

Chairperson, Mark Petros, on Wednesday, January 18, 2023 at 6:00pm, called the Regular Meeting of the Sewickley Township Board of Supervisors to order as advertised in the Tribune Review on Saturday, January 7, 2023. The members of the Board of Supervisors present were Mark Petros, Bill Dull, and Linda Harvey. Also attending the meeting were Solicitor Lee Demosky, Rich Hill, Bruce Zarnick, and Susan Leukhardt.

Mark Petros led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

An Executive Session was held on January 6, 2023 at 12:00pm to discuss personnel issues.

Recognition of Glenn “Skip” Wees and his many years of service to our Community.

We would like to take a moment on behalf of the Township Supervisors, as well as all First Responders in Sewickley Township, to express our deepest and sincerest appreciation and thanks for everything that Skip Wees has done for and volunteered to help within our community. As a volunteer fireman, a fire chief, and Director of our Emergency Management Services, Skip has provided an unmatched and unparalleled level of dedication and help to all the fire departments, as well as the ambulance service, in our community. On top of all that, his dedication and tireless workings with the Emergency Management Service helped to set that department up to be a leader in the entire county and those efforts will be missed. This is most evident in the drone program that he led and saw to fruition just a few months ago. That asset was a major gain for that department as well as for the entire region. With his passing, his drive to continually improve this community and make sure our residents are always provided with the best emergency services possible, will surely be missed. May God bless his family through this difficult time and may God rest his soul.

Report of Township General Fund Accounts, Susan Leukhardt

Account	Beginning Balance	Deposits / Interest	Transfers / Payments	Ending Balance
DECEMBER, 2022				
FNB General Fund	\$ 53,346.10	\$ 122,111.38	\$ 96,534.24	\$ 78,923.24
PLGIT General Fund	\$ 360,728.12	\$ 80,022.27	\$ 100,000.00	\$ 340,750.39
FNB Reserve Account	\$ 145,331.49	\$ 286.68	-0-	\$ 145,618.17

Report from Public Works Director, Rich Hill

- Salted roads during and after each snow event, also salted frozen spots of Township roads from run off.
- Cut our road drains and culverts after each rain event.
- Cut shoulder of Carnegie Road.
- Trimmed trees on Brunazzi Road.
- Performed maintenance to public works trucks and equipment.
- Toured Stevenson Equipment and demoed Massey Ferguson tractor and mower for possible purchase.
- Met with various vendors for possible tractor purchase – the age of the tractor is facilitating us to replace the tractor in the very near future.
- Handled numerous PA One Calls.
- Repaired and / or installed road signs throughout the Township.
- Performed inventory of pipe and associated items: pipe collars, tees, stone, etc.
- If anyone sees anything at all, please give us a call.

Report from Recreation Director, Chad Albert --- Given by Linda Harvey**Crabapple Lake Park:**

- Park gates were opened briefly on Wednesday, January 4th at approximately 3:00pm for the delivery of the new park dumpster from County Hauling. Dumpsters were also delivered to the ballfield, Bruno Field, and Rec Center parking lots.
- The park remains open to walkers and visitors year-round. Gates will remain closed to vehicular traffic through the winter months.
- Pavilion rental applications for 2023 are being accepted. Please contact the Recreation Office or view the information provided on the Township website to make your reservations.

Recreation Center:

- Tuesday December 27, 2022, the women's restroom toilet pipes cracked and froze. It then thawed out and began to flood the restroom. Fortunately, we were present when this happened. Water to the building was shut off within two minutes of the initial flooding and there was minimal damage.
 - Paul Berestecki Plumbing was able to respond to our emergency call, cap the broken line, and turn the water back on. That bathroom remained closed over the New Years weekend. The toilet was replaced and bathroom re-opened on Tuesday, January 3rd.
- The Recreation Center gymnasium is renting court time to various youth and senior basketball and volleyball groups, indoor soccer, hobby airplanes, and fitness classes (Tues/Thur/Fri mornings 9:30am). Some weekend and evening times are still available to group rentals.
- Yoga is held downstairs, every Wednesday evening at 6:00pm
 - Except for the 2nd Wednesday of each month, CPR/AED classes are offered by Rostraver/West Newton Emergency Services
 - Cost is \$40, and you must pre-register online. The class is cancelled if there are zero sign-ups.
- Free, open gym is available to all Sewickley Township residents every Monday and Friday afternoons from 12:30pm to 4:30pm.

Upcoming Events:

- The Sewickley Volunteer Recreation Committee met this week to plan another Father/Daughter Dinner Dance. The details are TBD. Tickets will be for sale one (1) day only at the Sewickley Township Municipal Building. More information will be announced when available.

Report from Ordinance Officer, Bruce Zarnick

Address: 157 Wilps Dr, Hermine	Date Received: 12/23/2022	Date of Investigation: 12/28/2022
Complaint: Aggressive Dog Complaint – Follow up		
Status: Contacted Dog Warden and spoke to Huffman's. Huffman's to go out to speak to the dog owners and also to check for proper licensing. Reviewed Video Evidence and followed up with complainants.		
Address: 2 Evans St, Herminie	Date Received:	Date of Investigation: 1/02/2023

Complaint: Garbage on street and in yard
Status: Garbage and rubbish found in entire yard and out into the street, two junk vehicles found, property is a hazard and a nuisance, home is found to be a danger and shall be condemned. Violation letter sent to property owners.

Address: 208 Hood St., 123 Limerick Rd, & 406 Lowber Rd	Date Placard Placed: 1/03/2023
Complaint: Dangerous Structures/Nuisance/Blighted	
Status: Placards placed, and letters sent to property owners	

Address: 36 5 th Street	Date Received: 1/03/2023	Date of Investigation: 1/03/2023
Complaint: Neighbors Dog pooping in complainants' yard		
Status: Spoke to dog owner who advised her other two dogs have collars for the underground fence, but the newer dog does not and that she will remedy the problem and prevent it from happening in the future.		

Address: 113 Carnegie Rd	Date Received: 1/03/2023	Date of Investigation: 1/03/2023
Complaint: High grass and weeds		
Status: Letter was sent to remind property owner of the township code and request the property be brought into compliance.		

Address: 269 Maple St	Date Received: 1/04/2023	Date of Investigation: 01/05/2023
Complaint: Two dumpsters in front of house blocking the roadway so that larger emergency vehicle may not be able to get through.		
Status: Spoke to workers on site. They advised the dumpsters were to be picked up the following morning, and that they would be there when the new ones are delivered and request that Bigs sets them further off the roadway.		

Address: 329 Ash Street	Date Received: 1/05/2023	Date of Investigation: 1/05/2023
Complaint: Dangerous structure of abandoned property		
Status: Home found to be a hazard, nuisance, and blighted. Home to be Condemned. Attempting to locate property owners to send notice		

Address: Church St. in area of 116 Church St.	Date Received: 1/05/2023	Date of Investigation: 1/05/2023
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Complaint: Two junk vehicles, one junk enclosed hauling trailer

Status: Spoke to vehicle owner who advised the tires were slashed on his truck and he is saving up to buy new ones, truck is legal and runs. He also has a car there that is currently being fixed and he is waiting for more parts to come to finish it. The car is legal and runs. Attempting to locate the owner of the trailer.

Address: Evans St. – in
area of

Date Received: 1/11/2023

Date of Investigation: 1/11/2023

Complaint: Stray dogs and cats rummaging through garbage and running loose

Status: Checked the area but was unable to locate at that time

Address: 110 Limerick Rd.

Date Received: 1/03/2023

Date of Investigation: 1/03/2023

Complaint: Illegal burning of tires on 12/29/2022

Status: Investigated property and found remains of burned tires and rims. Ongoing issues reported by multiple families, some with health issues that are affected by the smoke. Attempted to speak to homeowner but no one answered the door. Letter was sent 1/11/2023 to advise of the ordinance rules that were broken and to request that they cease and desist all illegal burning.

Address: 2 Evans St.

Date Received: 1/13/2023

Date of Investigation: 1/13/2023

Complaint: Assist State Police with investigation of a dog abandoned in the home. Reports given that no one stays there and only occasionally comes there for a night or two and the dog is not cared for.

Status: Advised State Troopers that the house was being condemned which helped them obtain a search warrant to get the dog checked and possibly removed. Notified Hoffmans who had a dog warden in the area to respond. House to have placard placed the following day. Violation letters sent to homeowners, condemned placards placed on 1/14/2023.

Address: 251/253 Maple St.

Date Received: 1/16/2023

Date of Investigation: 1/16/2023

Complaint: Debris from a cut down tree piled in the roadway in front of the home

Status: Tree branches found piled in front of the home on the street, not blocking the roadway at this time. Attempting to contact the property owner and request they be removed and disposed of properly.

*update – home owner cleaned up all debris earlier today 1/18/2023

Address: 326 Lowber Rd.

Date Received: 1/17/2023

Date of Investigation: 1/17/2023

Complaint: Dangerous and unsafe structure, rodents and insects, blighted/nuisance property

Status: Home found to be a hazard and shall be condemned. Placards placed today and letters to homeowners to be sent out tomorrow 1/18/2023.

Address: Scott Haven Rd.	Date Received: 1/16/2023	Date of Investigation: 1/17/2023
Complaint: Illegal Dumping		
Status: Ongoing issue for some time. Found garage dumped along roadway near the tracks and in other places along the roadway. No way to tell when it was dumped or who did the dumping at this time. I will investigate and advise if there is any reasonable and legal way to address this issue.		

Address: Highland Avenue & 6 th Street, Herminie	Date Received: 1/18/2023	Date of Investigation: 1/18/2023
Complaint: Illegal burning, smoke and noxious fumes		
Status: Large pile of construction materials including plastics etc. found smoldering with smoke and noxious fumes. Violation letter sent to property owner to cease and desist all burning of materials banned by the township code or further action will be taken.		

Public Comment on Agenda Items Only

Jason Capenos asked if the mowing tractor has a boom mount. Mr. Hill responded he believes it's a 22 foot boom mount and the current tractor is 19 feet. Mr. Capenos asked a for a few more specifics. Mr. Petros added that this will also be safer. Mr. Capenos then stated that a lot of roads don't get mowed often. Seems like some stretches are mowed very well, other stretches are overlooked. Hopefully, with the new tractor, there will be mowing more often and also trees will be cut back.

Brian Merdian asked when the last time was that any of the Board of Supervisors attended a SSMSA meeting. Mr. Petros stated he was there at the meeting earlier this month. How many people are we looking for to serve on the Board. Mr. Petros stated one (1) and there are no vacancies on the Sutersville side. Mr. Merdian hopes that there is a real effort to have those people on that Authority understand what needs to happen to rectify the problems. Help from the State, County, Federal cannot come in without the support of the Board of Supervisors and Sutersville Council. It starts at the local level. The other option is to vote to dissolve the SSMSA Board. Sewickley Board of Supervisors and Sutersville Council can then take over the Authority. Elizabeth Township did it and it worked for them.

Solicitor Demosky stated that a Townhall meeting is being scheduled regarding SSMSA. The goal is to have the meeting the beginning part of February.

Mark Petros made a motion, seconded by Bill Dull, to approve the agenda as presented below. Voting: Mr. Dull, Mrs. Harvey, 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 – wordpress	\$ 120.72

Voting: Mr. Dull, Mrs. Harvey, 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 – traffic advisor for rescue pumper	\$ 1,788.70
Schulte's Towing & Repair – transmission repairs on rescue pumper	\$ 3,013.53

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

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

WestCom Wireless, Inc. – portable radio for fire police	\$ 2,658.03
WestCom Wireless, Inc. – mobile radio for squad	\$ 2,471.60

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

Linda Harvey made a motion, seconded by Mark Petros, to adopt Resolution 3-2023 appointing Joanne Tullis as Administrative Assistant for the Township of Sewickley at the rate of \$ 17.00 per hour. This is a full-time position which follows the Employee Handbook. Voting: Mr. Dull, Mrs. Harvey, Mr. Petros; yes. Motion carried unanimously.

Mark Petros made a motion, seconded by Bill Dull, to accept the resignation of Jamie Dubinsky as a member of the Sutersville-Sewickley Municipal Sewage Authority. Voting: Mr. Dull, Mrs. Harvey, Mr. Petros; yes. Motion carried unanimously.

Mark Petros made a motion, seconded by Linda Harvey, to advertise the request for letters of interest to be submitted to the Township Secretary seeking appointment to the Sutersville-Sewickley Municipal Sewage Authority. This appointment will serve until January, 2026 and will be made at the February 15, 2023 public meeting of the Board of Supervisors after interviews are conducted. Voting: Mr. Dull, Mrs. Harvey, Mr. Petros; yes. Motion carried unanimously.

Mark Petros made a motion, seconded by Bill Dull, to award the Crabapple Park Improvements Grant Project, Contract 1/2023, to the lowest bidder, Lutterman Excavating, LLC, in the amount of \$160,105.00. Voting: Mr. Dull, Mrs. Harvey, Mr. Petros; yes. Motion carried unanimously.

Mark Petros made a motion, seconded by Linda Harvey, to adopt Resolution 11-2023 allocating funds from the American Rescue Plan Account to purchase a 2022 Massey Ferguson 5711D Tractor / Tiger Mower in the amount of \$168,546.05. These will be purchased through Co-Stars Contract #4400020105 and Co-Stars Contract #4400020106. Voting: Mr. Dull, Mrs. Harvey, Mr. Petros; yes. Motion carried unanimously.

Linda Harvey made a motion, seconded by Mark Petros, to list 2009 Massey Ferguson Model Dyna-4 5455 tractor w/ Tiger boom mower on Municibid to secure highest and best trade-in value for benefit of the Township. Voting: Mr. Dull, Mrs. Harvey, Mr. Petros; yes. Motion carried unanimously.

Bill Dull made a motion, seconded by Mark Petros, to approve Rich Hill to attend the Dirt, Gravel, and Low Volume Roads training being held on April 12, 2023 and April 13, 2023 in Somerset County. Mr. Hill will be paid his regular wage and travel expenses while attending this training. Voting: Mr. Dull, Mrs. Harvey, Mr. Petros; yes. Motion carried unanimously.

Mark Petros made a motion, seconded by Bill Dull, to advertise for the position of Recreation/Crabapple Maintenance at the rate of \$16.00 per hour. Voting: Mr. Dull, Mrs. Harvey, 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 12948 to 12952 - \$ 1,420.00 (12/31/2022)

ACH Payments:

First Energy (8 payments) - \$ 507.92 (12/27/22)

S & T Loan - \$ 2,487.28 (1/3/23)

Columbia Gas - \$ 419.30 (1/5/23)

First Energy - \$ 39.88 (1/6/23)

MAWC - \$ 62.79 (1/13/23)

Crabapple:

ACH Payments: First Energy - \$ 37.05 (12/27/22)

First Energy - \$ 20.79 (12/27/22)

MAWC - \$ 123.31 (12/30/22)

MAWC - \$ 88.79 (12/30/22)

First Energy - \$ 112.39 (1/6/23)

First Energy - \$ 93.16 (1/6/23)

Credit Card Machine Fee - \$ 59.44 (1/10/23)

Payroll / Paychex ACH Liabilities:

Paychex - \$ 153.10 (12/23/22)

Paychex - \$ 149.45 (12/30/22)

Paychex - \$ 188.45 (1/6/23)

Paychex - \$ 596.75 (1/13/23)

Payroll Liabilities - \$ 3,270.65 (12/23/22)

Payroll Liabilities - \$ 2,677.03 (12/30/22)

Payroll Liabilities - \$ 2,745.37 (1/6/23)

Payroll Liabilities - \$ 3,621.27 (1/13/23)

Recreation:

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

Check 2990 - \$ 189.42 (12/30/22)

ACH Payments: First Energy - \$ 425.18 (12/27/22)

First Energy - \$ 23.61 (12/27/22)

First Energy - \$ 13.94 (12/27/22)

Columbia Gas - \$ 694.26 (1/5/23)

Street Light / Fire Hydrant:

ACH Payments: First Energy - \$ 2,121.96 (1/5/23)

First Energy - \$ 575.83 (1/5/23)

First Energy - \$ 362.24 (1/5/23)

MAWC - \$ 3,038.50 (1/16/23)

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

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

Employees Payroll: 12/23/2022 - \$ 9,948.55
12/30/2022 - \$ 9,255.00
1/6/2023 - \$ 8,936.83
1/13/2023 - \$ 10,803.44

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

General Public Comment

Nancy Bickus Neel introduced herself as a member of the SSMSA Board. They met on January 9, 2023 and gave a full account of that meeting. If the rate increase goes through, many families will have financial hardship. They don't want special treatment in their rates, but they do want to pay comparable sewage rates to the surrounding areas. Many will have their water shut off with a delinquent bill over \$200. Over 50% of the students in the Yough School District come from families that are considered to be financially stressed. At the SSMSA Reorganization meeting, she was named Treasurer and will recommend cost-cutting proposals, but that will still not be enough.

If SSMSA fails, it will be the responsibility of Sewickley Township and Sutersville taxpayers. She urges the Board of Supervisors to select a person for the sixth seat that will help make educated decisions to correct the problem. This is not a simple situation. The situation in Elizabeth is entirely different than what is going on here. We want to move forward, but we will need State or County help. Currently on the board, there is only one hold-over member. Every other member is a new member and is committed to work hard and make changes for this community.

Mr. Merdian responded about his time as Chairman of MSATS and on the Board of Supervisor. We saw and realized significant price increases. We convened meetings to provide a solution that worked. He agreed with most of what Ms. Bickus Neel stated but reiterated what he said earlier with what needs to happen. A conversation between the two continued.

Linda Coffey stated that they should have went in with Herminie and not Sutersville. This would not be an issue and we wouldn't be in this mess. With the milage money we get, why can't we apply for a grant to help us pull away from Elizabeth and put our pipeline either into Herminie's or make a new plant in Lowber. Mr. Petros stated that everyone wants to work toward a solution. The next step is coordinating a Townhall meeting where this all can be discussed. We need a plan in place before applying for funding.

Mr. Merdian then asked if there is a bond for the gas line work. Mr. Petros stated that we're still researching the amount with the gas company. Mr. Merdian then asked about the streetlights at the roundabout near the Rt 70 interchange. They're still not on. Mr. Petros will let him know something this week.

Old / New Business

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.

The Board of Supervisors is accepting letters of interest for the filling of the Emergency Management Coordinator position.

The next Regular Meeting of the Board of Supervisors will be held on Wednesday, February 15, 2023 at 6:00pm.

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 6:43pm.

Susan D, Leukhardt
Secretary-Treasurer