. Matson resigned from the LVPD Commission as the Township's alternate, effective immediately. In Supervisor Matson's absence, Chairman Ross delivered the resignation.

A motion was made by Dan Resenic and seconded by Stephanie Verna to accept the resignation. Motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Stephanie Verna and seconded by Dan Resenic to appoint John Beaufort as the Township's alternate to the LVPD Commission. Motion carried unanimously.

Robert Jackovitz plan

Zoning Officer Rick Krouse explained that this plan is not ready for approval, as not all signatures have been collected yet.

No motion made. Held for next meeting at the request of the owners.

Geoffrey Wills plan

Zoning Officer Rick Krouse explained the subdivision. It was recommended for approval by the Planning Commission. Reviewed by the sewage enforcement officer. No nonconformities are created.

A motion was made by Stephanie Verna and seconded by John Beaufort to approve the Geoffrey Wills plan. Motion carried unanimously.

Todd Himler plan

Zoning Officer Rick Krouse explained the subdivision. No nonconformities are created. Recommended for approval by the Planning Commission.

A motion was made by Dan Resenic and seconded by John Beaufort to approve the Todd Himler plan. Motion carried unanimously.

Fence setback ordinance amendment

Township Manager Michael Strelac explained the issue. According to our zoning code, fences in front yards can only be 4 feet high, even if the fence is half a mile from the nearest road.

Multiple Supervisors suggested the Planning Commission come forward with a proposed update to the current ordinance. No action was taken.

2025 road resurfacing plan

Township Manager Michael Strelac informed the Board that the Public Works Committee had met, and had recommended moving to quadrant model of resurfacing. Starting with the northwest of the Township.

Supervisor Verna asked about the quadrant model of chip-sealing and what goes into road preparation. Discussion about Jinks Trail work and repairs. Further discussion about Claycomb, why it is on the list, what was done to the road, and what still needs to be done to the road. Discussion about what goes into the preparation of roads prior to chip-sealing. Discussion about priorities of which quadrant gets done next.

A motion was made by Dan Resenic and seconded by John Beaufort to approve the 2025 road resurfacing plan. Motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Stephanie Verna and seconded by Dan Resenic to advertise the 2025 seal coat program bid. Motion carried unanimously.

Ligonier Beach key person interviews

Township Manager Michael Strelac asked the Supervisors if there were any volunteers to sit for a key person interview with Mackin.

Supervisors Verna, Beaufort, and Resenic agreed to be part of the key person interviews.

Trail study grant expiration

Township Manager Michael Strelac explained that the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) grant has expired.

A motion was made by Dan Resenic and seconded by John Beaufort to acknowledge to the DCNR the expiration of the grant. Motion carried unanimously.

Ligonier Country Market detour

Township Manager Michael Strelac explained that the Ligonier Country Market would like to have the same detour as prior years, and for the purposes of their PennDOT application they need approval from the board to use Carey School Road as a detour.

The board questioned whether Chief Matronics had reviewed. Mr. Strelac explained that the chief was the driving force making the Country Market fill out this paperwork two years ago.

A motion was made by Stephanie Verna and seconded by Dan Resenic to approve the requested detour onto Carey School Road. Motion carried unanimously.

PSATS annual conference

Township Manager Michael Strelac asked for permission to attend the 2025 PSATS conference in Hershey.

A motion was made by Dan Resenic and seconded by John Beaufort to approve the Township Manager attending the conference. Motion carried unanimously.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

An executive session began at 5:19 p.m. and ended at 5:25 p.m., for the purpose of discussing personnel matters related to the following agenda item.

Finance Officer

Township Manager Michael Strelac informed the Board that the Personnel Committee had interviewed multiple candidates, and recommends hiring Beverly Warfel.

A motion was made by Dan Resenic and seconded by John Beaufort to extend an offer of employment to Beverly Warfel, at a starting rate of \$22.00 per hour. Motion carried unanimously.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

none

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS FROM THE SUPERVISORS

John Beaufort and Stephanie Verna – commented on the insurance claim from the Thanksgiving power surge.

Supervisor Verna – commented on the proposal for the new police building. She is willing to assist the new LVPD Commissioners and staff with the transition of her former duties, but requests direction from the LVPD Commission.

Supervisor Resenic – commented on the proposal for the new police building and the mailer that went out to residents. The mailer states “at no cost to citizens/taxpayers,” but the meeting with funders said the Township and Borough would be on the hook for 10% of costs. Mr. Resenic requests clarity on the facility. Mr. Resenic also thanked public works.

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 5:33 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Strelic
Assistant Secretary/Township Manager