

Chairperson, Mark Petros, on Wednesday, October 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, Michael Gray, Chad Albert, Bruce Zarnick, Michael Manley, and Susan Leukhardt.

Mark Petros led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

An Executive Session was held on Wednesday, October 18, 2023, at 5:30pm to discuss litigations involving Columbia Gas and personnel matters.

Report from Secretary-Treasurer, Susan Leukhardt

Account	Beginning Balance	Deposits / Interest	Transfers / Payments	Ending Balance
SEPTEMBER, 2023				
FNB General Fund	\$ 86,213.77	\$ 179,376.46	\$ 127,029.64	\$ 138,560.59
PLGIT General Fund	\$ 658,604.60	\$ 67,645.08	\$ 100,000.00	\$ 626,249.68
FNB Reserve Account	\$ 147,970.89	\$ 282.16	-0-	\$ 148,253.05

Report from Public Works Director, Michael Gray

Street Maintenance and Repair:

- Russell Standard completed the Fog Sealing of streets that were seal-coated per the 2023 Shot and Chip contract.
- Completed paving Reed Lane with a total of 169.82 tons of hot mix asphalt at a cost of \$13,076.14.
- Repaired and paved a section approximately 300' x 15' on Oggs Lane with hot mix asphalt. Total of 73.32 tons for \$5,645.64.
- Installed catch basin and approximately 25' of pipe at 165 Crescent Drive.
- Installed a 2'X2' catch basin at 30 Hildenbrand Lane, connected existing crossover piping.

Facility & Vehicle Maintenance:

- Truck #4 – Currently replacing turbo and engine exhaust manifolds.
- Our Mowing tractor has been picked up by Stevenson Equipment for repair.

Miscellaneous Items:

- Met with Westmoreland Conservation District to discuss pre-application plans for Stewart Lane for funding possibilities.
- Attended a meeting with Jennifer Woodling from Westmoreland County Community Development to discuss the CDBG program to discuss the entire program and I followed up with an email regarding what was spoken about in the meeting and the allocation of the funds.
- Discussed Bridge Inspection(s) and work to be completed with Gibson-Thomas
- Reviewed plans with Gibson-Thomas as it relates to Waltz Mills Flats and Lowber Stormwater infrastructure improvements per funding agreement.

Report from Recreation Director, Chad Albert**Crabapple Park:**

- Park maintenance is in the process of winterizing the park and pool facilities. Allegheny Pools has assisted us with proper closing procedures and worked with us all summer during our attempts to open.
- The last Pavilion rental for this calendar year is scheduled for tomorrow, Thursday, October 19th. Water will be turned off at the pool, park, and ballfields at the end of the month.
- The last day that Crabapple Park will be open to vehicular traffic is October 31st. The park remains open year-round from 8:00am to dusk for fishing, walking trails, and pets (on leash).
- Parking is available at the baseball field lot (across from H.W. Good Elementary School). We ask that cars do not block park gates in case of an emergency.
- We are actively seeking quotes to rehabilitate the Large Pavilion at Crabapple Park. We are seeking quotes to resurface the 30x50 concrete floor and also seeking separate quotes to reset ceiling joists and pillars to re-support any structural deterioration and remove visible ceiling sag. These areas were highlighted in the September inspection report from Gibson-Thomas Engineering.
- Gibson Thomas Engineering inspected Crabapple Pool on October 4th to collect information to compare to old blueprints of the facility. They are preparing a bid to repair the two (2) leaking main drains and reseal the leaking lights.
- Schultheis Electric replaced the faulty circuit breaker for the electric banner sign at Bruno Field on October 5th. During the repairs, it was determined that wires were cut. Thanks to Michael Gray and our Public Works Department for working to dig, locate, and repair the cut wires. The electric banner sign should be back up and running this week.

Recreation Center:

- Township Administration started an inventory project at the Recreation Center in September identifying what furniture can safely be removed, kept, or possibly auctioned. All documents and historical items will be preserved - and the majority of those items have already been relocated to the Township Building or Library Historic Room at their temporary location on Sewickley Avenue.
- The Library has informed us they plan to have all their remaining items moved out of the building on October 28th.

Recreation Events:

- The Sewickley Township Library & Volunteer Recreation Committee hosted our 4th Annual Trunk-or-Treat event for kids on Saturday, October 7th at Crabapple Park. Over 20 volunteers registered to decorate their vehicles and over 150 children participated in our Trick-or-Treat event. Volunteers from the Sewickley Township Library and Recreation Committee helped decorate the pavilion and handed out free hot chocolate, hot dogs, and candy to all participants. Approximately 200 community members participated in the event.
- This event concludes the Recreation Committee's budgeted events for 2023. We are planning different fundraising events, along with donation requests, with the goal to host more Recreation events in 2024.
- On behalf of Sewickley Township, we would like to thank Frank Nanna, our Park Maintenance Employee, for his time here. Frank is resigning from his position and moving away from the area to be closer to his children and grandchildren. He did a great job re-caulking cracks at the Pool, replacing rotten wood at the Pavilion, along with many other ground maintenance projects. We thank Frank for all his efforts in improving the park and wish him well.

Report from Ordinance Officer, Bruce Zarnick

This month, I have had approximately eighteen (18) ordinance investigations, some repeat and some new. Of those, three (3) citations were issued. One of those calls involved an illegal burn containing banned materials and a dump site for building materials. Herminie Fire Department assisted me in watering down the smoldering pile. The DEP and I were able to work out a plan with the individual and get the materials safely disposed of and removed from the property. A citation for this was sent to the property owner and tenant. There were several animal complaints this month. Chickens running loose onto other people's property and dogs barking are the most common. The fowl running at large was able to be addressed and any further violations will result in automatic citations. As far as the dog barking nuisance, I am working with the Supervisors on refining the ordinance to be more specific in how we can enforce this. Warning letters were sent but we are continuing to update ordinances to

better serve the community. I have a court date set for November 16th for one of our blighted properties where junk is being harbored. I expect more court dates from the magistrate for the other pending citations to be set soon as well. If anyone has any questions or concerns, see me after the meeting or you can call or email me anytime.

Report from Emergency Management Director, Michael Manley

We had five (5) vehicle accidents this month in the Township which raises concern regarding driver safety.

We're getting into fire season, so we encourage residents to check their chimneys and fireplaces.

Shout out to Hutchinson Fire Department for sending four (4) team members for safety training and completing the advanced training for vehicle rescue.

Community Nixie Alerts Sent:

- 9/10/2023 - Severe Thunderstorm Warning / Flood Watch
- 10/1/2023 - Dense Fog Advisory

Notable Meetings / Trainings /Tasks

- 9/22/2023 - EMA with State Fire Commissioner Chief Cook at Rostraver Central – Herminie VFD represented Sewickley Township.
- 9/27/2023 - Westmoreland County EMA Directors Meeting at Westmoreland County Department of Public Safety
- 10/1/2023 - Fire Prevention Detail - Hutchinson / Herminie VFD @ HW Good Elementary.
- 10/4/2023 - EMA Meeting First Wednesday @ 7:00pm - General Business Meeting
- 10/9/2023 - Community Outreach - Fire Prevention Prep Meeting @ EOC for Library
- 10/18/2023 - EMA Meeting with Yough High School Administration Staff @ 5:00pm – general preparation and facility tour
- 10/19/2023 - Upcoming Operation Shake-Out - Emergency preparation for earthquakes.

The Emergency Operations Plan has been updated. There is one located at the Township Building and one at the EOC. Mrs. Harvey asked how often the plan is updated. Mr. Manley responded as often as you need, and it should be evaluated every year.

Jason Capenos asked what the status is of getting people qualified to use the drone. Mr. Manley responded that we are currently in an FAA class so the drone program is operational. It will be administered by EMA staff only and will be flown only in Sewickley Township. Some of us should be licensed in the next few months. Mr. Manley was then asked what became of the EOC relocating to the Township Building. Mr. Manley responded that logistically there's probably going to be an overwhelming cost to move everything which includes radios, antennas, infrastructure, computer equipment, IT equipment, etc. The EOC is also comprised of different controls and workstations, projectors, and computer labs. It's an advanced EOC. Mr. Capenos believes that once the Library moves out of the building, the Township will have no other reason to keep it other than the EOC. Even if it costs \$10,000 to move it, in two (2) years we've covered that cost by not having to pay utilities there. Mrs. Harvey added that we do have some things here already, the antennas and the weather station.

Public Comment on Agenda Items Only

Nancy Bickus Neel asked when the next Budget Meeting is being held. Mrs. Leukhardt responded that she believes next Tuesday at 5:00pm. Call tomorrow to make sure.

Margaret Sensue is with Friends of the Library who is having a fundraising event with Panera Bread. Reference the code FUND4U and they will donate 20% of your order to the Sewickley Library.

Jason Capenos asked if we are adding an employee or replacing one. Mr. Petros answered replacing one.

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

Mark Petros made a motion, seconded by Bill Dull, to approve the minutes of the Sewickley Township Board of Supervisors Special Meeting held on June 9, 2023, and the Regular Meeting held on June 21, 2023. Voting: Mrs. Harvey, Mr. Petros, Mr. Dull; yes. Motion carried unanimously.

Mark Petros made a motion, seconded by Linda Harvey, 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	\$ 196.94

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

Bill Dull made a motion, seconded by Mark Petros, to authorize Gibson-Thomas Engineering to submit an added application for the State Local Share Account Grant for the Turner Lane Bridge Replacement. Cost estimates and Resolutions will be provided at the November meeting. There is a \$100.00 application fee for each project. Updated application list is as follows:

- Rillton Area Cross Drainage Repairs & Paving (Phase 2) - (Cost Estimate TBD)
- Rillton Area Cross Drainage Repairs & Paving (Phase 3) - (Cost Estimate TBD)
- Stewart Lane Road Relocation and Bankside Stabilization - (Cost Estimate TBD)
- Crabapple Swimming Pool Repairs - (Cost Estimate TBD)
- Turner Lane Bridge - (Cost Estimate TBD)

Board Comments: Mrs. Harvey asked how much each grant could be awarded. Mr. Gray responded that each application could be funded up to \$1,000,000 if approved. She then stated that regarding Rillton, we already have County grants. Regarding Crabapple pool repairs, if we would get this grant, we would not hear about it until 2024. Mr. Gray stated that if awarded, we can begin the project in 2025. Mrs. Harvey added that if the intention is to open the Crabapple Pool in 2024, we can't rely on the grant to do so and would have to be put in our budget. Mr. Capenos asked if the Township is saying that Crabapple Pool won't open in 2024. Mr. Petros stated that the Recreation Budget hasn't been looked at yet, but we don't want to bankrupt the Township either. Mrs. Harvey added that we need to be able to look at the figures and everything we have before us. Voting: Mrs. Harvey, Mr. Petros, Mr. Dull; yes. Motion carried unanimously.

Linda Harvey made a motion, seconded by Mark Petros, to purchase Anti-Skid from Derry Stone and Lime Company. Voting: Mrs. Harvey, Mr. Petros, Mr. Dull; yes. Motion carried unanimously.

Linda Harvey made a motion, seconded by Bill Dull, to accept Robert Herpak's resignation effective October 31, 2023. Voting: Mrs. Harvey, Mr. Petros, Mr. Dull; yes. Motion carried unanimously.

Mark Petros made a motion, seconded by Bill Dull, to advertise the position of Equipment Operator. Voting: Mrs. Harvey, Mr. Petros, Mr. Dull; yes. Motion carried unanimously.

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

General Fund:

Checks 13426 to 13461 - \$ 87,153.55 (10/11/23)

First Energy - \$ 9.97 (10/10/23)

First Energy - \$ 43.12 (10/11/23)

ACH Payments: MAWC - \$ 185.85 (9/20/23)

MAWC - \$ 62.14 (9/20/23)

First Energy (7 invoices) - \$ 702.23 (9/28/23)

S & T Bank - \$ 2,487.28 (10/2/23)

Columbia Gas - \$ 36.31 (10/3/23)

MAWC - \$ 251.33 (10/10/23)

Act 13:

Checks 1168 to 1171 - \$ 3,892.10 (9/25/23)

Checks 1172 to 1173 - \$ 21,431.92 (10/11/23)

Crabapple:

Checks 5024 to 5028 - \$ 882.00 (10/11/23)

First Energy - \$ 120.32 (10/11/23)

First Energy - \$ 100.08 (10/11/23)

ACH Payments: MAWC - \$ 4,011.92 (9/20/23)

MAWC - \$ 123.90 (9/20/23)

First Energy - \$ 108.98 (9/28/23)

First Energy - \$ 35.36 (9/28/23)

Credit Card Machine Fee - \$ 48.45 (10/10/23)

Liquid Fuels:

Check 541 - \$ 260,726.03 (9/25/23)

Checks 542 to 543 - \$ 132,631.00 (10/11/23)

Payroll / Paychex ACH Liabilities:

Paychex - \$ 135.15 (9/20/23)

Paychex - \$ 163.30 (9/22/23)

Paychex - \$ 191.10 (10/6/23)

Payroll Liabilities - \$ 6,605.72 (9/21/23)

Payroll Liabilities - \$ 7,231.32 (10/5/23)

Recreation:

First Energy - \$ 14.15 (9/28/23)

Columbia Gas - \$ 48.99 (10/3/23)

ACH Payments: MAWC - \$ 123.90 (9/20/23)

MAWC - \$ 30.98 (9/20/23)

First Energy - \$ 20.50 (9/26/23)

First Energy - \$ 232.18 (9/28/23)

Street Light / Fire Hydrant:

ACH Payments: First Energy - \$ 2,723.95 (10/6/23)

First Energy - \$ 624.89 (10/10/23)

First Energy - \$ 393.15 (10/10/23)

MAWC - \$ 3,063.50 (10/17/23)

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

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

Employees Payroll: 9/22/2023 - \$ 21,779.40
10/6/2023 - \$ 25,205.76
10/20/2023 - \$ 21,265.04

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

General Public Comment:

Madison Hinkle of the Mountain Watershed Association provided updates on a couple items. If any residents have questions on oil and gas leases that are being presented to them, they can reach out to Madison for guidance. They are neither for or against the leases. The Max Environmental Facility is not adequately containing the hazardous waste per federal guidelines. Regarding the request for signs at Sewickley Creek, we're trying to get signs installed so people know what's being discharged into Sewickley Creek. What is the next step? Solicitor Demosky stated that there will have to be an Ordinance amendment.

Teresa Dubich asked for an update regarding the roads in Rillton. Mr. Gray stated that we do have a plan in place with CDBG funds and the State LSA. Ms. Dubich then asked Mr. Petros why nothing has been done in Rillton during the six (6) years he's been Township Supervisor. Mr. Petros stated that Rillton is the next area to get done.

Mrs. Harvey stated it's time we start talking more. When it came to the sale of the Sewage Authority, the people who were serviced by it were supposed to benefit from it. Rillton has not. They need stormwater and their roads need paved. The Recreation Center was supposed to go there. Ms. Dubich added that all of the Township should be treated equally. We've been without a playground for fifty (50) years. Mr. Petros responded that we're trying to do something there. Mr. Gray added that we're using CDBG money. We're allotted a certain amount each year. I'm hoping for this LSA grant so that we'll be able to do a larger project there. I just don't want to let the roads go. By the end of this month, we are getting a hot box. We'll be able to take hot asphalt and put it in a box that stays heated all day. We can go down to Rillton and roll it in and do a better job. I'm going to work with you and we're going to get it done.

Jim Fidei stated that he also sees a lack of communication from the Supervisors between themselves and the Road Crew. He also stated that the Road Crew is there to serve the people, but they need someone to make decisions. Mr. Gray can only do so much.

Mrs. Harvey added that she looks in terms of what's right and the Township as a whole. When we sold the Sewage Authority, each area was supposed to get part of that funding, but Rillton didn't get anything. As a result, we need to rely on a grant that's going to come in piecemeal when there is money sitting there that could have also been given to Rillton. She then went on to talk about the Recreation Center saying that Mr. Petros stated that it may be rebuilt in the same area as the old one. Mr. Petros responded that nothing is guaranteed as to where or if it will be rebuilt. One Supervisor is powerless. It is a discussion between the three (3) Supervisors and have public workshop meetings when the time comes. The building needs to be demolished before we move forward. Regarding the Project 70 land in Rillton, personally, he would like to see a pavilion with a walking trail and playground.

Mrs. Harvey hopes that we can start moving on and finishing projects and not just talking about them.

Old / New Business:

Halloween Festivities!

Saturday, October 28, 2023

- 1:00pm – Parade line up at Herminie VFW
- 1:30pm – Parade begins at Herminie VFW and ends at the Herminie Firehall for prizes and treats.
- 3:00pm to 6:00pm – Trick or Treating

Crabapple Park will be closing to vehicular traffic for the season on November 1, 2023. The park is open year-round to fishing, walkers, runners, and pets (on leash) from 8:00am to dusk. Additional parking is available in the ballfield lot (across from H.W. Good Elementary School). We ask that you do not block the gates for entry into the park in case of an emergency.

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

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 7:09pm.

Susan D. Leukhardt
Secretary-Treasurer