

Chairperson, Mark Petros, on Wednesday, November 15, 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, Bruce Zarnick, Michael Manley, and Susan Leukhardt.

Mark Petros led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

An Executive Session was held on Monday, November 13, 2023 at 8:00am to discuss personnel matters.

Report from Secretary-Treasurer, Susan Leukhardt

Account	Beginning Balance	Deposits / Interest	Transfers / Payments	Ending Balance
OCTOBER, 2023				
FNB General Fund	\$ 138,560.59	\$ 211,559.27	\$ 318,597.84	\$ 31,522.02
PLGIT General Fund	\$ 626,249.68	\$ 22,711.33	\$ 200,000.00	\$ 448,961.01
FNB Reserve Account	\$ 148,253.05	\$ 311.94	-0-	\$ 148,564.99

Report from Township Manager, Michael Gray --- given by Mark Petros

STREET MAINTENANCE AND REPAIR:

- Completed backfilling behind the wedge curb on Falls Road.
- Installed approximately 25' of crossover pipe on Tolvinski Road.
- Conducted right-of-way mowing at various locations throughout the Township.
- Crews assisted with the flagging and cleanup duties from right-of-way mowing.
- On-going pothole patching at various locations throughout the Township.
- Patched and repaired a section of McGrogan Road with 2B Stone.
- Removed tree from Sewickley Creek along Creek Road.
- Responded to a tree down on Dutchtown Road, cut up and removed from road.
- Cleaned debris from catch basins and culvert ditches.
- Removed holiday decorations from the Recreation Center and brought them to the Township Building to await installing them on the poles.
- Replaced a section of tin whistle pipe with a section of 15" smooth bore pipe on Tomajko Road at McGrogan Road.
- Repaired approximately 800' by 3' road edge and installed wedge curb along Derr Road with hot mix asphalt.
- Repaired both sides of road edge on Woodland Drive with hot mix asphalt.

TRAFFIC AND REGULATORY SIGNS:

- Replace four (4) stop signs.
- Reinstalled Road Closure signs on Shaner Road Bridge.

FACILITY & VEHICLE MAINTENANCE:

- Inspected and prepared trucks for winter salting/plowing operations.
- Replace radiator, water pump, and hoses in road widener.
- Excavated and located electrical issues at Bruno Field. Electrical wires were cut when installing water line by the contractor. Repaired wire feeding to the electronic message sign.
- Assisted Parks and Rec Department with the winterization of the Swimming Pool and bathroom facilities at Crabapple Park.

CODE VIOLATION CORRECTIONS:

Cut High Grass violations at the following locations:

- 113 Carnegie Road
- 23, 24, 35, 48, and 57 Clopper Street.
- 208 Hood Street
- 105 and 509 Madison Avenue

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS:

- Worked with Gibson-Thomas Engineering on completing the State Local Share Account Grant applications.
- Finalized plans regarding stormwater drainage on Longview Drive.
- Working on final plans for stormwater drainage on Clinton Drive for the 2024 Hot Mix Paving Program.
- Received Hot Box and Crack Sealant machines. Stephenson Equipment provided training to employees.
- Submitted payment request to the Commonwealth Financing Authority for the Falcon Hot Box in the amount of \$50,176.00.

Report from Recreation Director, Chad Albert -- given by Mark Petros**Crabapple Park & Pool:**

- Winterization of Crabapple Park facilities, baseball concession/restroom have been completed. Thank you to Michael Gray and the Road Crew for their help.
- Pickleball nets and batting cage nets will also be removed during the winter for preservation.
- Crabapple Park is now closed to vehicular traffic for the season.
- The park remains open year-round, 8:00am to dusk, for fishing, walking trails, and pets (on leash). Parking is available at the baseball field lot across from HW Good. In case of emergency, please do not block gates
- Park Maintenance is repairing wood benches and picnic tables as a side project during winter months.
- Also, a reminder for public safety - hunting and firearms are prohibited on park property.

Upcoming Events:

- Saturday, December, December 2nd is our annual Light Up Night on Sewickley Avenue in Herminie. The event will include auctions, vendors, a parade and pet parade, and light up ceremony.
- Have a happy and safe holiday season!

Report from Ordinance Officer, Bruce Zarnick

- This month, seven (7) new ordinance investigations and multiple follow-up investigations.
- Several new citations were issued. We still have a lot of them pending at the Magistrate with one court hearing tomorrow morning at 9:00am.
- Several violations were closed out as resolved this month. We are seeing results start to happen as those who were in violation are finally taking care of some of these issues to avoid fines. Our approach seems to be working and the few who are not in compliance will be cited.
- Those who are not reachable or property owners who are deceased will be kept on my list of properties that need action and we will take care of these to the extent the law allows. Some will need municipal liens placed.
- Mr. Gray had the Road Crew take care of some high grass properties for some of the issues where there was either no compliance and is now being cited at the Magistrate pending a hearing date. For those whose owners are deceased or unable to be reached, liens will be placed on their property in the amount of the invoice.
- Progress might be slow, but we are seeing progress. I will continue to keep up on these to get our community cleaned up and kept safe for everyone to the best of my ability. I hope everyone has a good and safe holiday.

Report from Emergency Management Director, Michael Manley

Notable Incidents

- Structure Fire – 11/06/2023 14:28 - 37 5th Street, Herminie
Township Crews along with mutual aid companies responded to a reported residential structure fire. The home was being renovated, sustaining heavy damage. The cause is under investigation from PSP Fire Marshall's office.
- Motor Vehicle Accidents – Apple I-phones have a feature where if your phone takes a tumble within the car, it thinks you're in a crash and it automatically calls 911. We and the fire companies have been on a few calls where we are alerted, but there's nothing there. It's taxing our time and resources, but we have to check in case it's a legitimate crisis.
- Weather Events – None

Notable Meetings / Trainings / Tasks

- 10/16/2023 – Yough High School Orientation – High School Administration, Safety Director and Herminie, Rillton and Sutersville VFD participated.
- 9/27/2023 – H.W. Good Walkthrough – Elementary School walkthrough with School Administration, Safety Director and Herminie, Rillton and Sutersville VFD participated.
- 10/31/2023 – Halloween Parade Detail – Hutchinson and Herminie VFC at H.W. Good Elementary.
- 11/1/2023 – EMA monthly meeting – General business
- 11/2/2023 – Community Outreach – Skyward Weather Training at NWS Pittsburgh
- 11/15/2023 – Upcoming Quarterly EMA Meeting at the Department of Public Safety

No Public Comment on Agenda Items Only

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

Bill Dull 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
FNB Commercial Credit Card – battery backup & microsoft	\$ 1,174.19
Jason Ritchie – reimburse for weather station shipping	\$ 108.53

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

No motion was made to advertise the availability of the Proposed 2024 General Fund Budget, which includes the opening of Crabapple Pool in 2024.

Linda Harvey made a motion, seconded by Bill Dull, to advertise the availability of the Proposed 2024 General Fund Budget, which does not include the opening of Crabapple Pool in 2024. Public inspection is available at the Municipal Building between the hours of 8:00am and 3:30pm beginning Thursday, November 16, 2023. Voting: Mr. Dull, Mrs. Harvey, Mr. Petros; yes. Motion carried unanimously.

Linda Harvey made a motion, seconded by Mark Petros, to approve the employment contract with Michael Gray to serve as Township Manager for a term of three (3) years. Voting: Mr. Dull, Mrs. Harvey, Mr. Petros; yes. Motion carried unanimously.

Linda Harvey made a motion, seconded by Mark Petros, to adopt Resolution 27-2023 approving the Rillton Area Cross Drain Repairs & Paving (Phase 2) funding application to the Statewide Local Share Account Grant Program. The cost estimate of this project is \$1,542,267.00. Voting: Mr. Dull, Mrs. Harvey, Mr. Petros; yes. Motion carried unanimously.

Bill Dull made a motion, seconded by Mark Petros, to adopt Resolution 28-2023 approving the Rillton Area Cross Drain Repairs & Paving (Phase 3) funding application to the Statewide Local Share Account Grant Program. The cost estimate of this project is \$1,219,114.13. Voting: Mr. Dull, Mrs. Harvey, Mr. Petros; yes. Motion carried unanimously.

Linda Harvey made a motion, seconded by Mark Petros, to adopt Resolution 29-2023 approving the Turner Lane Bridge Replacement funding application to the Statewide Local Share Account Grant Program. The cost estimate of this project is \$1,151,900.00. Voting: Mr. Dull, Mrs. Harvey, Mr. Petros; yes. Motion carried unanimously.

Mark Petros made a motion, seconded by Bill Dull, to adopt Resolution 30-2023 approving the Stewart Lane Relocation & Bankside Stabilization funding application to the Statewide Local Share Account Grant Program. The cost estimate of this project is \$1,066,800.00. Voting: Mr. Dull, Mrs. Harvey, Mr. Petros; yes. Motion carried unanimously.

Bill Dull made a motion, seconded by Mark Petros, to adopt Resolution 31-2023 approving the Crabapple Swimming Pool Repairs funding application to the Statewide Local Share Account Grant Program. The cost estimate of this project is \$234,950.00. Voting: Mr. Dull, Mrs. Harvey, Mr. Petros; yes. Motion carried unanimously.

Mark Petros made a motion, seconded by Bill Dull, to approve matching fund commitment letters for the Statewide Local Share Account Grant Program applications. Voting: Mr. Dull, Mrs. Harvey, Mr. Petros; yes. Motion carried unanimously.

Mark Petros made a motion, seconded by Bill Dull, approving the payment of \$ 88,300.00 to Stephenson Equipment, Inc for the purchase of a Cimline M Series Crack Sealer as awarded from the Local Share Account Category 4 Grant. Voting: Mr. Dull, Mrs. Harvey, Mr. Petros; yes. Motion carried unanimously.

Linda Harvey made a motion, seconded by Mark Petros, awarding Jakomas Concrete Construction in the amount of \$15,912.00 for the replacement of the concrete pad at the Crabapple Park Large Pavilion. Project will be paid out of the 2024 Budget. Voting: Mr. Dull, Mrs. Harvey, Mr. Petros; yes. Motion carried unanimously.

Mark Petros made a motion, seconded by Bill Dull, to approve the advertisement of a proposed amendment to Chapter 28 – Zoning, Article 8, Section 805 of the Sewickley Township Code to permit and regulate free-standing signs. Voting: Mr. Dull, Mrs. Harvey, Mr. Petros; yes. Motion carried unanimously.

Mark Petros made a motion to table, seconded by Linda Harvey, for auditor for the annual financial audit for year ending December 31, 2023. Board Comments: Mrs. Harvey asked if we received the 2022 audit. Mrs. Leukhardt replied no. Mrs. Harvey has concerns that we haven't received it yet and would like to hold off on voting. Voting: Mr. Dull, Mrs. Harvey, Mr. Petros; yes. Motion carried to table.

Mark Petros made a motion, seconded by Bill Dull, to authorize the renewal of Township health insurance through UPMC Health Plan with an increase of 3.5%. The estimated annual premium is \$172,134.12. Voting: Mr. Dull, Mrs. Harvey, Mr. Petros; yes. Motion carried unanimously.

Mark Petros made a motion, seconded by Bill Dull, to adopt Resolution No. 33-2023 entering into a contract with Hoffman's Boarding Kennels through December 31, 2025 at the rate of \$180.00 per month for twenty-four (24) months paid by the Township. Overtime calls will be charged at the rate of \$100.00 per call. 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 13462 to 13477 - \$ 89,143.21 (10/24/23)
 Checks 13478 to 13481 - \$ 31,996.48 (10/25/23)
 Check 13482 - \$ 50,176.00 (10/26/23)
 Checks 13483 to 13500 - \$ 13,595.67 (11/2/23)
 Checks 13501 to 13514 - \$ 7,575.78 (11/9/23)

ACH Payments: MAWC - \$ 185.85 (10/18/23)
 MAWC - \$ 62.13 (10/18/23)
 First National Insurance - \$ 9,663.50 (10/25/23)
 First Energy (7 invoices) - \$ 588.30 (10/26/23)
 PSATS UC Group Trust - \$ 2,270.05 (10/30/23)
 Columbia Gas - \$ 56.67 (11/2/23)
 Incoming Wire Fee - \$ 22.00 (11/7/23)
 First Energy - \$ 43.22 (11/9/23)
 First Energy - \$ 9.99 (11/9/23)

Act 13:

Check 1174 - \$ 7,056.44 (11/2/23)
 Checks 1175 to 1176 - \$ 9,214.34 (11/9/23)

ARPA:

Check 1004 - \$ 1,800.00 (11/2/23)

Crabapple:

Checks 5029 to 5030 - \$ 229.77 (10/24/23)
 Check 5031 - \$ 489.89 (11/2/23)
 Checks 5032 to 5033 - \$ 169.03 (11/9/23)

ACH Payments: MAWC - \$ 123.90 (10/18/23)
 MAWC - \$ 86.03 (10/18/23)
 First Energy - \$ 43.58 (10/26/23)
 First Energy - \$ 34.79 (10/26/23)
 First Energy - \$ 120.58 (11/9/23)
 First Energy - \$ 100.31 (11/9/23)
 Credit Card Machine Fee - \$ 39.75 (11/10/23)

Liquid Fuels:

Check 544 - \$ 5,197.00 (11/9/23)

Payroll / Paychex ACH Liabilities:

Paychex - \$ 159.45 (10/20/23)
 Paychex - \$ 136.74 (10/20/23)
 Paychex - \$ 155.60 (11/3/23)

Payroll Liabilities - \$ 6,458.77 (10/19/23)
 Payroll Liabilities - \$ 6,344.66 (11/2/23)

Recreation:

Check 3014 - \$ 1,145.00 (10/24/23)

ACH Payments: MAWC - \$ 123.90 (10/18/23)
 MAWC - \$ 30.97 (10/18/23)
 First Energy - \$ 21.15 (10/25/23)
 First Energy - \$ 206.13 (10/26/23)
 First Energy - \$ 14.28 (10/26/23)
 Columbia Gas - \$ 47.06 (11/2/23)

Street Light / Fire Hydrant:

ACH Payments: First Energy - \$ 2,723.95 (11/3/23)
 First Energy - \$ 624.89 (11/6/23)
 First Energy - \$ 393.14 (11/6/23)

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

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

Employees Payroll: 11/3/2023 - \$ 21,793.31
11/17/2023 - \$ 19,206.09

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

General Public Comment:

John Seanor of 985 Yukon Road asked for an update on Commerce Crossing. Are they paying their taxes yet? Mr. Petros replied that he will look into this tomorrow.

Chris Reuss, President of the Sewickley Township Business League. They would like to have a Farmers Mart, not a Farmers Market, in the Bruno Field parking lot every Thursday from June through August. Is this something that can be put on an agenda?

Jason Capenos asked if there has been any more discussion about potential workshop meetings for 2024. Mrs. Leukhardt stated that when we work on the Reorganization Agenda, this will be discussed.

Geno Kerti asked about a power plant being scrapped. Madison Hinkle provided an update. There was a proposed natural gas power plant going in Elizabeth, across the Yough River. They've been trying to get it built for the last seven (7) years. They had been issued an air permit that had been appealed and the hearings on the hearing were held earlier this year. We just found out November 9th that they have canceled the plans and withdrew their air permit. This doesn't mean they won't try to build somewhere else. She will continue to provide updates.

Carol Lipinski, President of Rillton VFC. They are proposing doing something with the Project 70 property behind the fire department which Sewickley Township is the owner of. The land (6.6 acres) was acquired in 1969 through the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to be used for recreation. We built our fire station in 1995, but nothing else has been done with the land. We would like to get together with the Township to discuss ideas. If the township wants to transfer the property to Rillton VFC, they are interested in that also. Discussion continued with those in attendance.

Mrs. Lipinski then spoke about the \$3,000 sanction on Rillton VFC. They are requesting to have it returned to our tax account as it was a good fire call. At the incident, they acted appropriately with the homeowners being pleased with the response and actions. Discussion relating to that call continued. As a department, we have and continue to meet the Township's expectations. Mark: That's something we can't give you an answer on right now.

Her final item was in regard to the drilling near Cowansburg. Why is it so quiet during the day and so noisy at night? Decibels are over 70. Mr. Petros stated that we will look into it.

Don Mansfield thanked Mr. Gray for getting the alumni materials out of the Recreation Center. We're taking them to the over 50 reunions over the next couple of years which are held the first Sunday in June every year.

Madison Hinkle of the Mountain Watershed Association thanked the Board of Supervisors for creating an Ordinance to allow for free-standing signs and to residents who offered suggestions to improve the signs. The hazardous waste coming from MAX Environmental is going into Sewickley Creek and is not being properly stored or treated. We're hosting a town hall meeting in Yukon next Tuesday at 6:00pm to discuss the findings of the report as well as some violations DEP has identified.

Margaret Sensue thanked the residents who participated in our Library fundraising event at Panera's. We have another event coming up. It's a nut roll, apricot roll, and poppyseed roll fundraiser. Call the Library to place your order. You can pay at the Library by December 4th. The pickup date is December 18th at the Methodist Church in Herminie. Also, there is a gingerbread event coming up at the Library on December 2nd from 9:00am to noon. Each child gets materials to make their own house. It's a fun event and there will be refreshments for the children.

Old / New Business:

Discussion – Emergency Services \$5.00 per resident fee to support operations of the ambulance service.

Greg Cominsky, Business Manager for both Sewickley Township Ambulance and Rostraver Ambulance spoke on how emergency services in Pennsylvania are collapsing. We want to take a proactive approach to keep your EMS strong and robust. Mr. Cominsky showed a three-minute video explaining that EMS needs public support to survive. At \$15.00 per hour, EMS workers are leaving the profession faster than they can be replaced. Residents assume that we are state funded, but that's not the case. Only a portion of their operation expenses are supported by insurance reimbursements. 32% of what they do is unfunded and unpaid for. 24% of the residents are members, which helps support operating expenses. A household membership is \$60 for an individual and \$70 for a family. About \$16,000 to \$17,000 from the 2-mil tax goes to the ambulance service annually. We just got our taxes back and the Sewickley Township end is now working in a deficit. It isn't too much right now, so we want to get ahead of this before it is. We want to work with our community leaders and residents to boost membership and also asking to assess \$5.00 per person. This would be an additional \$27,950 per year for the ambulance service. Mr. Cominsky then answered questions from those in attendance. Mrs. Harvey asked how many ambulances are based in Sewickley Township. Mr. Cominsky responded three (3).

The Township Building will be closed on Thursday, November 23, 2023 and Friday, November 24, 2023.

The Annual Sewickley Township Light Up Night will be held on Saturday, December 2, 2023. Doors open at Noon at the Herminie Fire Hall with registration for the Pet Parade at 12:30pm. There will be hayrides, face painting, auction baskets, and homemade food and refreshments. The parade down Sewickley Avenue begins at 4:30pm.

The next Regular Meeting of the Board of Supervisors will be held on Wednesday, December 20, 2023 at 6:00pm.

With no further business to come before the Board, Bill Dull made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Mark Petros. Voting: Mr. Petros, Mr. Dull, Mrs. Harvey; yes. Meeting adjourned at 7:17pm.

Susan D. Leukhardt
Secretary-Treasurer