

Chairperson, Mark Petros, on Tuesday, January 2, 2024 at 3:30pm, called the Reorganization Meeting of the Sewickley Township Board of Supervisors to order as advertised in the Tribune-Review on Tuesday, December 26, 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, and Susan Leukhardt.

Mark Petros led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

An Executive Session was held on December 26, 2023 at 9:30am to discuss personnel matters.

Public Comment on Agenda Items Only

Tom Couch asked the reasoning of changing the monthly meeting times to 3:30pm saying it will reduce public attendance. Mr. Gray responded that it was not done to reduce public attendance. He would like to get some outside firms to attend so they can provide information in greater detail from the business aspect. Also, the time change allows for employee attendance if they choose to attend. He's talked to other townships, and it has worked well for them. Mr. Couch stated that contractors should attend no matter when the meeting is as part of the cost of the contracted work. Mrs. Harvey added that we have requested they come in the past, but now supply a monthly report.

Mr. Couch then asked if there is a summary of what the revised fee schedule is. Mr. Gray stated there were changes with residential and commercial structures, stormwater site plan, restructuring of various fees, etc. We've also added other items that weren't previously listed. The fee schedule will be on the website.

Nancy Bickus Neel spoke on the reappointment of the Sutersville-Sewickley Municipal Sewage Authority. During my first month on the Authority, I was given very little information. The environment was hostile for my first meeting, but it's not like that now. The ratepayers have a sense that we are working on their behalf. I am the current Treasurer of SSMSA. In the past, the Solicitor prepared the budget, but this year I prepared the 2024 budget. This is the year that will determine the fate of SSMSA. She presented three (3) scenarios. As of the December 27th meeting of the Elizabeth Township Commissioners, it has been on the agenda to increase the monthly rate and the per 1,000-gallon rate. At this time, I'm not aware of the outcome. In my opinion, a working board consists of various backgrounds and opinions. We currently have two (2) engineers and three (3) ratepayers. My background is financial. I've served nine (9) years on the Yough School Board. I am one of only three (3) private citizens who have been asked to work on a 36-million-dollar budget for the school district. Please take this statement into consideration when making your decision.

Jim Harvey asked if Gibson Thomas Engineering was notified of the change in meeting time. Mr. Petros responded no as it hasn't been voted on yet.

Chuck Schropp asked if Gibson Thomas was on a retainer or hourly. Mr. Gray responded hourly.

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

Bill Dull made a motion, seconded by Linda Harvey, to appoint Mark Petros as temporary Chairperson of the Board of Supervisors. Voting: Mr. Petros, Mr. Dull, Mrs. Harvey; yes. Motion carried unanimously.

Bill Dull made a motion, seconded by Mark Petros, to appoint Mark Petros as Chairperson of the Board of Supervisors. Voting: Mr. Petros, yes; Mr. Dull, yes; Mrs. Harvey, no. Motion carried.

Mark Petros made a motion, seconded by Bill Dull, to appoint Bill Dull as Vice-Chairperson of the Board of Supervisors. Voting: Mr. Petros, yes; Mr. Dull, yes; Mrs. Harvey, no. Motion carried.

Linda Harvey made a motion, seconded by Mark Petros, to adopt Resolution No. 1-2024 reappointing Susan Leukhardt as Secretary-Treasurer of the Township of Sewickley until the Reorganization Meeting to be held on Monday, January 6, 2025. Voting: Mr. Petros, Mr. Dull, Mrs. Harvey; yes. Motion carried unanimously.

Mark Petros made a motion, seconded by Bill Dull, to adopt Resolution No. 2-2024 setting the compensation and benefits for the Secretary-Treasurer of the Township of Sewickley as follows: This shall be effective January 1, 2024.

\$ 20.00 regular hourly wage up to 40 hours per week
\$ 30.00 overtime wage
12 paid holidays
4 weeks paid vacation
5 paid sick days
5 paid personal days

She elects to waive all major medical, dental, and vision coverage and to receive the healthcare buyout. Voting: Mr. Petros, Mr. Dull, Mrs. Harvey; yes. Motion carried unanimously.

Linda Harvey made a motion, seconded by Mark Petros, to adopt Resolution No. 3-2024 reappointing Joanne Tullis as Administrative Assistant for the Township of Sewickley until the Reorganization Meeting to be held on Monday, January 6, 2025. Her compensation and benefits are as follows: These rates shall be effective January 1, 2024.

\$ 17.50 regular hourly wage up to 40 hours per week
\$ 26.25 overtime wage
12 paid holidays
5 paid vacation days
3 paid sick days
2 paid personal days

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

Mark Petros made a motion, seconded by Bill Dull, to adopt Resolution No. 4-2024 setting the compensation of the following Township of Sewickley employees until the Reorganization Meeting to be held on Monday, January 6, 2025. This shall be effective January 1, 2024.

Janet Schork, Website Administrator - \$ 19.00 per hour
Chad Albert, Recreation Director - \$ 17.00 per hour
Bruce Zarnick, Ordinance Officer - \$ 17.00 per hour

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

Linda Harvey made a motion, seconded by Mark Petros, to set the Treasurer's and Township Manager's Bonds each at \$2,000,000 with H.A. Thomson. Total premium is \$6,896.00. Voting: Mr. Petros, Mr. Dull, Mrs. Harvey; yes. Motion carried unanimously.

Bill Dull made a motion, seconded by Mark Petros, to retain Meyer, Darragh, Buckler, Bebenek, & Eck, PLLC as Solicitor for the Township of Sewickley. Voting: Mr. Petros, Mr. Dull, Mrs. Harvey; yes. Motion carried unanimously.

Mark Petros made a motion, seconded by Bill Dull, to retain Gibson Thomas Engineering Co. as Engineer for the Township of Sewickley. Voting: Mr. Petros, Mr. Dull, Mrs. Harvey; yes. Motion carried unanimously.

Bill Dull made a motion, seconded by Mark Petros, to adopt Resolution No. 5-2024 reappointing Mike Stack as the Building, Sewage, and Zoning Officer for the Township of Sewickley. Voting: Mr. Petros, Mr. Dull, Mrs. Harvey; yes. Motion carried unanimously.

Mark Petros made a motion, seconded by Linda Harvey, to table Resolution No. 6-2024 appointing a Chairperson of the Vacancy Board for the Township of Sewickley. Voting: Mr. Petros, Mr. Dull, Mrs. Harvey; yes. Motion carried to table.

Mark Petros made a motion, seconded by Bill Dull, to adopt Resolution No. 7-2024 reappointing Michael Manley as the Emergency Management Director for the Township of Sewickley. Voting: Mr. Petros, Mr. Dull, Mrs. Harvey; yes. Motion carried unanimously.

Mark Petros made a motion, seconded by Linda Harvey, to adopt Resolution No. 8-2024 reappointing John Cochran to the Sewickley Township Planning Commission for a term of four (4) years. This term shall expire the first Monday of January, 2028. Voting: Mr. Petros, Mr. Dull, Mrs. Harvey; yes. Motion carried unanimously.

Mark Petros made a motion, seconded by Linda Harvey, to table Resolution No. 9-2024 appointing a member to the Sewickley Township Zoning Board as no letters of interest were received. Voting: Mr. Petros, Mr. Dull, Mrs. Harvey; yes. Motion carried to table.

Mark Petros made a motion, seconded by Bill Dull, to table Resolution No. 10-2024 appointing a member to the Sutersville-Sewickley Municipal Sewage Authority. Board Comments: Mrs. Harvey stated that Nancy Bickus Neel is already on the Authority. And there is another seat available on the Sutersville side. She believes that if no one from Sutersville applies, Sewickley Township can occupy that seat. She would like to appoint both persons interested as opposed to just one. Voting: Mr. Petros, Mr. Dull, Mrs. Harvey; yes. Motion carried to table.

Mark Petros made a motion, seconded by Bill Dull, to adopt Resolution No. 11-2024 amending and revising the schedule of fees for the Sewickley Township Code. Voting: Mr. Petros, Mr. Dull, Mrs. Harvey; yes. Motion carried unanimously.

Mark Petros made a motion, seconded by Linda Harvey, to appoint the following authorized representatives to make purchases from the Federal Surplus Property Program:

Township Manager
Chairperson
Vice-Chairperson
Supervisor

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

Mark Petros made a motion, seconded by Linda Harvey, to notify the Pennsylvania State Police and 911 of the persons to be notified in case of an emergency after business hours as:

- (1) Township Manager
- (2) Chairperson
- (3) Vice-Chairperson
- (4) Supervisor

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

Mark Petros made a motion, seconded by Linda Harvey, to reappoint First National Bank of Pennsylvania and Pennsylvania Local Government Investment Trust as depositories for the Township of Sewickley. Voting: Mr. Petros, Mr. Dull, Mrs. Harvey; yes. Motion carried unanimously.

Mark Petros made a motion, seconded by Bill Dull, to establish the regular monthly meeting location for the Sewickley Township Board of Supervisors at the Sewickley Township Municipal Building, 2288 Mars Hill Road, Irwin PA 15642. The dates on which the Board of Supervisors shall meet will be the third Wednesday of each month, February through December, at 3:30pm and to advertise the same in the Tribune-Review in accordance with the Sunshine Law. Voting: Mr. Petros, yes; Mr. Dull, yes; Mrs. Harvey, no. Motion carried.

Mark Petros made a motion, seconded by Bill Dull, to establish quarterly workshops for the Sewickley Township Board of Supervisors at the Sewickley Township Municipal Building. The dates and time on which the Board of Supervisors shall meet will be April 3, 2024, July 10, 2024, and October 2, 2024 at 3:30pm. These workshops will be advertised in the Tribune-Review in accordance with the Sunshine Law. Mrs. Harvey asked for clarification on if something needs to be discussed between workshops. Solicitor Demosky responded that items can be placed under Old/New Business on the agendas, but cannot be voted on until the next advertised meeting. Voting: Mr. Petros, Mr. Dull, Mrs. Harvey; yes. Motion carried unanimously.

Bill Dull made a motion, seconded by Linda Harvey, to approve Mark Petros, Bill Dull, Linda Harvey, and Michael Gray as delegates to the Annual Educational Conference of the Pennsylvania State Association of Township Supervisors' to be held April 14, 2024 through April 17, 2024 at the Hershey Lodge and to direct that delegates be paid their regular wage, if any, from the Township of Sewickley while attending the conference. Board Comments: Mrs. Harvey would like anyone who attends the Conference to give a summary of the information obtained while there. We owe that to the public. Voting: Mr. Petros, Mr. Dull, Mrs. Harvey; yes. Motion carried unanimously.

Bill Dull made a motion, seconded by Mark Petros, to appoint Linda Harvey as the voting delegate for the Township of Sewickley at the PSATS Annual Conference. Voting: Mr. Petros, Mr. Dull, Mrs. Harvey; yes. Motion carried unanimously.

Mark Petros made a motion, seconded by Linda Harvey, to adopt Resolution No. 12-2024 establishing the allowable mileage rate established by the Internal Revenue Service at \$.67 cents per mile. Voting: Mr. Petros, Mr. Dull, Mrs. Harvey; yes. Motion carried unanimously.

Mark Petros made a motion, seconded by Bill Dull, authorizing the proper officials to pay payroll and those bills at discount or that accrue penalties between meetings. Bills paid through this procedure shall be presented at the next regular meeting for subsequent approval. Voting: Mr. Petros, Mr. Dull, Mrs. Harvey; yes. Motion carried unanimously.

General Public Comment:

Nancy Bickus Neel stated that since no action was taken on the appointment of a SSMSA member, the Solicitor of SSMSA informed her that she would continue until someone is appointed. Solicitor Demosky stated that she should follow the Solicitor's advice.

With no further business to come before the Board, Linda Harvey made a motion to adjourn the Reorganization Meeting, seconded by Mark Petros. Voting: Mr. Petros, Mr. Dull, Mrs. Harvey; yes. Reorganization Meeting adjourned at 4:04pm.

Susan D. Leukhardt
Secretary-Treasurer

Chairperson, Mark Petros, on Tuesday, January 2, 2024 at 4:05pm, called the Regular Meeting of the Sewickley Township Board of Supervisors to order as advertised in the Tribune-Review on Tuesday, December 26, 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, and Susan Leukhardt.

Report from Township Manager, Michael Gray

The Recreation Center DemoFund project with the Redevelopment Authority of Westmoreland County is still in the contracting phase. Once the award letter, bonding, and demo permit is issued, Notice to Proceed will be given within ten (10) to thirty (30) days. The project is moving forward through the process.

Mr. Gray was contacted by Lieutenant Patrick Bouch, PA State Police Station Commander. He will be attending our February meeting to introduce himself and hear any concerns the Township may have regarding coverage.

Crabapple Pool Repair bid opening is being held on January 12, 2024 at 1:00pm here in the Meeting Room.

Regarding the possible winter storm event this weekend, we will be prepared.

Public Comment on Agenda Items Only

Tom Couch asked if there is a plan for the Project 70 land in Rillton yet. Mr. Petros replied there isn't one yet.

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

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

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| F.A.S.T. of the Allegheny Mountains – testing on Engine 15 and Rescue 15 | \$ 510.00 |
| Pro-Am Safety, Inc. – SCBA testing | \$ 2,006.74 |

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

Mark Petros made a motion, seconded by Bill Dull, to table the authorization for Gibson Thomas Engineering to provide cost estimates for improvements to the Township Project 70 property in Rillton. Board Comments: Linda Harvey commented that she would like to see more progress on this project rather than continue to table it. Mr. Gray stated that he needs to form a committee to look at what we want on that property. We need a plan to submit to Gibson Thomas. Mrs. Harvey believes there should be something on this agenda to vote on, not table. Voting: Mr. Petros, yes; Mr. Dull, yes; Mrs. Harvey, no. Motion carried.

Mark Petros made a motion, seconded by Linda Harvey, to rescind Resolution 17-2021 sanctioning Rillton Volunteer Fire Company and return \$3,000.00 to their 2-mil account. Board Comments: Mrs. Harvey believes we should be allowed to revisit the sanction to release the money back to Rillton. Mr. Petros states that nowhere on the Resolution does it state that the money could be returned. Chief Rupnik stated they were never given a chance to give their side of the story before receiving the sanction. He believes they were discriminated against and now the Board of Supervisors have a chance to make it right. If you don't, Chief Rupnik is fine with that too. Mrs. Harvey says we should be bringing these fire departments together. Multiple conversations regarding different aspects of the fire departments took place.

Solicitor Demosky provided the Board of Supervisors with different options on how to handle the motion on the floor. Mr. Gray stressed that the fire departments must work together. He won't tolerate anything less moving forward.

Linda Harvey made a motion, seconded by Bill Dull, to amend the motion on the floor and to release the escrowed \$3,000.00 in the 2-mil account that was created under the sanction described in Resolution 17-2021 to Rillton Volunteer Fire Company and to be used only for training to promote emergency communications. Voting: Mr. Petros, Mr. Dull, Mrs. Harvey; yes. Motion carried unanimously.

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

General Fund:

Checks 13560 to 13591 - \$ 39,181.25 (12/20/23)

Check 13592 - \$ 46,386.43 (12/20/23)

Checks 13593 to 13603 - \$ 4,546.90 (12/29/23)

ACH Payments:

First Energy (8 invoices) - \$ 524.50 (12/28/23)

Crabapple:

Check 5038 - \$ 40.60 (12/20/23)

ACH Payments: First Energy - \$ 51.53 (12/28/23)

First Energy - \$ 28.05 (12/28/23)

Payroll / Paychex ACH Liabilities:

Paychex - \$ 133.56 (12/20/23)

Paychex - \$ 151.75 (12/29/23)

Payroll Taxes - \$ 7,192.21 (12/28/23)

Recreation:

ACH Payments: First Energy - \$ 23.37 (12/27/23)

First Energy - \$ 246.51 (12/28/23)

First Energy - \$ 15.35 (12/28/23)

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

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

Employees Payroll: 12/29/2023 - \$ 24,917.63

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

General Public Comment

Jason Capenos believes that Michael Manley with EMA should be involved with the fire departments and their operations. He also believes calls should be sent to the closest available units. Chief Rupnik agrees.

Margaret Sensui asked about the meeting time being changed to 3:30pm as she was not here at the beginning of the Reorganization Meeting. Mr. Gray responded the same as earlier. Mr. Petros added that other municipalities have their meetings during the day also.

Old / New Business

None.

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 5:16pm.

Susan D. Leukhardt
Secretary-Treasurer