

Chairperson, Mark Petros, on Wednesday, March 15, 2023 at 6:00pm, called the Work/Agenda Setting Meeting of the Sewickley Township Board of Supervisors to order as advertised in the Tribune Review on Tuesday, 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, Chad Albert, Bruce Zarnick, and Susan Leukhardt.

Mark Petros led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

An Executive Session was held on March 15, 2023 at 5:00pm to discuss personnel matters.

Report of Township General Fund Accounts, Susan Leukhardt

Account	Beginning Balance	Deposits Interest	/ Transfers Payments	/ Ending Balance
FEBRUARY, 2023				
FNB General Fund	\$ 105,217.02	\$ 158,309.23	\$ 165,871.09	\$ 97,655.16
PLGIT General Fund	\$ 262,863.05	\$ 93,255.69	\$ 100,000.00	\$ 256,118.74
FNB Reserve Account	\$ 145,924.57	\$ 268.66	-0-	\$ 146,193.23

Report from Public Works Director, Rich Hill

- Installed approximately 330 feet of pipe on Pierce Road.
- Salted roads a few times during the month.
- Installed several road signs throughout the Township.
- Cut up several trees that fell from the strong winds.
- Built gate at Recreation Center for emergency service use only. Mr. Dull to give out keys for the gate.
- Public Works Department cleared out most of upstairs at previous MSATS offices for the Library.
- Upgrade restrooms at previous MSATS Building.
- Constructed ceiling and rooms for EMA and file storage at Township Building.
- Tomorrow, we are placing stone in an alley across from Hutchinson Firehall and rolling the baseball fields.

Report from Recreation Director, Chad Albert

Recreation Center:

- Recreation Center and Library remain closed as we continue work with Gibson-Thomas Engineering to inspect, survey, and help determine our best options moving forward.
- Authorized Township personnel have access to safely retrieve items for the Library and gym tenants.

Crabapple Park / Pool:

- Crabapple Pool requires repairs before opening this season. We are in the process of preparing a report on estimated expenses. That report will be given to the Supervisors before April's meeting.
- Monday March 6th, a resident reported vandalism at the Park – graffiti on restroom and handicap signs. The incident appears to be related to a previous vandalism case back in November of 2022. Both incidents have been reported to our Ordinance Officer, Bruce Zarnick, and PA State Police for review.
- We will look into new surveillance options for the park.

Recreation Activities:

- Our annual Easter Egg Hunt is scheduled for Saturday, April 1st starting at 11:30am at the ballfields across from HW Good Elementary School.

- Sewickley Township Library will also be handing out a ready-to-make craft to each child. The event is FREE to all Yough area children from infancy through age 12.
- Pre-Registration is required for this event.
- Sewickley Recreation Committee's 3rd Annual Father/Daughter Dinner Dance will be hosted at the Crystal Ballroom in Herminie on Saturday, April 15th from 5:00pm to 9:00pm.
- Majority of the tickets were sold last Saturday, but we still have a limited number remaining.
- For more information, or to sign-up, or volunteer; contact the Recreation Director at 724.446.7202 or via email to recdirector@sewickleytownship.org

Report from Ordinance Officer, Bruce Zarnick --- given by Mark Petros

Mr. Zarnick responded to fifteen (15) complaints over the past month. Areas included Daisy Street, Rose Street, Herminie VFW Parking Lot, Overland Drive, High Street, Sewickley Avenue, Fifth Street, Crabapple vandalism, Sewickley Avenue, Keck Lane, Hutchinson, 2nd Street, and Church Street. Various violations were reported.

Lee Demosky – Sewickley Township Solicitor

Mr. Demosky explained how that this advertised meeting is a Work / Agenda Setting Meeting due to the agenda not being posted on the Township website prior to 24 hours before this meeting. The Sunshine Act was updated approximately one and half years ago with this requirement which the Township has abided by since then. There was a technical issue that prevented the March agenda from being posted. Therefore, the Board of Supervisors voting meeting is scheduled for Monday, March 20, 2023 at 6:00pm. It will be advertised in the newspaper and the agenda will be posted on the website 24 hours before the meeting.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

Entering a contract with Regola Consulting, LLC

Jon Turik spoke about a previous contract the Township had with Mr. Regola for four years. It did not benefit the Township then. Why are we going to pay him again when we could be using the money on our roads. Mr. Petros responded that our Township received more CDBG funds than any other municipality while he was here. Mr. Turik believes that the Supervisors at the time was the reason for reasoning those funds. Mr. Petros listed the municipalities that have contracts with Regola Consulting.

Mrs. Harvey stated that she was shocked to see this was to be talked about and Mr. Petros added this to the agenda. What reason do you have to put this back on the agenda? We haven't had a need for him. She went on to list the many grants we've received in the past year and businesses coming into the Township. Mr. Petros stated that it was put on the agenda to be discussed.

Mr. Petros stated that the consensus is that Mr. Regola is not going to be right for the township.

Opening on the Sutersville-Sewickley Municipal Sewage Authority following the resignation of Jared Petterson

Mr. Petros stated we still need someone for the SSMSA. Mrs. Harvey stated it will be posted on the website.

Crabapple Pool Discussion

Mr. Petros stated that a lot of issues need to be addressed at Crabapple Pool. The Recreation Director has a call into American Leak Detection to test where the leaks are and then come up with a plan to get it up and running. Mrs. Harvey asked if anyone has come in to check the pipes from the restrooms. Mr. Hill stated not yet. We are waiting for calls to be returned. Mr. Dull is getting a contact for someone who works on commercial pools. Mr. Petros doesn't want to wait to advertise for a Pool Manager and we need someone licensed to handle the chemicals.

Establish meeting with the Fire Departments, Ambulance Service, and Emergency Management

Solicitor Demosky stated that him and Supervisor Harvey will be meeting with Michael Manley, the new Emergency Management Director, at the former MSATS building to see what their needs and future plans are.

Mrs. Harvey added that we need to move on meeting with the Fire Chiefs which is to be done annually. Also, we should meet with the ambulance service as they do receive 2 mil funds. These would be two (2) separate meetings.

Update on agreement with Sewickley Township Public Library and Recreation Center Update

Mr. Petros informed the residents that the Sewickley Township Public Library will temporarily use the old MSATS Building. Solicitor Demosky will present the Board with an agreement to be executed. The Township has a few safety items to take care of also. Mr. Hill stated that EMA had some items to remove from the front office. A discussion continued regarding the moving of books. Mr. Petros believed that the Library was having a professional company do the move.

A discussion between residents regarding the space needed for Emergency Management and the drone took place. Mrs. Harvey stated that in the past, Emergency Management had a small office in this building. They have moved before but will always be in the Township when needed. They are up and running as they always have been. Mr. Petros listed the equipment they have at the Command Center. He asked Chris Reuss to give more details and history on the drone as she was on EMA.

Jon Turik asked about the parking situation at the EMA Building for the Library. Mr. Petros stated that the Library was in contact with Mr. Mahar, the owner of the parking lot for the previous bank building. Solicitor Demosky clarified that the title of the EMA Building has four (4) parking spaces available with the Township owned building. Mrs. Harvey stated that we are trying to provide them with a temporary space as no one anticipated the closing of the building. We want to help as much as we can as we all are affected by the closing of the Recreation Center.

Mrs. Harvey asked about the asbestos testing and Mr. Albert stated that sampling is taking place tomorrow.

Turner Lane and Tomajko Road Discussion

Mr. Hill met with the Engineer on Monday regarding the small bridge on Turner Lane. County Hauling will use a small truck for garbage pickup. He is also meeting with Gibson-Thomas tomorrow regarding the grant.

Solicitor Demosky stated there is no update on the Tomajko Road litigation.

Township and Crabapple Mowing Bid Results

"TOWNSHIP MOWING" Includes the following locations	The Lawnfather	JD Renovations	Joshua Fox Cutting Edge	Little Mike's Lawn Care	Dapper Landscaping
a) Township Building lawn including maintenance at the front and sides of the building b) Recreation Center lawn & bank facing Pike Street c) Quaker Cemetery d) Shaner Honor Roll e) The Project 70 property located at the Sewickley Township Rillton Volunteer Fire Company f) Reservoir Road Cemetery g) Lowber Playground (inside and outside of fence)	\$ 401.99	\$ 385.00	No Bid	\$ 570.00	\$ 395.00

h) Hutchinson Playground i) Township Property located at Pike Street and Sewickley Avenue j) Cameron Avenue Property, Hutchinson					
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"CRABAPPLE MOWING" Includes the following locations	The Lawnfather	JD Renovations	Joshua Fox Cutting Edge	Little Mike's Lawn Care	Dapper Landscaping
a) John C. Bruno Memorial Football Field	\$ 745.99	\$ 725.00	\$ 735.00	\$ 860.00	\$ 727.00
b) All Baseball and Softball Fields					
c) Crabapple Park					

Michael Beddick spoke about Cutting Edge and how well he does the mowing at Bruno Field. For just \$10.00 more per cut, please consider having him continue with the Crabapple Mowing bid this year.

2023 Crabapple Park Pavilion Rates

2023 CRABAPPLE PARK PAVILION RATES

	RESIDENT	NON - RESIDENT
Large Pavilion	2022 rate -- \$ 125.00 2023 rate - \$ _____	2022 rate -- \$ 175.00 2023 rate - \$ _____
Small Pavilion	2022 rate -- \$ 25.00 2023 rate -- \$ _____	2022 rate -- \$ 50.00 2023 rate -- \$ _____
Time Extensions are available until 10:00 pm for an additional \$ 25.00		

Mr. Petros stated that we could possibly have cheaper pavilion rates during the weekdays, but believe we need to increase the weekend rental rates.

General Public Comment

Michael Beddick is a lifelong resident of the Township and spoke of his concerns with blight and litter in the Township. He then reported there has been a port-a-john with the door constantly open near Fox's Pizza for over a month. Is there an update on resurfacing Sewickley Avenue. Mr. Hill responded that there is a meeting tomorrow. He then asked about Clinton Drive. In the past 40 years, there has only been a skim coat put on the road. Mr. Petros stated that it is on the paving list for this year. Mr. Hill added that Davis Road is also.

Kalyn Wees spoke about the need for Davis Road to be done also and the promises they've heard in the past.

Daryl Dermotta asked is the Township will have a community clean up at Bruno Field again. Mr. Petros stated that Mr. Thoma donated the dumpsters and held the event in the past. He then asked what is going in near Westinghouse. Mr. Petros stated that "Rutters" is supposed to go in there.

Jon Turik asked about a trailer that's been on Church Street for four and a half years and other abandoned vehicles. Mrs. Leukhardt stated that the Ordinance Officer has filed the required forms with the State Police to find out who owns them.

Scott Keteles, owner of the Crystal Ballroom, spoke about the junk along Main Street Alley. Couches, tires, vehicles that haven't moved in months, lumber, pallets, etc. They believe they are losing business due to these issues. Mr. Petros will make sure the Ordinance Officer is on this.

Kalyn Wees asked about the Engineers Report for the Recreation Center. Mr. Petros stated the engineers have been extremely busy and it was difficult to get them scheduled. They are coming out next week.

Chris Reuss asked if the ambulance base in Herminie is staffed. She has a son with special needs. She is concerned about response time. Can she request North Huntingdon? Mr. Dull said you can request that. Regarding it being staffed, he stated that if they are out on a call, they do try to get a standby crew to come in. She then spoke about the Business Association and revitalizing Main Street. Their meetings are open to the public and invites all to be a part of it. Conversations between the residents occurred.

Nancy Bickus Neel spoke about the resignation of Mr. Petterson from the Sutersville-Sewickley Municipal Sewage Authority. In the process of him resigning, he blamed individuals and now she is presenting the other side of the story. There has been discussion about Mr. Petterson working Pennsylvania American Water. They are one of the companies that SSMSA is looking in to possibly take them over. A lot of people felt there would be a possible conflict of interest. At one of the meetings, he was asked by customers of SSMSA if he worked for PA American Water. The Solicitor told him he didn't have to answer the question. It raised suspicions amongst the people there as to what he could be hiding. The customers then checked into his background. He did work at one time at PA American Water. The company he works for now is a very large contributor to PA American Water. Because he was feeling the pressure from the rate payers that there could be a conflict of interest, this could have been one of the reasons for his resignation. If he had been more transparent, they may not have been suspicious.

She went on to follow up with SSMSA business. Sutersville will be replacing another board member as they had a resignation turned in. When that position is filled, everyone on SSMSA will be brand new and not from the former Board. People feel this Board is working for them and caring about what is going on. A presentation was made to West Newton counsel, and they seemed interested into what they had to say. Three (3) members of SSMSA will also be meeting with PA American Water the following week. Everything is being done with thorough investigations.

Frank Sever asked if there is any action with the Land Bank regarding the house at 208 Hood Street. He also asked what contributed to the Recreation Center closing. Mr. Petros stated it is just an old building. The roof has separated from the brick. With water freezing and contracting behind the brick, that is partly the reason for structural issues. A broken pipe was not a contributing factor. The basketball hoops also come out from the wall. Discussion continued about the status of the building and engineering reports.

Jon Turik asked about what was in the account from the MSATS sale for recreation. He believes it should be close to \$2 million. Mr. Petros stated almost \$1.4 million. Mrs. Harvey stated that part of those funds went into the Hutchinson paving project. Mr. Turik then asked both Mr. Petros and Mr. Dull how many grants they personally have applied for. Mr. Petros stated that they both went to a grant seminar and then listed all the information that is needed to apply. Mr. Turik believes a plan should have been in place a long time ago. Mrs. Harvey added that the new Recreation Center was supposed to be built in Rillton. She explained what has gone into that location with boring testing and the highway occupancy permit. We owe it to the residents of Sewickley Township to look into every possible solution. Mr. Petros and Mrs. Harvey both spoke about the issues with possibly buying the old bank building also.

Mr. Sever then asked about the Crabapple grant saying he heard we lost it. Mr. Petros stated that was untrue. The contract was awarded, and work will be starting soon.

Old / New Business

The Sewickley Township Supervisors would like to remind all people who live and work within the Township that our storm sewer inlets, curbs and gutters, drainage ditches, and storm pipes discharge directly and untreated into the Youghiogheny River, Sewickley Creek, Little Sewickley Creek, and other natural waterways within the Township. In order to keep our rivers, streams, and lakes clean, we remind residents and businesses not to discard grass clippings, used oil, paints, solvents, pet wastes, or other wastes into the storm drains, onto the street, or into streams or other waterways. Clean up after your pet. Don't let pet waste get washed into the street or down the storm drain. Together, we can protect and preserve the streams, lakes, and rivers in our community.

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

With no further business to come before the Board, Bill Dull made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Mark Petros. Voting: Mr. Petros, Mrs. Harvey, Mr. Dull; yes. Meeting adjourned at 8:08pm.

Susan D, Leukhardt
Secretary-Treasurer