

Chairperson, Mark Petros, on Wednesday, December 21, 2022 at 7:00pm, called the Regular Meeting of the Sewickley Township Board of Supervisors to order as advertised in the Tribune Review on Thursday, January 6, 2022. The members of the Board of Supervisors present were Mark Petros, Linda Harvey, and Bill Dull. Also attending the meeting were Solicitor Lee Demosky, Chad Albert, Bruce Zarnick and Susan Leukhardt.

Mark Petros led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**An Executive Session was held on November 16, 2022 at 7:30pm to discuss personnel issues.**

#### **Report of Township General Fund Accounts, Susan Leukhardt**

<b>Account</b>	<b>Beginning Balance</b>	<b>Deposits / Interest</b>	<b>Transfers / Payments</b>	<b>Ending Balance</b>
<b>NOVEMBER, 2022</b>				
FNB General Fund	\$ 126,798.36	\$ 38,715.81	\$ 112,168.07	\$ 53,346.10
PLGIT General Fund	\$ 256,695.17	\$ 104,032.95	-0-	\$ 360,728.12
FNB Reserve Account	\$ 145,045.37	\$ 286.12	-0-	\$ 145,331.49

#### **Public Works Report, given by Linda Harvey**

Patching took place on Overland Drive to Pinewood Road and parts of Falls Road. Cleaned catch basins. Marked pipe on Reed Lane. Checked on Fourth Street water issues and potholes on Sulphur Springs. Closed roadway to remove water from West Newton Street. Cleared trees at the Library, base of Herminie fire siren, and Township Building salt shed. Cut trees on 7<sup>th</sup> Street Extension to open roadway for vehicle traffic. Addressed tree on Cameron Street and removed trees due to storm damage on Volk Road, Cool Springs Road, and Shuglie Hill Road.

Worked on three (3) separate occasions at the EMA Building for gas line repairs. Put up signs at the Sewickley Avenue intersection. Replaced a stop sign in Lowber and put-up speed limit signs throughout the Township. Took down the EMA weather station at the Township Building for repairs.

Worked on inventory for restocking of needed supplies, parts, and fittings. Maintenance and repairs were done on Truck #7, the Gradall, and Truck #4 (spreader box). Addressed PA One calls. Equipment repair and maintenance in preparation for snow and ice and moved and cleaned trucks. Loaded pipe being returned to Chemung Supply. In the shop, one (1) oil furnace needed electrical work and the second oil furnace needed maintenance from Industrial Heating and Cleaning. Refueled the oil furnaces.

Put up Christmas Lights and banner on Sewickley Avenue in preparation for Light-Up Night. The Crew has also been picking up garbage left alongside the recycle bins at the Township Building. REMINDER - The recycle bins are not to be used for regular trash collection. In the past there has been contamination in those bins, and that costs us money.

#### **Report from Recreation Director, Chad Albert**

##### **Crabapple Lake Park:**

- Park gates were open on the morning of Tuesday, December 13<sup>th</sup> at approximately 9:30am for the pick-up and removal of the Waste Management dumpster. This includes the dumpsters at the ballfields and Bruno Field.

- The park remains open to walkers and visitors year-round. Reminder for everyone's safety - Hunting on park property and use of any off-road utility vehicles are strictly prohibited. We have had reports of hunters and unauthorized vehicles at the park.

#### **Recreation Center:**

- The Recreation Center gymnasium is renting court time to various basketball, indoor soccer, volleyball groups, and fitness classes. Some weekend and evening times are still available to groups for rental.
- Yoga is held downstairs, every Wednesday evening at 6:00pm. Except for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of each month, CPR/AED classes are offered by Mr. Bob Stark of Rostraver/West Newton Emergency Services. Cost is \$40.00 and you must pre-register online. The class is cancelled for the month if there are zero sign-ups.

#### **Open Gym:**

- Free, open gym is available to all Sewickley Township residents every Monday and Friday afternoons from 12:30pm to 4:30pm. Doors will be unlocked, bring your own basketball.

#### **Past & Upcoming Events:**

- On Saturday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>, the Business Association hosted Light-Up Night on Main Street in Herminie. The event included various vendors, a parade, pet parade, and light-up ceremony. Special thanks to Lisa Nickels and Nickels Funeral home for their effort in organizing the event.
- The Sewickley Volunteer Recreation Committee will meet in early January with plans to host another Annual Yough Snowball Father/Daughter Dinner Dance. The details are:
  - TBD – and will be announced at next month's meeting and online.
  - Open to all Yough Area Residents
  - Tickets will be for sale, one day only, at the Sewickley Township Municipal Building. Information will be announced when available.
- Park Maintenance is working on indoor paint projects at the Recreation Center as well as repairing park picnic tables throughout the winter months.

#### **Report from Ordinance Officer, Bruce Zarnick**

Address: 207 Madison Ave	Date Received: 12/01/2022	Date of Investigation: 12/3/2022
Complaint: PARKING COMPLAINT AND JUNK VEHICLES/MOBILE TRAILER		
Status: Parking was not able to be witnessed at the time. 4 hearses and one vehicle on property, current license plates on all but one vehicle. Mobile trailer being stored, does not appear to be occupied for residency. Following up on current registration. Nothing seemed in disrepair.		

Address: 139 Pine St	Date Received: 12/03/2022	Date of Investigation: 12/3/2022
Complaint: ANIMAL COMPLAINT – number of dogs and poor living conditions		
Status: Only 3 dogs visible in an outdoor kennel, property was clean at the time of visit. Will revisit the property at a later date to ensure this is still the case.		

Address: 4 <sup>th</sup> street in area of library avenue	Date Received: 12/07/2022	Date of Investigation: 12/07/2022
Complaint: Alley way blocked by vehicles not allowing traffic to pass through.		

Status: Unable to verify location
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Address: 208 Hood St	Date Received: 12/05/2022	Date of Investigation: 12/07/2022
Complaint: ABANDON PROPERTY – House in poor repair/hazardous conditions, high weeds, garbage in and around property.		
Status: Property found to be a safety hazard and property in poor repair. Building is unsafe for occupancy. Building is to be condemned. Will locate the owner to follow up.		

Address: 406 Lowber Rd	Date Received: 12/09/2022	Date of Investigation: 12/09/2022
Complaint: Abandon House in poor repair		
Status: House found to be in poor repair/hazardous conditions, previously condemned 2/19/2019, unsafe for occupancy. Attempting to locate owner and serve notice.		

Address: 123 Limerick Rd	Date Received: 12/09/2022	Date of Investigation: 12/09/2022
Complaint: Abandon trailer in poor repair, abandon vehicle, high weeds, hazardous conditions.		
Status: Home found to be hazardous, in poor repair, and needing condemned. High weeds, property hazards, Rodents, abandon vehicle in yard. House unsafe for occupancy and same of the garage. Attempting to locate the owner and serve notice.		

Address: 208 Hood St	Date Received: 12/05/2022	Date of Investigation: 12/09/2022
Complaint: Abandon property and hazardous conditions		
Status: Follow up was done to locate and speak with the owner of the property. Owner was found to be deceased. Attempting to locate next of kin.		

Address: 301 Limerick Rd	Date Received: 12/09/2022	Date of Investigation: 12/15/2022
Complaint: Property having junk vehicles, auto parts, tires, garbage, etc. as well as high weeds		
Status: Property found to have high weeds, junk vehicles/parts, and tires throughout. District court ruled in the previous citation and found the owner guilty. Owner appealed and this case went to the county court. Investigating outcome and possible future action if not resolved.		

Address: 208 Hood St	Date Received: 12/05/2022	Date of Investigation: 12/15/2022
Complaint: Abandon house/property and hazardous conditions		

Status: Follow up to this complaint – next of kin located and spoken to, was advised that family is not inheriting the property and has no intentions of doing anything with it. Township notified and will look into legal options.

Address: 207 Church St	Date Received: 12/18/2022	Date of Investigation: 12/18/2022
Complaint: Abandon house in poor repair and high weeds		
Status: House found to be in poor repair and high weeds. Garbage scattered around the property. Attempting to locate owner to serve notice.		

### Public Comment on Agenda Items Only

Tom Couch asked where funds are invested for the Township. Mr. Petros answered that we use PLGIT and First National Bank. Mr. Couch asked if we looked into moving the larger accounts to get better rates. He also spoke about the parks and recreation area. Outside residents utilize the pool and rec center. What is the ratio between resident and non-resident? Mr. Couch sees that there are funds coming out of the General Fund to support it.

Mark Petros made a motion, seconded by Linda Harvey, to approve the agenda as presented below. Voting: Mrs. Harvey, Mr. Dull, Mr. Petros; yes. Motion carried unanimously.

Linda Harvey made a motion, seconded by Mark Petros, to approve the minutes of the Sewickley Township Board of Supervisors Special Meetings held on October 12, 2022, October 25, 2022, November 9, 2022, and November 21, 2022. Voting: Mrs. Harvey, Mr. Dull, Mr. Petros; yes. Motion carried unanimously.

Mark Petros made a motion, seconded by Linda Harvey, to disburse 2021 EMS Tax funds on behalf of Sewickley Township Emergency Management as follows:

Bearcom – monthly maintenance on portable radios	\$ 92.00
Comcast – monthly EOC phone & internet	\$ 311.74
FNB Credit Card – parts for weather station	\$ 92.22

Voting: Mrs. Harvey, Mr. Dull, Mr. Petros; yes. Motion carried unanimously.

Bill Dull made a motion, seconded by Mark Petros, to disburse 2021 EMS Tax funds on behalf of Herminie Volunteer Fire Company as follows:

F.A.S.T. of the Allegheny Mts, LLC – rescue & engine 15 pump testing	\$ 825.00
Municipal Emergency Services – rescue tool services	\$ 439.90
Kush Kustoms – three (3) invoices for rescue 15 & brush truck	\$ 6,250.76
Black Mountain Enterprises – two (2) invoices for 2008 & 1998 trucks	\$ 2,594.61

Voting: Mrs. Harvey, Mr. Dull, Mr. Petros; yes. Motion carried unanimously.

Mark Petros made a motion, seconded by Linda Harvey, to disburse 2021 EMS Tax funds on behalf of Rillton Volunteer Fire Company as follows:

Schulte's Towing & Repair – inspection & repairs to 1997 int'l fire truck	\$ 212.75
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Voting: Mrs. Harvey, Mr. Dull, Mr. Petros; yes. Motion carried unanimously.

Mark Petros made a motion, seconded by Linda Harvey, to disburse 2021 EMS Tax funds on behalf of Hutchinson Volunteer Fire Company as follows:

Witmer Public Safety Group – two (2) invoices for new fire hoses                      \$ 18,475.69

Voting: Mrs. Harvey, Mr. Dull, Mr. Petros; yes. Motion carried unanimously.

Bill Dull made a motion, seconded by Mark Petros, to adopt Resolution 36-2022 fixing the annual tax rate for General Township purposes and other purposes as the following: General Township Purposes as 11.25 mills; Fire Hydrants and Fire Hydrant Water Service as .25 mills; Light the Highways, Roads, and other Public Places in the Township as .75 mills; and Ambulance, Rescue, and other Emergency Services as 2 mills. This reflects no tax increase from 2022. Voting: Mrs. Harvey, Mr. Dull, Mr. Petros; yes. Motion carried unanimously.

Linda Harvey made a motion, seconded by Mark Petros, to adopt the General Fund Budget for the Township of Sewickley for the fiscal year 2023. Voting: Mrs. Harvey, Mr. Dull, Mr. Petros; yes. Motion carried unanimously.

Linda Harvey made a motion, seconded by Mark Petros, to advertise the Reorganization Meeting for the Board of Supervisors to be held on Tuesday, January 3, 2023 at 6:00pm located at the Sewickley Township Municipal Building. Voting: Mrs. Harvey, Mr. Dull, Mr. Petros; yes. Motion carried unanimously.

Linda Harvey made a motion, seconded by Mark Petros, to enact Ordinance 7-2022 confirming Sewickley Township's vacation of Wren Lane referenced during a public meeting held December 11, 1975. Voting: Mrs. Harvey, Mr. Dull, Mr. Petros; yes. Motion carried unanimously.

Mark Petros made a motion, seconded by Bill Dull, to advertise and receive proposals for the Crabapple Park Improvements Grant Project, Contract 1-2023. The work will consist of the construction and installation of pickleball courts, basketball court, batting cages, site fencing, and ADA compliant parking. Sealed proposals will be received at the Sewickley Township Municipal Building until 10:00am on January 12, 2023 at which time they will be opened. Voting: Mrs. Harvey, Mr. Dull, Mr. Petros; yes. Motion carried unanimously.

Mark Petros made a motion, seconded by Linda Harvey, to approve the Leskosek-Houck plan located on Whyel Road. This plan is a .93 acre add-on to an existing 4.81 acre parcel owned by Arthur and Janet Houck. The property is accessed by a 50' private Right of Way and a non-building waiver is included. This plan was approved by the Planning Commission. Voting: Mrs. Harvey, Mr. Dull, Mr. Petros; yes. Motion carried unanimously.

Linda Harvey made a motion, seconded by Mark Petros, to adopt Resolution 39-2022 approving the H.F. Lenz Co. Rutters Store with the following contingencies. The proposed Rutters site plan is located on Lot 1 in Commerce Crossing Park. This approval is contingent on the Highway Occupancy Permit from PennDOT, the Sewickley Township driveway permit located on Waltz Mill Flats Road, the revised NPDES permit from the Westmoreland County Conservation District, and the sewage module from the DEP. This plan was approved by the Planning Commission with the four (4) contingencies. Voting: Mrs. Harvey, Mr. Dull, Mr. Petros; yes. Motion carried unanimously.

Mark Petros made a motion, seconded by Bill Dull, to rescind the purchase of a 2023 half-ton pickup work truck approved at the October 19, 2022 public meeting. Voting: Mrs. Harvey, Mr. Dull, Mr. Petros; yes. Motion carried unanimously.

Linda Harvey made a motion, seconded by Mark Petros, to purchase one (1) 9,000 lb. GVW 4 Door four-wheel drive gasoline powered pickup truck through Costars with American Rescue Plan Act funds. Voting: Mrs. Harvey, Mr. Dull, Mr. Petros; yes. Motion carried unanimously.

Linda Harvey made a motion, seconded by Mark Petros, to purchase two (2) 19,500 lb. GVW chassis cab trucks, four-wheel drive gasoline powered, through Costars with American Rescue Plan Act funds. Voting: Mrs. Harvey, Mr. Dull, Mr. Petros; yes. Motion carried unanimously.

Lina Harvey made a motion, seconded by Mark Petros, to renew Property and Casualty Coverage for all Sewickley Fire Companies with Varine-Slavin using Provident Fire Plus and Intact Insurance at the premiums below. The policy is effective from January 1, 2023 to December 31, 2023. This is an increase of approximately \$2,884.00 from the previous year.

Herminie Volunteer Fire Company:	\$ 13,407.00	Intact Insurance
Lowber Volunteer Fire Company:	\$ 14,926.00	Provident Fire Plus
Rillton Volunteer Fire Company:	\$ 13,654.00	Provident Fire Plus
Hutchinson Volunteer Fire Company:	\$ 11,592.00	Intact Insurance

Voting: Mrs. Harvey, Mr. Dull, Mr. Petros; yes. Motion carried unanimously.

Bill Dull made a motion, seconded by Mark Petros, to adopt Resolution No. 37-2022 appointing Richard Hill as Public Works Director for the Township of Sewickley. Salary will be \$55,000 per year. Major medical, dental, and vision are also offered as compensation for this position. Voting: Mrs. Harvey, Mr. Dull, Mr. Petros; yes. Motion carried unanimously.

Linda Harvey made a motion, seconded by Bill Dull, to adopt Resolution No. 38-2022 appointing Richard Hill as the Official Contact Person for the Commercial Driver's License Drug and Alcohol Program. Voting: Mrs. Harvey, Mr. Dull, Mr. Petros; yes. Motion carried unanimously.

Mark Petros made a motion, seconded by Bill Dull, to ratify the hiring of Bruce Zarnick as the part time Ordinance Officer. His rate of pay is \$17.00 per hour. Voting: Mrs. Harvey, Mr. Dull, Mr. Petros; yes. Motion carried unanimously.

Mark Petros made a motion, seconded by Linda Harvey, to approve the following bills for payment:

#### **General Fund:**

Checks 12892 to 12916 - \$ 34,849.40 (12/2/22)  
Checks 12917 to 12947 - \$ 17,749.94 (12/12/22)

MAWC - \$ 185.85 (12/20/22)  
MAWC - \$ 62.14 (12/20/22)

ACH Payments: MAWC - \$ 185.85 (11/28/22)  
MAWC - \$ 62.13 (11/28/22)  
First Energy (8 payments) - \$ 484.49 (11/28/22)  
Columbia Gas - \$ 186.08 (12/2/22)  
Intuit Checks - \$ 207.48 (12/7/22)  
First Energy - \$ 39.88 (12/8/22)  
S & T Loan - \$ 5,252.37 (12/15/22)

#### **Act 13:**

Checks 1154 to 1155 - \$ 8,751.80 (12/2/22)

#### **Crabapple:**

Checks 4964 to 4967 - \$ 454.69 (12/2/22)

First Energy - \$ 93.16 (12/8/22)  
Credit Card Machine Fee - \$ 9.30 (12/12/22)

ACH Payments: MAWC - \$ 86.03 (11/17/22)  
MAWC - \$ 61.95 (11/17/22)  
First Energy - \$ 42.41 (11/28/22)  
First Energy - \$ 23.11 (11/28/22)  
First Energy - \$ 112.39 (12/8/22)

#### **Payroll / Paychex ACH Liabilities:**

Paychex - \$ 149.45 (11/18/22)  
Paychex - \$ 127.20 (11/21/22)  
Paychex - \$ 149.45 (11/25/22)

Payroll Liabilities - \$ 2,749.40 (11/18/22)  
Payroll Liabilities - \$ 2,612.21 (11/25/22)  
Payroll Liabilities - \$ 4,293.44 (12/2/22)

Paychex - \$ 149.45 (12/2/22)  
 Paychex - \$ 149.45 (12/9/22)  
 Paychex - \$ 149.45 (12/16/22)  
 Paychex - \$ 125.61 (12/20/22)

Payroll Liabilities - \$ 2,347.39 (12/9/22)  
 Payroll Liabilities - \$ 2,497.14 (12/16/22)

### **Recreation:**

Checks 2988 to 2989 - \$ 282.22 (12/2/22)

ACH Payments: MAWC - \$ 123.90 (11/17/22)

MAWC - \$ 30.97 (11/17/22)

Columbia Gas - \$ 249.53 (12/2/22)

First Energy - \$ 20.95 (11/23/22)

MAWC - \$ 39.55 (12/19/22)

First Energy - \$ 316.95 (11/28/22)

MAWC - \$ 123.90 (12/19/22)

First Energy - \$ 12.92 (11/28/22)

### **Street Light / Fire Hydrant:**

ACH Payments: First Energy - \$ 2,121.96 (12/7/22)

First Energy - \$ 575.83 (12/7/22)

First Energy - \$ 362.24 (12/7/22)

Voting: Mrs. Harvey, Mr. Dull, Mr. Petros; yes. Motion carried unanimously.

Linda Harvey made a motion, seconded by Mark Petros, to approve the following payrolls for payment:

**Employees Payroll:** 11/25/2022 - \$ 8,418.84  
 12/2/2022 - \$ 14,081.28  
 12/9/2022 - \$ 7,980.13  
 12/16/2022 - \$ 8,996.76

Voting: Mrs. Harvey, Mr. Dull, Mr. Petros; yes. Motion carried unanimously.

### **General Public Comment**

Daryl Dermotta asked if the Reorganization Meeting is open to the public. Mr. Petros responded yes and will be held January 3, 2023 at 6:00pm.

Brian Merdian asked Linda Harvey what her position is within the Township. Mrs. Harvey responded Administrative Assistant. He then asked how she segregates time as Supervisor and Administrative Assistant. Mrs. Harvey stated that Susan is her boss and gives her direction when in the office. Regarding the emails you send out requesting actions from the Solicitor or Engineer, etc., were you acting in the role of Township Supervisor or Admin? Mrs. Harvey stated that she is helping Susan with the mail, phone calls, forwarding information to the Road Department and front window. Mr. Merdian stated that Mrs. Harvey campaigned that Supervisors should not get paid. Mrs. Harvey finds it interesting that if you're the Director of Public Works, no one asks if you're making a decision as a Supervisor. I am doing this because our Township Manager is no longer here and was hoping that we could hire someone sooner. Susan needed assistance in the office and that's why I'm here. This is a temporary position for me. Mr. Merdian then stated that you're getting three (3) paychecks from the Township; reimbursed monthly for health insurance, full salary as an Admin, and pay for attending meetings. Mrs. Harvey asked when Mr. Merdian was a Township Supervisor, did you take health care benefits for any of your six (6) years? Mr. Merdian stated that he did not and he also donated his meeting pay back to different organizations or functions within the Township. Mr. Merdian then asked Mrs. Harvey to take the \$20,000 made from the Township and put it into restoring Crabapple Lake. Mrs. Harvey stated that things happen in the Township and we have to adjust. Mr. Merdian then asked Mrs. Harvey as an Administrative Assistant that something needs to be done with the communication regarding the company assisting with the Columbia Gas work being done in Herminie. Is there a traffic control plan? Have you talked to them about trash control, the vulgar language they are using, and the complaints that people are reporting. Also, the streetlights are not operating at the Commerce Crossing roundabouts. Are we paying for them? Do we have an agreement with them? Finally, about the garbage situation, the effect is going to happen in less than two (2) weeks. We should be sending letters out. The majority of this community has no idea that the trash collection company is going to change before the reorganizational meeting on January 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Frank Sever stated that he didn't know about the garbage company changing until he read it on Facebook.

Mr. Petros stated that we talked to Waste Management, and they led us to believe that they would give us a contract extension and try to keep the rates, but they dragged it out. We had a meeting with them in August or September. They decided they weren't going to keep the rates the same, and the proposal wasn't manual pickup. They wanted automated. When we didn't hear from them, we put the trash removal out for bid. We got only two (2) bids: Waste Management bid automated service and County Hauling bid manual service. Mr. Petros then called Hempfield Township because they are using County Hauling. They said they had very few problems. Regarding the public notification, County Hauling was to send out a letter to each resident per the contract. They did drop the ball on that with doing it in a timely manner. They are also doing newspaper ads to notify the residents. Mrs. Leukhardt stated that they are about two (2) weeks behind what they should be, but the letters were sent out this week.

Mr. Petros then acknowledged the issues with the company doing the roadwork in Herminie. He reached out to them stating all the issues. They are now pulling back two (2) of the crews and just keeping the one doing the work.

### **Old / New Business**

Provide information on the new solid waste collection contract with County Hauling effective January 1, 2023.

The Township Office will be closed on December 23, 2022, December 26, 2022, and January 2, 2023.

The Board of Supervisors is looking for any persons interested in serving on the Sewickley Township Planning Commission. Please send letters of interest to the Sewickley Township Municipal Building for consideration.

### **We would like to wish everyone a Happy, Healthy Holiday Season!**

With no further business to come before the Board, Linda Harvey made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Mark Petros. Voting: Mr. Petros, Mrs. Harvey, Mr. Dull; yes. Meeting adjourned at 7:45pm.

Susan D, Leukhardt  
Secretary-Treasurer