

Chairperson, Mark Petros, on Wednesday, September 20, 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, Michael Gray, Chad Albert, Michael Manley, and Susan Leukhardt.

Mark Petros led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**An Executive Session was held on Wednesday, August 29, 2023 at 5:00pm to discuss personnel matters.**

#### **Report from Secretary-Treasurer, Susan Leukhardt**

<b>Account</b>	<b>Beginning Balance</b>	<b>Deposits / Interest</b>	<b>Transfers / Payments</b>	<b>Ending Balance</b>
<b>AUGUST, 2023</b>				
FNB General Fund	\$ 106,824.05	\$ 128,482.43	\$ 149,092.71	\$ 86,213.77
PLGIT General Fund	\$ 541,181.23	\$ 117,423.37	-0-	\$ 658,604.60
FNB Reserve Account	\$ 147,669.89	\$ 301.00	-0-	\$ 147,970.89

#### **Report from Public Works Director, Michael Gray**

Thank you for the opportunity to work for Sewickley Township. The paving and tar and chip projects have started and we're working on finishing those up.

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

- The electric breaker box at Bruno Field experienced a malfunction and needs to be replaced. Schultheis Electric inspected the equipment on September 13<sup>th</sup> and confirmed the faulty breaker. This powers the electric banner sign in town across from Dairy Queen. Multiple street lights within Bruno Field fence and GFCI outlets along the fence. Quote is \$1,145 to repair.
- Gibson-Thomas Engineering performed a structural inspection of the Large Pavilion on September 12<sup>th</sup>. The purpose of the inspection was to identify any safety concerns. It has been determined the structure is adequate and safe for continued use. A few areas were pointed out and recommended to be repaired in a timely manner for long-term structural adequacy.
- Township administration performed a walk-through at the Recreation Center on September 19<sup>th</sup> to take inventory of remaining items and identify what is required to be removed from the building. We are now exploring a potential auction to fundraise and liquidate Recreation assets.
- There is one (1) more scheduled rental at the Crabapple Park Pavilion this season. Park gates will remain open to the public through October.
- Friendly reminder that hunting on Township property is prohibited as well as ATV off-road vehicles. Our Park is full of dog-walkers and children, so these banned activities are for good reason. Please respect that space. We have surveillance cameras and trail cameras set up throughout and we will forward any violations to our Ordinance Officer which then can be forwarded to the State Police if necessary.
- Park Maintenance is busy with various projects this month including replacing rotten wood at the Large Pavilion. Replacing and painting new bleacher planks in poor condition at Bruno Field, relocating the Library's food donation box from the closed Recreation Center to their current/temporary location, along with daily and weekly tasks, keep Park and playground properties safe and well-maintained.
- We have started the pool winterization process. Once fall baseball is over, water will be turned off at Park facilities.

- Annual mandatory backflow tests are being conducted this week by Liberty Stanton at Township facilities – including the Park, Township Office, and Library.
- The Sewickley Township Public Library is partnering with our Volunteer Recreation committee once again to host our 3rd Annual Trunk or Treat event. This will take place on Saturday, October 7<sup>th</sup> from 1:00pm to 3:00pm at Crabapple Park. We invite residents, local businesses, and organizations to register to decorate their vehicle and pass out candy to Trick or Treaters at the Park. Free food and drink will be served at the Pavilion for all participants.

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

This month, I had approximately 21 investigations resulting in violation letters. Some were sent a second notice and some went on to citations being filed. The calls included two (2) garbage complaints, seven (7) high grass and weeds complaints, one (1) animal complaint, four (4) parking complaints, and three (3) junk complaints two (2) of which were for junk vehicles. I also had several follow-up investigations to make sure they were remedied or if further action was needed. Several citations were issued. A total of fifteen (15) citations are currently still at the Magistrate pending a court date or guilty plea. I have a few more citations that will be going out this week and will be following up on several properties to check for compliance. I also am expecting a call from the DEP concerning some illegal dumping and illegal toxic burning at two (2) locations in the Township. I will have an update on that at the next Township meeting. This month, approximately four (4) investigations were able to be closed and issues remedied.

#### **Report from Emergency Management Director, Michael Manley --- given by Mark Petros**

Water Rescue Awareness and Landing Zone Safety - held at Hutchinson VFC

Weather Events

Nixle Alerts – Severe Thunderstorm Warning and Flash Flood Watch on 8/25/2023

Notable Meetings/Trainings

Tasks and Noteworthy Meeting

- General Business Meeting – 9/6/2023
- WCDPS Meeting at EOC – Met with staff – Haz Mat Mitigation Planning – 8/23/2023
- Community Outreach – EOC Open and Staffed for Sewickley Business Association Car Cruise – 9/2/2023

Upcoming Meetings

- Quarterly EMA Meeting with WCDPS - Thursday 9/21/2022
- OFSC Chief Cook – Rostraver Central VFD 09/22/2023

#### **Report from Gibson-Thomas Engineering --- given by Michael Gray**

Rillton Stormwater/Paving Project Phase I CDBG Grant - Work began on August 29<sup>th</sup> and was completed on September 14<sup>th</sup>. This included Maple Avenue and Summit Street. The other streets were not able to get funded this year. We will be moving on future phases for the Rillton area with an application for the LSA Grant to complete the project as a whole rather than go through phase funding.

Turner Lane Streambank Stabilization was awarded \$500,000 LSA funds. Gibson Thomas will have to do a hydraulic analysis and joint application with the DEP. Once that is approved, they can continue working on the plans for the bank-side stabilization of that area.

The 2023 paving program was completed by A. Liberoni – Work began on September 7<sup>th</sup>. One of the change orders was for Falls Road.

Gibson Thomas Engineering will be working with Sewickley Township on CDBG, Category 4 LSA, and also the State LSA grants.

### **Westmoreland County Commissioner, Sean Kertes**

Collaborative efforts were made between Westmoreland County and Sewickley Township for Commerce Crossing. I want to see a change to focus on our rural communities. Commerce Crossing coming in here is a big boost. The County has allocated \$75,000 for the demolition of the Recreation Center. Bid specs usually come in high, so it will be interesting to know what the real bid is. Thank you for having me.

Commissioner Kertes took questions from the residents and provided answers to what he could.

### **Public Comment on Agenda Items Only**

Nancy Bickus-Neel asked why do we keep losing Public Works Directors. Is there a problem why these men keep quitting? Solicitor Demosky recommends not discussing personnel matters.

She then asked about the Rat Pack Plan subdivision. Is this a corporation? Mrs. Harvey explained that this went through the Planning Commission and that's how it was listed. Mrs. Leukhardt added that the property may be listed as a corporation, not under an individual name. Solicitor Demosky explained the same.

Joseph Antonich asked about Peach Street. Will it be paved? Mr. Gray responded that it does need some work, but it may not fall under Liquid Fuels funds. This will all be looked into further.

Bob MacPherson asked that Circle Drive and Longview Drive be looked at also. The concern is emergency vehicles may have trouble on those roads. Mr. Gray will check them out also.

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

Linda Harvey made a motion, seconded by Mark Petros, to approve the minutes of the Sewickley Township Board of Supervisors Regular Meeting held on May 17, 2023. Voting: Mrs. Harvey, Mr. Petros, Mr. Dull; yes. Motion carried unanimously.

Mark Petros made a motion, seconded by Bill Dull, to disburse 2022 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	\$ 186.38

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

Linda Harvey made a motion, seconded by Mark Petros, to disburse 2022 EMS Tax funds on behalf of Herminie Volunteer Fire Company as follows:

Black Mountain Enterprises LLC – 4-wheel alignment on 2008 truck	\$ 220.11
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Voting: Mrs. Harvey, Mr. Petros, Mr. Dull; yes. Motion carried unanimously.

Bill Dull made a motion, seconded by Mark Petros, to ratify the resignation of Richard Hill effective September 8, 2023. Voting: Mrs. Harvey, Mr. Petros, Mr. Dull; yes. Motion carried unanimously.

Linda Harvey made a motion, seconded by Mark Petros, to adopt Resolution 21-2023 appointing Michael Gray as Sewickley Township Public Works Director at an annual salary of \$ 55,000.00 subject to signing an employment contract approved by the Solicitor. The start date shall be listed as September 11, 2023. A review of salary will be conducted at his ninety-day evaluation. Voting: Mrs. Harvey, Mr. Petros, Mr. Dull; yes. Motion carried unanimously.

Linda Harvey made a motion, seconded by Mark Petros, to adopt Resolution No. 22-2023 appointing Michael Gray as the Official Contact Person for the Commercial Driver's License Drug and Alcohol Program. Voting: Mrs. Harvey, Mr. Petros, Mr. Dull; yes. Motion carried unanimously.

Mark Petros made a motion, seconded by Linda Harvey, to approve Balancing Change Order #1 and Pay Estimate No. 1 (Final) in the amount of \$228,390.00 for the Community Development Block Grant Program 22-14, Rillton Stormwater Facilities Improvements. The balance of \$1,966.00 will be paid by Sewickley Township. Voting: Mrs. Harvey, Mr. Petros, Mr. Dull; yes. Motion carried unanimously.

Mark Petros made a motion, seconded by Bill Dull, to approve Change Order No. 2 in the amount of \$37,177.58 for the 2023 Hot Mix Paving Program, Contract 3/2023, with A. Liberoni, Inc. Voting: Mrs. Harvey, Mr. Petros, Mr. Dull; yes. Motion carried unanimously.

Linda Harvey made a motion, seconded by Mark Petros, to approve Pay Estimate No. 1 in the amount of \$260,726.03 for the 2023 Hot Mix Paving Program, Contract 3/2023, with A. Liberoni, Inc. There is a 5% retainage of \$13,722.42. Voting: Mrs. Harvey, Mr. Petros, Mr. Dull; yes. Motion carried unanimously.

Mark Petros made a motion, seconded by Linda Harvey, to approve the sending of CDBG 15% required local match letters to Westmoreland County Community Development Division for the Rillton Cross Drains, Rillton Paving, and Whyte Area Roads projects with the application to be completed as recommended by the consulting engineer. Voting: Mrs. Harvey, Mr. Petros, Mr. Dull; yes. Motion carried unanimously.

Linda Harvey made a motion, seconded by Bill Dull, to adopt Resolution 23-2023 approving the following four (4) funding applications to the "Local Share Account Category 4 Facilities Program" for the items and funds listed below. There is a \$100.00 per application fee totaling \$400.00.

Application No. 1	One (1) Rear Mounted Blower for Mowing Tractor (Priority I)	\$ 8,326.00
Application No. 2	Two Man Trailer Patcher (Priority II)	\$ 73,537.20
Application No. 3	2023 Ram 2500 Pickup (Priority III)	\$ 54,275.04
Application No. 4	Additional Rear Mounted Blower for Mowing Tractor (Priority IV)	\$ 8,326.00

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

Bill Dull made a motion, seconded by Linda Harvey, to ratify the sealing of Slebodnik Road, Cross Street, and Oggs Lane through Russell Standard with the cost of \$28,430.22. Voting: Mrs. Harvey, Mr. Petros, Mr. Dull; yes. Motion carried unanimously.

Linda Harvey made a motion, seconded by Bill Dull, to approve the paving of Reed Lane in-house. The approximate cost for an estimated 200 tons of asphalt required is \$15,000.00. Voting: Mrs. Harvey, Mr. Petros, Mr. Dull; yes. Motion carried unanimously.

Mark Petros made a motion, seconded by Bill Dull, to authorize Gibson-Thomas Engineering to prepare stormwater and paving plans for Clinton Drive. Voting: Mrs. Harvey, Mr. Petros, Mr. Dull; yes. Motion carried unanimously.

Linda Harvey made a motion, seconded by Mark Petros, to approve Weight Restriction Permit 2023-2 with Laural Mountain Midstream, LLC for Slaughter Hollow Road through September 30, 2024. Voting: Mrs. Harvey, Mr. Petros, Mr. Dull; yes. Motion carried unanimously.

Linda Harvey made a motion, seconded by Mark Petros, to approve the Rat Pack Plan located on Scott Haven Road. This plan subdivides a parcel containing 39.9358 acres into Lot 1 containing 3.4534 acres and Lot 2 containing 35.9358 acres. Both lots have a non-buildable Planning Waiver and are zoned R-R. Lot 2 is bisected by a CSX Railroad Right of Way. This plan has been approved by the Planning Commission. Voting: Mrs. Harvey, Mr. Petros, Mr. Dull; yes. Motion carried unanimously.

Linda Harvey made a motion, seconded by Mark Petros, to approve the Yough School District subdivision. This plan subdivides a parcel containing .6467 acres fronted on Highland Avenue from the remaining 10.0856 acres that is fronted on Herminie-West Newton Road. The property is zoned P-1 with a one (1) acre minimum lot size. The Sewickley Zoning Hearing Board granted a variance from the lot size. The parcel has public water, gas, and sewage. DEP provided a letter of sewage availability. This plan has been approved by the Planning Commission. Voting: Mrs. Harvey, Mr. Petros, Mr. Dull; yes. Motion carried unanimously.

Linda Harvey made a motion, seconded by Mark Petros, to approve the Turnsek subdivision located on Wineland Drive. This 10.24 acre property is being divided into three (3) parcels with Lot 1 having 3.47 acres, Lot 2 with 3.30 acres, and Lot 3 containing 3.20 acres. The property is zoned R-R with public water, gas, and public sewage. A 20 ft sanitary sewer easement crosses all three (3) properties. A MAWC Sewage Availability letter was included with the application. This plan has been approved by the Planning Commission. Voting: Mrs. Harvey, Mr. Petros, Mr. Dull; yes. Motion carried unanimously.

Bill Dull made a motion, seconded by Mark Petros, to purchase Bituminous Stockpile Patching material (cold mix) through Hei-Way, LLC which is also through the COSTARS program. Voting: Mrs. Harvey, Mr. Petros, Mr. Dull; yes. Motion carried unanimously.

Linda Harvey made a motion, seconded by Mark Petros, to approve the renewal of Township Property, General Liability Insurance, and Workers Compensation Insurance through First National Insurance Agency, Inc. The premium for the Workers Compensation Insurance is \$64,719.00 which is a decrease of \$1,037.00. The premium for the General Liability Insurance is \$35,719.00 which is an increase of \$615.00 from last year. Voting: Mrs. Harvey, Mr. Petros, Mr. Dull; yes. Motion carried unanimously.

Bill Dull made a motion, seconded by Mark Petros, to appoint Joanne Tullis as the Deputy Right to Know Officer. Voting: Mrs. Harvey, Mr. Petros, Mr. Dull; yes. Motion carried unanimously.

Bill Dull made a motion, seconded by Mark Petros, to advertise in the Tribune Review for Budget Workshops to be held on the following dates at 5:00pm:

Thursday, September 28, 2023  
Wednesday, October 11, 2023  
Tuesday, October 24, 2023

Thursday, November 2, 2023  
Thursday, November 9, 2023

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

Mark Petros made a motion, seconded by Bill Dull, to seek quotes to repair Crabapple Pool. Board Comments: Mrs. Harvey asked where this will be advertised. In the past it's been piece-milled. Will there be more than one (1) company looking at this so we can get a total picture of how we can get it completely fixed? Mr. Albert stated that our consultant, Lou Shmidt, who we've been with for years, will look at it also. Mrs. Harvey added that she's been

told there are major problems since 2010. Let's just make sure we can get someone to look at everything to see what the total cost is. Voting: Mrs. Harvey, Mr. Petros, Mr. Dull; yes. Motion carried unanimously.

Linda Harvey made a motion, seconded by Mark Petros, to seek quotes for repair/replacement of the concrete slab and structural pillars at the Crabapple Park Large Pavilion. Voting: Mrs. Harvey, Mr. Petros, Mr. Dull; yes. Motion carried unanimously.

Bill Dull made a motion, seconded by Mark Petros, to approve replacement of faulty electric breaker box at Bruno Field that powers two (2) street lights, GFCI outlets along the fence, and the electric banner sign. Schultheis Electric quoted the repair at \$1,145.00 and will supply all labor, material, and equipment. Voting: Mrs. Harvey, Mr. Petros, Mr. Dull; yes. Motion carried unanimously.

Mark Petros made a motion, seconded by Bill Dull, to authorize a Road Closure Request from the Greenhouse Winery for a 5K Run/Walk on Pinewood Road. The event is to be held on Sunday, October 15, 2023 at 9:00am. Voting: Mrs. Harvey, Mr. Petros, Mr. Dull; yes. Motion carried unanimously.

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

**General Fund:**

Checks 13351 to 13379 - \$ 45,517.29 (8/16/23)  
Checks 13380 to 11395 - \$ 39,418.69 (8/31/23)  
Checks 13396 to 13425 - \$ 44,795.30 (9/15/23)

ACH Payments: MAWC - \$ 185.85 (8/17/23)  
MAWC - \$ 62.13 (8/17/23)  
First Energy (8 invoices) - \$ 735.46 (8/29/23)  
Columbia Gas - \$ 36.31 (9/1/23)  
First Energy - \$ 43.11 (9/8/23)

**ARPA:**

Check 1003 - \$ 12,650.00 (8/24/23)

**Crabapple:**

Checks 5007 to 5012 - \$ 615.07 (8/16/23)  
Checks 5013 to 5015 - \$ 3,664.27 (8/31/23)  
Checks 5016 to 5023 - \$ 1,718.87 (9/15/23)

ACH Payments: MAWC - \$ 3,641.38 (8/17/23)  
MAWC - \$ 123.90 (8/17/23)  
First Energy - \$ 94.24 (8/29/23)  
First Energy - \$ 36.53 (8/29/23)  
First Energy - \$ 120.31 (9/8/23)  
First Energy - \$ 100.08 (9/8/23)  
Credit Card Machine Fee - \$ 48.45 (9/11/23)

**Payroll / Paychex ACH Liabilities:**

Paychex - \$ 135.15 (8/21/23)  
Paychex - \$ 177.30 (8/25/23)  
Paychex - \$ 159.45 (9/8/23)

Payroll Liabilities - \$ 7,240.74 (8/24/23)  
Payroll Liabilities - \$ 7,302.89 (9/7/23)

**Recreation:**

Check 3013 - \$ 480.00 (8/31/23)

ACH Payments: MAWC - \$ 123.90 (8/18/23)  
MAWC - \$ 30.97 (8/18/23)  
First Energy - \$ 20.97 (8/24/23)  
First Energy - \$ 240.14 (8/29/23)  
First Energy - \$ 13.79 (8/29/23)  
Columbia Gas - \$ 50.36 (9/1/23)

**Street Light / Fire Hydrant:**

ACH Payments: First Energy - \$ 2,723.95 (9/5/23)  
First Energy - \$ 624.89 (9/5/23)  
First Energy - \$ 393.15 (9/7/23)

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

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

**Employees Payroll:** 8/25/2023 - \$ 23,090.64  
9/8/2023 - \$ 23,953.82

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

### **General Public Comment**

Daryl Dermotta asked what the weight restriction is for. Mr. Gray stated this is for Laurel Mountain Midstream authorizing to exceed the weight limit on 1/10 of a mile on Slaughter Hollow Road. This portion of the road is also bonded.

Nancy Bickus-Neel stated that the Sutersville-Sewickley Municipal Sewage Authority still needs one (1) more Board Member. Sutersville Borough has been unable to fill that seat. According to their Solicitor, anyone from Sewickley Township can now apply for the sixth seat.

Bob MacPherson spoke on Commerce Crossing. As a former County employee, he knows there is a lot of interest from companies to come in. We're just not sure when it's going to happen. He feels good about the process and the progress they're making. Regarding Crabapple Pool, he's done a lot of studies on communities and developments. One of the things a community should have is a place for people to go. Recreation facilities are huge for keeping children healthy. I encourage the Board to continue to support this project. The Library is another one that is important. There are recreational grants available and he is willing to help with them.

Mr. Petros added that we want to attract people to buy homes in our Township with our recreational facilities such as a pavilion and walking trail in Rillton, a Recreation Center, a community pool, etc. Mrs. Harvey added that the property is there with Project 70.

Teresa Dubich had a Rillton Playground petition signed by 113 people. Mr. Gray stated that there are three (3) components for the LSA grant, Rillton stormwater and paving, Rillton pavilion, and Stewart Lane. Ms. Dubich added that in the past, Rillton had a playground and pavilion, a basketball court, and a baseball field.

Jason Capenos asked about receiving quotes for replacing the concrete slab at the Crabapple Large Pavilion. Does it make sense for us to put in a date range so we can use the pavilion in the summer? Mr. Petros replied we would try to coordinate that in the off season. Mr. Capenos added that the Township owns 42 acres around the whole Crabapple facility. That could be used for one very large recreation complex.

Joseph Antonich stated that in the past 15 to 20 years, we've seen a lot of Public Works Directors. We make phone calls with no rectification for anything. As of right now, Mr. Gray is doing a wonderful job. He addressed my issue in less than a week. Mr. Gray stated that his passion is driven by what he can do for the community. You can't fix everything right away, but with a plan we can get things done over time.

Chad Bielick lives on Oggs Lane. There is a steep hill that he uses every day. They added 6 inches of tar and chip material. He couldn't get his truck back up the hill. Then they came down and just clawed the road. Now the road has ruts in it. It's frustrating. You have the paver in-house. Why aren't you using it? Mr. Gray responded that we are to grade the hill and put a base in so we can seal it again.

Norma Wunder stated that there are two or three blighted properties in Lowber that the roofs are falling in. The one has been a problem for at least a decade, and it's been condemned like the other house. What kind of funding can you get to have them demolished? Mr. Petros stated that the Land Bank does only so many per year. Solicitor Demosky stated that we would have to petition the court to take over the property. Then the issue is the cost of having it demolished which would come out of the general fund budget.

Karen Ruddon spoke on behalf of the Herminie United Methodist Church. We worry about the safety issue of the property next door. If the building catches on fire, it could be hazardous for the Church. It's been sold to several people, but they never fix it up. It's blighted and it's the only property in the entire neighborhood that is. The grass is high. There is brush on the sidewalk and when it rains, it runs down into our property. There hasn't been anyone in there since last fall. Something needs to be done and we are at our wit's end.

Madison Hinkle of the Mountain Watershed Association asked if the Township is willing to do an amendment to the to the Zoning Ordinance regarding freestanding signs. Solicitor Demosky stated that the Planning Commission would provide recommendations to this Board. Second, a resident called her regarding a gas company reaching out to sign a lease for their mineral rights. You do not have to sign a lease and they are negotiable. Lastly, the swimmable waters testing failed this month at the Sewickley Canoe Launch. We do not recommend swimming, canoeing, or kayaking in that area. Testing will resume in May.

#### **Old / New Business**

The next Regular Meeting of the Board of Supervisors will be held on Wednesday, October 18, 2023 at 6:00pm.

If anyone is interested in serving on the Sutersville-Sewickley Municipal Sewage Authority, please send letters of interest to the Sewickley Township Municipal Building.

With no further business to come before the Board, Mark Petros made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Bill Dull. Voting: Mr. Petros, Mr. Dull, Mrs. Harvey; yes. Meeting adjourned at 7:51pm.

Susan D. Leukhardt  
Secretary-Treasurer