

Chairperson, Mark Petros, on Wednesday, February 21, 2024, at 3:30pm, called the Regular Meeting of the Sewickley Township Board of Supervisors to order as advertised in the Tribune Review on Friday, January 5, 2024. 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 Tuesday, February 13, 2024 at 9:00am to discuss legal and 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>JANUARY, 2024</b> |                          |                            |                             |                       |
| FNB General Fund     | \$ 124,058.45            | \$ 226,158.03              | \$ 135,663.93               | \$ 214,552.55         |
| PLGIT General Fund   | \$ 487,604.85            | \$ 28,196.45               | \$ 200,000.00               | \$ 315,801.30         |
| FNB Reserve Account  | \$ 149,141.93            | \$ 323.62                  | -0-                         | \$ 149,465.55         |
|                      |                          |                            |                             |                       |

**Report from Township Manager, Michael Gray**

- A written report was provided to the Board of Supervisors.
- 568 tons of salt has been used to date.
- The Road Crew has been maintaining the roads and patching potholes when the weather permits.
- We had a DEP inspection of our facility's MS4 Program. We'll be taking care of violations that have been outstanding since the last inspection in 2016. A 60-day notice of how we're going to address the violations was accepted.
- I'm asking the Township Residents to help keep our streams free of pollution by picking up trash when they see it. Also, please consider adopting a section of a stream or street, please let us know. Every little bit counts.
- We had a breach in the dam section of Crabapple Lake. Per our MS4 permit, we cannot have sediment infiltrate into the stream. We had to take immediate action and stop those breaches. The remedy is currently temporary, but a permanent solution is needed down the road.
- I received an easement for the Circle Drive / Longview project. We'll be starting work on the infrastructure shortly.

**Report from Recreation Director, Chad Albert**

**Crabapple Lake Park:**

- February is a quiet month at the park. We had a few nice warm weather days, so we continue to inspect and maintain the trails weekly. Weather permitting, we will start some Spring touch-up projects in March.
- The Road Crew helped repair a damaged embankment at the Lake and will continue to monitor this situation.
- Pickleball nets & batting cage nets will also return in March or April when temperatures become appropriate.
- The Park remains closed to vehicular traffic until April 1st.
- We are accepting applications for 2024 Pavilion Rentals. Please contact us to reserve your date. Applications are available to print on our website and also available at the Township Office.

**Recreation Activities:**

- On February 24<sup>th</sup>, the Sewickley Township Recreation Committee will host the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Father/Daughter Dinner Dance at the Crystal Ballroom in Herminie.
- The next Recreation event is the Easter Egg Hunt which will take place on March 23<sup>rd</sup>.
- The Recreation Committee welcomes new members to join our volunteer efforts and help organize events. We meet each month and plan various events for the community. Please contact the office for details.

**Report from Ordinance Officer, Bruce Zarnick**

- There were four (4) ordinance investigations in January and four ordinance complaints so far in February.
- Two (2) junk vehicle issues have been remedied, removed, and cases closed.
- I have a court hearing scheduled for March 19<sup>th</sup> for ongoing junk and blight issues at a property we've been working on to clean up. A plan of action will be presented to the judge to help guide the property owner on what needs to be done and a time frame in which to complete certain tasks so we can ensure progress is being made.
- I've been working on a new filing system and record-keeping measures to better document and track violations, permits, and other important documents.
- I've been working with the Supervisors and Township Manager on changes to existing ordinances and the Township Manager has added some new ordinances that will be voted on soon.

**Lieutenant Patrick D. Bouch, Station Commander - Greensburg, Pennsylvania State Police Troop A**

- 17 years with the State Police.
- 2023 Overview of Sewickley Township: 831 calls for service, 69 domestic violence reports, 184 criminal offenses, 5 non-traffic death investigations, 72 property crimes, 13 DUIs, 64 crashes (11 with injuries and no fatalities). Overall, Sewickley Township is considered a low-crime Township.
- The State Police Barracks is 30 minutes away, which lengthens the response time.
- They have four (4) new graduates from the Academy, but some officers have relocated or retired.
- We provide adequate coverage.
- If we get notice of Township events, we would be happy to do what we can to assist.

**Report from Emergency Management Director, Michael Manley****NOTABLE INCIDENTS/EVENTS AND TRAINING****1. Structure Fire –1/1/2024 221 Cody Rd, Inc #240008 (02:24)**

Township Fire units along with numerous mutual aid departments responded to a residential house fire. Upon the arrival of the Hermine Fire Department, the home was heavily involved.

**2. Motor Vehicle Accidents**

Highland Ave / West Newton Hermine Rd - 1/9/2024 Tractor Trailer off roadway, blocking traffic.

Mars Hill / Pinewood Rd - 1/19/2024 - Pickup overturned, Rillton, Lowber, Herminie, Irwin, and Fairmont Hahntown VFD's responded to this incident. Minor injuries providing traffic control.

Cool Springs Rd / Curry Rd - 1/28/2024 - Van overturned, two persons trapped, Lowber, Sutersville, Herminie, Rillton, West Newton VFD's responded – Township Road Crews requested for hazardous road conditions.

**3. Weather Events/ Alerts – January / February 2024**

Community Nixle Alerts Sent – 1/12/2024 – Strong Wind Advisory – (Eastern area of County)

1/16/2024 Wind Chill Warning

1/17 -1/18 Winter Storm watch and Warnings (5 updates)

1/24 Dense Fog Advisory

**Notable Meetings Trainings /Tasks and Noteworthy Meetings**

| <b>Name</b>   | <b>Title</b>   | <b>Date</b> |
|---|--|-------------|
| EMA Staff Meeting – Jan 10 <sup>th</sup>  | Yearly Planning and Goal Outlines- Adding William Dull Jr to EMA Staff                               | 1/10/2024   |
| LEMC Meeting – Jan 24 <sup>th</sup>   | 911 Meeting – Planning meeting at 911 Center   | 1/24/2024   |
| Director meeting with Herminie VFD  | @Herminie VFD – recent changes to officers including new Chief Marcinic-covered expectations and SOG | 2/4/2024    |
| EMA Staff Meeting – Wed, Feb 7 <sup>th</sup> (rescheduled to Feb 15 <sup>th</sup> due to scheduling conflict) | @EOC -   | 2/15/2024   |

**Report from Gibson-Thomas Engineering**

A report was available to review.

**Public Comment on Agenda Items Only**

Greg Hazuza asked the Ordinance Officer to elaborate on the ordinance regarding fireworks. Mr. Zarnick answered that we need regulations on days and times are permissible and also to provide notice to nearby property owners.

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 approve the minutes of the following Sewickley Township Board of Supervisors meetings:

|                   |                  |
|-------------------|------------------|
| October 18, 2023  | November 2, 2023 |
| November 15, 2023 | November 9, 2023 |
| December 20, 2023 |                  |

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

Mark Petros made a motion, seconded by Linda Harvey, to ratify the disbursement of 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                | \$ 190.19 |
| The Embroidery People – EMS logo polos                | \$ 198.00 |
| FNB Commercial Credit – annual WordPress subscription | \$ 121.72 |

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

Mark Petros made a motion, seconded by Bill Dull, to ratify the disbursement of 2022 EMS Tax funds on behalf of Herminie Volunteer Fire Company as follows:

|   |             |
|---|-------------|
| F.A.S.T. of the Allegheny Mts, LLC – engine 15 & rescue testing | \$ 510.00   |
| Pro-Am Safety, Inc. – scba testing                              | \$ 2,006.74 |

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

Linda Harvey made a motion, seconded by Mark Petros, to disburse the 2023 EMS Tax Money equally between 6 entities being Herminie, Lowber, Rillton, and Hutchinson Fire Companies, Emergency Management, and Sewickley Ambulance Service. The total to be disbursed is \$ 102,290.88. Each entity is eligible to receive \$ 17,048.48. The funds will be kept in the EMS Tax Account until invoices / purchase orders are submitted and approved by the Board of Supervisors. Voting: Mr. Dull, Mrs. Harvey, Mr. Petros; yes. Motion carried unanimously.

Mark Petros made a motion, seconded by Bill Dull, to disburse 2023 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           | \$ 190.27   |
| Everbridge – nixle renewal                       | \$ 3,300.00 |

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

Bill Dull made a motion, seconded by Linda Harvey, to disburse 2023 EMS Tax funds on behalf of Herminie Volunteer Fire Company as follows:

|  |             |
|--|-------------|
| Municipal Emergency Services – rescue tools  | \$ 699.20   |
| Kush Kustoms – rescue 15 repairs/maintenance | \$ 3,135.34 |
| Kush Kustoms – brush repairs/maintenance     | \$ 1,371.75 |

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

Linda Harvey made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 6-2024 reappointing Donald Mansfield as Chairperson of the Vacancy Board for the Township of Sewickley. With no second, the motion to continue is denied.

Bill Dull made a motion, seconded by Mark Petros, to adopt Resolution 6-2024 appointing Charles Schropp as Chairperson of the Vacancy Board for the Township of Sewickley. Voting: Mr. Dull, yes; Mrs. Harvey, no; Mr. Petros, yes. Motion carried.

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

Linda Harvey made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 10-2024 reappointing Nancy Bickus Neel to the Sutersville-Sewickley Municipal Sewage Authority. With no second, the motion to continue is denied.

Mark Petros made a motion, seconded by Bill Dull, to adopt Resolution No. 10-2024 appointing Scott Demers to the Sutersville-Sewickley Municipal Sewage Authority for a term of five (5) years. This term shall expire the first Monday of January, 2029. Voting: Mr. Dull, yes; Mrs. Harvey, no; Mr. Petros, yes. Motion carried.

Mark Petros made a motion, seconded by Linda Harvey, to approve the application for a freestanding sign submitted by the Mountain Watershed Association for Parcel ID 58-16-00-0-007, Angeline Babich. Voting: Mr. Dull, Mrs. Harvey, Mr. Petros; yes. Motion carried unanimously.

The following bids were received for the Crabapple Swimming Pool Piping Replacement, Contract 1/2024.

|                       |               |
|-----------------------|---------------|
| KGD Contracting, Inc. | \$ 159,018.00 |
| Dunrite Construction  | \$ 171,835.00 |

Township Manager Comments: Mr. Gray's recommendation to the Board is to not award the contract at this time as we applied for State funding to repair the pool. It would be in the best interest of the Township to use grant money instead of using the Township's General Fund.

Bill Dull made a motion, seconded by Mark Petros, approving KGD Contracting, Inc. as lowest bidder in the amount of \$159,018.00 for the Crabapple Swimming Pool Piping Replacement, Contract 1/2024. Voting: Mr. Dull, yes; Mrs. Harvey, no; Mr. Petros, no. Motion denied.

Linda Harvey made a motion, seconded by Bill Dull, authorizing Gibson-Thomas Engineering to prepare plans and advertise bids for the ARPA Water and Sewage Grant issued by the County of Westmoreland in the amount of \$172,500.00 for the Lowber / Waltz Mill Flats Project. Voting: Mr. Dull, Mrs. Harvey, Mr. Petros; yes. Motion carried unanimously.

Linda Harvey made a motion, seconded by Bill Dull, authorizing Gibson-Thomas Engineering to prepare bids and advertise the 2024 Hot Mix Paving and 2024 Shot and Chip Programs. Voting: Mr. Dull, Mrs. Harvey, Mr. Petros; yes. Motion carried unanimously.

Mark Petros made a motion, seconded by Linda Harvey, to enter into a Participation Agreement with DGS Costars for the purchase of salt for the 2024-2025 season. Estimated tonnage for the 2024-2025 purchase shall be 1,400 tons. We will be required to purchase a minimum of 60% to a maximum of 140% of the estimated tonnage. Voting: Mr. Dull, Mrs. Harvey, Mr. Petros; yes. Motion carried unanimously.

Linda Harvey made a motion, seconded by Bill Dull, to advertise and receive proposals for a three (3) year contract for Township Mowing, the cutting and trimming of the following locations:

- 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 Volunteer Fire Company (Rillton)
- f) Reservoir Road Cemetery
- g) Lowber Playground (inside and outside of fence)
- h) Hutchinson Playground
- i) Township Property located at Pike Street and Sewickley Avenue
- j) Cameron Avenue Property, Hutchinson

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

Linda Harvey made a motion, seconded by Bill Dull, to advertise and receive proposals for a three (3) year contract for Crabapple Mowing, the cutting and trimming of the following locations:

- a) John C. Bruno Memorial Football Field
- b) All Baseball and Softball Fields
- c) Crabapple Park

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

Mark Petros made a motion, seconded by Linda Harvey, authorizing the Township Manager to submit applications for the following parcels for the Westmoreland County Demolition Program. Each application costs \$250.00 payable to the Redevelopment Authority of the County of Westmoreland.

1. 2 Evans Street, Herminie, PA 15637
2. 208 Hood Street, Hutchinson, PA 15640
3. 123 Limerick Road, Herminie, PA 15637

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

Mark Petros made a motion, seconded by Linda Harvey, authorizing the Solicitor to petition the Westmoreland Court of Common Pleas to obtain Municipal Release and Right of Entry authorization for Westmoreland County DEMOFund applications. Voting: Mr. Dull, Mrs. Harvey, Mr. Petros; yes. Motion carried unanimously.

Linda Harvey made a motion, seconded by Mark Petros, authorizing the advertisement of the following amendments to ordinances with a public meeting to act on such ordinances to follow:

- a. Amending Ordinance 03-2020 of Chapter 23, Stormwater Management and Land Disturbance, Activity to include Low Impact Development Practices listed in Appendix F.
- b. Amending Ordinance 06-2021 – There are two versions of this amendment, one with reporting requirements and one without reporting requirements.
- c. Chapter 1, Part 1 – Emergency Management: Created Section 106 as a new section.
- d. Chapter 3, Part 1 – Animals: Amending Sections 101, 102, 103. Created new Sections 104, 105, 106.
- e. Chapter 7, Part 1 – Outdoor Burning: Amended Section 101 and created Section 102 as a new section.
- f. Chapter 7, Part 3 – Fire Insurance Escrow: Amended Section 121.
- g. Chapter 7, Part 5 – Fireworks: Created Sections 131, 132, 133 as new sections.
- h. Chapter 10, Part 1 – Nuisances: Amended Section 102.
- i. Chapter 10, Part 4 – Quality of Community: Created Sections 401, 402, 403, 404 as new sections.
- j. Chapter 10, Part 5 – Landlord Tenant Registration and Inspections: Created Sections 501, 502, 503 as new sections.
- k. Chapter 10, Part 6 – Vacant and Abandoned Properties: Created Sections 601 to 608 as new sections.
- l. Chapter 15, Part 2 – Parking Prohibited: Amended Section 202 and created Sections 208, 209 as new sections.
- m. Chapter 20, Part 1 – Solid Waste: Amended Section 105.

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

Mark Petros made a motion, seconded by Linda Harvey, to accept the 2022 Municipal Annual Audit and Financial Report for the Township of Sewickley. Voting: Mr. Dull, Mrs. Harvey, Mr. Petros; yes. Motion carried unanimously.

Bill Dull made a motion, seconded by Linda Harvey, to approve “Establishing Procedural Guidelines for Actions of Misconduct of the Volunteer Fire Companies within Sewickley Township”. Township Manager Comments: The Township has established guidelines for Union and Non-Union Employees. This will now establish guidelines for handling of disciplinary situations for our volunteer fire departments. This is to be used with issues that involve outside of the fire department, not issues within the fire department. Voting: Mr. Dull, Mrs. Harvey, Mr. Petros; yes. Motion carried unanimously.

Linda Harvey made a motion, seconded by Mark Petros, to approve Carol Lipinski, Randy Walter, and Jason Capenos to serve as committee members for the Rillton Area Recreation Improvements. Voting: Mr. Dull, Mrs. Harvey, Mr. Petros; yes. Motion carried unanimously.

Linda Harvey made a motion, seconded by Mark Petros, to accept the resignation of Jason Pastva, Equipment Operator, effective January 5, 2024. Voting: Mr. Dull, Mrs. Harvey, Mr. Petros; yes. Motion carried unanimously.

Bill Dull made a motion, seconded by Linda Harvey, to approve the hiring of Michael Puskarich as a full-time Public Works Equipment Operator at the rate of \$21.16 per hour for a 90-day probationary term. Voting: Mr. Dull, Mrs. Harvey, Mr. Petros; yes. Motion carried unanimously.

Linda Harvey made a motion, seconded by Bill Dull, to promote Bruce Zarnick's position as Ordinance Officer to full-time status. His rate of pay will remain at \$17.00 per hour with an evaluation at 90 days to adjust hourly wage pending employment agreement. Voting: Mr. Dull, Mrs. Harvey, Mr. Petros; yes. Motion carried unanimously.

Mark Petros made a motion, seconded by Bill Dull, to ratify Michael Gray's attendance to the 2024 DCNR Grant Workshop for Recreation and Conservation Projects on January 24, 2024. Voting: Mr. Dull, Mrs. Harvey, Mr. Petros; yes. Motion carried unanimously.

Linda Harvey made a motion, seconded by Bill Dull, to close the Township Office on Friday, March 8, 2024 so the Township Office employees may attend the 113<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention of the Westmoreland County Association of Township Supervisors at Stratigo's Banquet Centre. Employees will be paid their regular hourly rate while attending this convention and their expenses for travel will be paid by the Township. Others, as outlined in the Second-Class Township Code, will receive the \$50.00 stipend. Voting: Mr. Dull, Mrs. Harvey, Mr. Petros; yes. Motion carried unanimously.

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

#### **General Fund:**

Checks 13604 to 13638 - \$ 65,982.61 (1/15/24)

Checks 13639 to 13665 - \$ 35,938.53 (2/1/24)

First Energy (3 invoices) - \$ 82.67 (1/31/24)

Columbia Gas - \$ 480.08 (2/5/24)

MAWC - \$ 62.13 (2/20/24)

MAWC - \$ 185.85 (2/20/24)

#### **Act 13:**

Check 1177 - \$ 5,872.69 (1/15/24)

Check 1178 - \$ 48,377.96 (1/31/24)

#### **Crabapple:**

Checks 3015 to 3019 - \$ 19,826.52 (1/15/24)

Checks 3020 to 3022 - \$ 1,713.71 (2/1/24)

#### **Payroll / Paychex ACH Liabilities:**

Paychex - \$ 493.05 (1/12/24)

Paychex - \$ 133.56 (1/22/24)

Paychex - \$ 144.05 (1/26/24)

Paychex - \$ 147.90 (2/9/24)

Paychex - \$ 131.97 (2/20/24)

#### **ACH Payments:**

S & T Bank Loan - \$ 2,487.28 (1/2/24)

Columbia Gas - \$ 334.28 (1/8/24)

First Energy - \$ 43.22 (1/11/24)

MAWC - \$ 71.36 (1/12/24)

MAWC - \$ 185.85 (1/18/24)

MAWC - \$ 62.13 (1/18/24)

First Energy (5 invoices) - \$ 472.97 (1/26/24)

PSATS UC Group Trust - \$ 1,424.17 (1/31/24)

#### **ACH Payments: First Energy - \$ 120.59 (1/8/24)**

First Energy - \$ 100.31 (1/11/24)

MAWC - \$ 123.90 (1/22/24)

Payroll Taxes - \$ 7,225.26 (1/11/24)

Payroll Taxes - \$ 7,234.46 (1/25/24)

Payroll Taxes - \$ 6,819.65 (2/8/24)

#### **Recreation:**

Checks 3015 to 3019 - \$ 19,826.52 (1/15/24)

Checks 3020 to 3022 - \$ 1,713.71 (2/1/24)

MAWC - \$ 123.90 (2/20/24)

#### **ACH Payments: Columbia Gas - \$ 45.98 (1/12/24)**

MAWC - \$ 123.90 (1/22/24)

First Energy - \$ 22.94 (1/25/24)

First Energy (4 invoices) - \$ 290.02 (1/31/24)

Columbia Gas - \$ 36.63 (2/1/24)

First Energy (3 invoices) - \$ 267.09 (2/7/24)

**Streetlight / Fire Hydrant:**

ACH Payments: First Energy - \$ 2,729.66 (1/4/24)

First Energy - \$ 626.44 (1/5/24)

First Energy - \$ 394.12 (1/5/24)

MAWC - \$ 3,063.50 (1/16/24)

First Energy - \$ 2,734.28 (2/5/24)

First Energy - \$ 626.44 (2/7/24)

First Energy - \$ 394.13 (2/7/24)

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

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

**Employees Payroll:** 1/12/2024 - \$ 23,580.86  
 1/26/2024 - \$ 20,949.20  
 2/9/2024 - \$ 21,259.18  
 2/23/2024 - \$ 18,322.64

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

**General Public Comment**

Michael Beddick of Clinton Drive asked for an update on Clinton Drive. Mr. Gray responded that we're putting this out for bid this year. There is a water runoff issue that needs to be addressed along with paving. Mr. Beddick is happy to see the Ordinance Officer is now a full-time position. This should help eliminate some of the blight.

Donna Beddick asked if a few signs can be put up on the ballfield fences regarding keeping dogs on a leash.

Greg Beers asked if the lights from the ballfield are going to shine into his house? Are there restrictions on the time they can be on? Mr. Gray is scheduling a meeting with SAAA to get a schedule of their activities and will look into this. Mr. Beers then asked about the drainage from the field coming into his backyard. Mr. Gray will look into this also. Mr. Beers finished with something needs to be done with Crabapple Lake. A lot of people like to fish there.

Norma Wunder stated that there are three (3) properties in Lowber that should be demolished. Mr. Petros responded that things will move quicker now that we have a full-time Ordinance Officer. She is also having issues with Berkheimer. Mrs. Harvey stated that unfortunately you just need to keep calling.

Nancy Bickus Neel asked Mr. Petros if Mr. Demers worked the polls for him last year. Mr. Petros replied that this was the first time he had met Mr. Demers face to face. Everyone on SSMSA has attended meetings before being appointed, but I've never seen him at a sewage authority meeting. SSMSA currently has a lot of problems. She went on to say that Mr. Petros needs to take some of the responsibility because a lot of this falls on you as the Chairperson of this Township. Mr. Petros explained that we had two (2) members of the sewage authority interview Scott Demers and they felt that he was more knowledgeable about sewage. Mrs. Bickus Neel asked why didn't the Township Supervisors conduct the interviews. Mr. Petros responded that they felt the people on the authority were more knowledgeable. Mrs. Bickus Neel went on to say that those two (2) authority members acted on behalf of SSMSA without letting the other members know. Sometimes what makes up a good board is a group of people who don't operate the same. Mr. Demers stated that he doesn't believe they selected him because he's a "yes" person. He was chosen because he has 40-plus years of waste/water treatment experience. Mrs. Bickus Neel responded that the problems we're having don't have a lot to do with knowing about sewage. The problems are dealing with financial and government experience.

Teresa Dubich asked why was the meeting time changed? Mr. Gray responded it was to make it more convenient for individuals of a profession to come in and provide the Supervisors and residents with information and resources. Mr. Petros stated that this is something we're trying for this year and could change in the future.



Greg Hazuza asked if Woodland Drive can be added to the paving schedule. Mr. Gray responded that he'll take a look at it and see what I can do.

Daryl Dermotta asked if Crabapple Park and Pool stands on its own or is Township money used. He sees more Township workers there than on the Township roads. Mr. Petros responded that currently we have a breach in the dam, so we had to do something about it. Mr. Gray added that we own the property, so we have to maintain it. He understands your concern because there are a lot of things that need to be done to the roads. We are hiring a maintenance worker for the park in the near future.

Jason Capenos wanted to make sure the crack sealing is still happening. Mr. Gray responded that we had some issues and are starting to address them. We're trying to get more things done with the resources we have.

Joe Maher spoke of a warehouse on Magee Street near the Herminie VFW where there is scrap material, tires, old vehicles. This has been before the magistrate and he's been given many opportunities to clean it up, and it doesn't happen. When is something going to be done? The building is in dire need of repair or torn down before someone gets hurt in that building. Mr. Zarnick stated that now that he's full-time, he'll be able to get more things done. Mr. Gray added that we recently revised some of the ordinances and this will help us to enforce more of the issues we're dealing with. One is called Quality of Community. This covers pretty much everything from the accumulation of trash and garbage on personal property to the removal of items that are supposed to be kept interior but are exterior. He also added landlord/tenant inspections and vacant properties will need to be locked up. Mr. Maher stated that this is a violation of ordinances that have been on the books for years. It affects the value of his property, and it affects the people who are considering renting my property.

## **Old / New Business**

### **Discussion on Rostraver West Newton Emergency Services**

Mr. Gray explained that he was contacted by Mike Stangroom with the ambulance service asking to receive additional funding. In the coming year, I will be looking into making a change in the budget regarding EMA. If I can put EMA into the General Fund to fund all the expenditures within that department, that would free up that 2-mil allocation and redistribute to the fire departments and EMA. This would give everyone a little more money. Mr. Petros added that EMS wanted a \$5.00 or \$10.00 head tax for everyone in the Township. They do a membership drive, and that is currently down. It really wouldn't be taking money away from EMA, it would be reallocating it for budgetary purposes.

The Board of Supervisors is looking for people interested in serving on the Sewickley Township Zoning Hearing Board or Cultural Commission. Please send letters of interest to the Sewickley Township Municipal Building for consideration.

The next Regular Meeting of the Board of Supervisors will be held on Wednesday, March 20, 2024, at 3:30pm.

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 4:52pm.

Susan D. Leukhardt  
Secretary-Treasurer