

Chairman Brian Merdian on Wednesday, August 16, 2017 at 7:00pm in the Meeting Room of the Municipal Building called the Regular Meeting of the Sewickley Township Board of Supervisors to order as advertised in the Tribune Review on Tuesday, December 27, 2016. The members of the Board of Supervisors present were Brian Merdian, Joseph Kerber, and Alan Fossi. Also attending the meeting were, Jim Harvey, Linda Harvey, Sandy Dull, Daniel Augustine, Tracy Hampshire, Paul Rupnik, Lori Jones, Michael Beddick, Victoria Slivensky, Mike Slivensky, Marie Slivensky, Judy Janzef, Bob Janzef, Margaret Sensue, Mark Petros, Sgt. Jerry Nemes, Ron Oblack, Tom Lord, Chip Payne, Tim Luft, Carol Keller, Bob Keller, Barb McMillen, John Cochran, Janet Schork, Debi Pils, Nick Newcaster, Attorney Kansler and Erika Horvat.

An Executive Session was held on August 15, 2017 at 6:30pm to discuss personnel matters.

Report from Roadmaster, Joe Kerber

We removed a tire from a storm pipe on Reservoir Road. This was a fifteen inch tire and a rim stuck into a twenty four inch pipe. It actually took us two days to get it out. Repaired a storm ditch on Reservoir Road in the same area. We put in a catch box on Wilps Drive and the restoration on this road is complete. Repaired a curb on Oak Street. Oak Creek Drive storm pipe and restoration is complete. Comcast had plowed their cable line down through the middle of this pipe. We contacted Comcast and are seeking from their insurance company over \$14,000.00 worth of repairs and wages from them. The mowing of the township roads will be complete this week. We have Hutchinson to do yet. Replaced storm pipe and catch box on Harris Drive. Doing base repairs on Harris Drive for paving. Repairs have been done on Cross Street. We were out four days patching roads. We trimmed trees on Waltz Mill Road and Bakers Lane. Most of Riltton and Keystone was done today. We have 4400 gallon of dust oil ordered. Shuglie Hill is first, then Slobodnik Road, Oggs Lane and if we have enough Rodebaugh Road. Oil and Chipping will be done on Carnegie Road, Taylor Road, Whyte Road, Pierce Road, Brunazzi Road, Ipnar Road and General Braddock Road.

Report from Ordinance Officer, Nick Newcaster, given by Supervisor Brian Merdian

All of the following information has taken place since the last Board of Supervisors Meeting on 07/19/17: Twelve (12) warning letters were mailed, which pertained to JMV's (Junk Motor Vehicles), high grass, rubbish, and garbage. Two complaints were filed with MDJ CHRISTNER, both of which were for high grass. I have also spoken with several people on the telephone in reference to violations, which resulted in compliance, without having to mail letters. There are currently no tagged Junk Motor Vehicles remaining on Township roadways, as the owners have voluntarily removed them. I am dealing with several Junk Motor Vehicles being on private property and am notifying owners about the regulations set forth in the Township Code. The annual County tax sale is scheduled for 09/11/17. The Township was provided a list of properties and has identified several for possible acquisition by the County Land Bank. A meeting is being planned with Land Bank officials, prior to the sale date. As always, if someone has noticed a violation and would like to make a complaint, my extension is 7, which does have voicemail.

Report from Recreation Director, Janet Schork

- **Crabapple Pool:**
 - Crabapple Pool is now closed for the season.
 - Although the weather was not very good and we did have a few maintenance issues, attendance was steady and we achieved our number one goal of having no accidents or injuries.
 - Pool manager, Yvonne Shawl, Assistant Pool Managers, Alex Schork, Emily Spisak, and Zack Casagrande, all did an excellent job managing daily operations; also, credit to our maintenance, concession and lifeguard staff --- they were all outstanding.
 - Roger Anthony, Maintenance, has started the pool shutdown. Once fall baseball is over, water can be turned off and we can finish winterizing the pool.

- As we do at the end of each season, we will evaluate what went right and what we can do next year to improve our customer's pool experience next year.
- **Pirate Bus Trip:**
 - We sold less than 20 tickets to our Pirate Bus Trip scheduled for the 23rd. However, we are looking at several different options for selling the remaining tickets.
- **Recreation Center:**
 - I am continuing to accept reservations from our resident sports' groups for the 2017-2018 gym season at the recreation center.
 - November 1 is set as the "open" date for non-resident groups to reserve any available spots.
 - The recreation board has set the rental rates for Board of Supervisor approval:
 - ***Gym Rental per hour rate;***
 - Resident \$30
 - Non-resident (before October 1) \$45
 - Non-resident (after October 1) \$50
 - ***Birthday Party per hour rate:***
 - Resident \$40
 - Non-resident \$45
- **Fitness Classes:**
 - We've expanded our Fitness classes, and added a P90X and Core de Force Cardio Kick Box classes to our fall/winter schedule:
 - ***P90X Cardio Class, Mondays, 9:30am-10:30am***
 - ***Core de Force Cardio Kick Box, Wednesdays, 9:30am-10:30am***
 - ***10 weeks, \$10 drop in or \$80/10 classes***
- **Jump Start Sports Camps:**
 - We will once again be offering our sports camps at the recreation center this fall/winter: basketball/volleyball camps Saturday mornings starting in December.
 - ***Volleyball, Ages 7-12, Thursdays, 6pm-8pm, starting in November***
 - ***Basketball, Ages 4-9, Saturdays, 12p-2p, starting in December***
 - ***Soccer, Ages 3-6, Saturdays, 12p-2p, starting in January***
 - ***Classes are co-ed, 6 weeks, \$65/participant***

Public Comment

Sandy Dull presented the Board of Supervisors with a signed petition stating that we would like to have the noise level of the fire whistle in Herminie tested. We the citizens of the Township of Sewickley would like the Supervisors to perform an independent study of the noise level of the fire whistle in Herminie. An amateur test was done using a sound meter and was measured at 18.5 decibels. The whistle was originally on top of the Rec Center building in Herminie. The residents had no say in the placement of the new whistle and the nuisance that it has caused. They have no use of their outdoor properties because the noise is so extreme. The extreme level of this noise is having an extreme effect on our homes as well. Residents are having their windows and walls vibrating and causing damage. It also imposes a health risk to the residents. The residents have to endure this noise while using the Library and Recreation Center. Mrs. Dull went on to explain that when the fire whistle was on top of the Rec Center the noise went out and above our homes. Now it's vibrating off of our homes.

Lori Jones had one of the signs that will go into Herminie as a Welcome sign that was bought by businesses through the Sewickley Township Development Corporation. Mrs. Jones asked if the road crew would help put up the signs. The five businesses that donated funds to purchase these signs are Central Theater Wine Shoppe, Kavel Farms, Mars Hill Storage, Herminie Auto Parts and Plazz's Auto Repair Shop. We would like to be able to put these in Rillton, Lowber and Hutchinson also. Mr. Merdian stated you need to let us know where you would like to us to put these. We would need to seek PenDot approval. Mrs. Jones stated that the car cruise is September 23, 2017. We would like to ask for a donation from the Supervisors for the Car Cruise. I am asking for between \$ 500.00 and \$ 1000.00.

Dan Augustine asked why we used the dates we used for determining the amount that was sent to Sutersville. Attorney Kansler stated that we used the dates from January 2, 2017 because the agreement went in effect then the termination date of the agreement was September 1, 2017.

Mike Slivensky had some follow up questions about the grange. Mr. Merdian stated that they had the township solicitor look into this and review the township records and he found that this has occurred for some time now. In June 2014 two road crew members used a backhoe and grader on the entrance road to the grange. That same year an additional monetary donation was given to the grange. On July 13, 2015 six township employees were there to level the lots on the field at the grange using township equipment to do so. Mr. Kansler went on to interview people and found that the entrance way to the grange is indeed township right away. Mr. Fossi also looked into the insurance and found that our insurance would have covered township employees who were working at the grange at the time performing the asphalt work. Mr. Slivensky asked about the hiring policy that was brought up in a previous meeting. He asked if there ever was one. Mr. Kansler stated that under the Second Class Township Code if there is no hiring policy in place, the township Roadmaster, or Supervisor if no Roadmaster exists, has the authority to run the department as they seem fit. The township has done nothing wrong or illegal by not having a hiring policy. The employee that was brought up is no longer with the township. Mr. Slivensky asked about the one employee that was a relative to Mr. Kerber. Mr. Kerber stated that they are no longer with the township. Mr. Slivensky wanted to know when they will be back over to finish the road. Mr. Kerber stated that we had a major hang up on Oak Creek Drive with the Comcast cable issue.

Margaret Sensue stated the three areas she has been concerned with has not been cleaned up since we have been in court. I would say that they are even worse. She asked if he has permission to have a business there. Mr. Merdian stated that we would have to review this. Item number nineteen on the agenda is to help try to push this situation through the court of common pleas. Mrs. Sensue asked how soon are we going to act on this. Mr. Kansler stated that we are going to file a civil action. Mr. Kansler stated that once this is filed in the courts it will be public knowledge. Mr. Merdian explained that this will not happen overnight but we will keep on this.

Chuck Slebodnik asked why they stopped mowing on his road. Mr. Kerber stated that the mower tractor is broke down and once we get it up and running we will be back to finish. It will be mowed before we oil and chip. Mrs. Slebodnik asked if we ever got an engineer out there to check the road. Mr. Kerber stated yes, we now need to have a discussion whether or not we want to tackle the issue with the driveway ourselves then bill the resident for it or if we want to give him the option to do it on his own.

Sargent Nemes from the Greensburg Barracks attended the Township meeting this month to see if there are any serious problems within the community. The residents discussed with him, a speeding problem on Mars Hill Road, a resident who likes to threaten our road crew with a gun, the speeding at the school zone at H.W. Good Elementary, and the drug activity at the Recreation Center and Crabapple Lake. Mr. Fossi went on to explain that we had once applied for a grant to get blinking lights at the school. We were denied. We are now going to try and apply again. Sargent Nemes went on to explain that the police are present and are aware of the major drug activity going on. He stated that we have an epidemic going on. He can assure you that we are out and doing our jobs.

Joe Kerber made a motion, seconded by Alan Fossi to disburse 2016 EMS Tax funds on behalf of Lowber Volunteer Fire Company as follows:

| | |
|---|--------------------|
| S & T Bank – mortgage payment | \$ 602.25 |
| Sutersville VFD – primary service provided from 1/3/2017 to 9/1/2017 | <u>\$ 3,265.63</u> |
| | \$ 3,867.88 |

Voting: Mr. Kerber, Mr. Fossi, Mr. Merdian; yes. Motion carried unanimously.

Joe Kerber made a motion, seconded by Alan Fossi to disburse 2016 EMS Tax funds on behalf of Rillton Volunteer Fire Company as follows:

| | |
|---|--------------------|
| Schulte's Enterprise – inspection and repairs on ladder | \$ 1,004.39 |
| Schulte's Enterprise – Inspection and repairs on squirt | <u>\$ 6,495.26</u> |
| | \$ 7,499.65 |

Voting: Mr. Kerber, Mr. Fossi, Mr. Merdian; yes. Motion carried unanimously.

Joe Kerber made a motion, seconded by Alan Fossi to disburse 2016 EMS Tax funds on behalf of Hutchinson Volunteer Fire Company as follows:

| | |
|--|-----------|
| Premier Safety – maintenance on mask connector | \$ 993.64 |
|--|-----------|

Voting: Mr. Kerber, Mr. Fossi, Mr. Merdian; yes. Motion carried unanimously.

Joe Kerber made a motion, seconded by Alan Fossi to disburse 2016 EMS Tax funds on behalf of Herminie Volunteer Fire Company as follows:

| | |
|--|--------------------|
| Kush Kustom & Restoration – battery repair on rescue | \$ 300.00 |
| Witmer Public Safety – cylinder repair | \$ 463.25 |
| Pro-Am Safety – air pak maintenance | <u>\$ 1,003.43</u> |
| | \$ 1,766.68 |

Voting: Mr. Kerber, Mr. Fossi, Mr. Merdian; yes. Motion carried unanimously.

Joe Kerber made a motion, seconded by Alan Fossi to approve the Michael A. Beddick Plan located on Clinton Drive. This plan consolidates three lots into one containing .75 acres. An existing house will be razed to construct a detached garage. Public water, sewage and gas are available. The plan was approved 4-0. Voting: Mr. Kerber, Mr. Fossi, Mr. Merdian; yes. Motion carried unanimously.

Joe Kerber made a motion, seconded by Alan Fossi to approve the Adele Shuster plan located off of Mars Hill Road. This plan divides Lot 1 containing 5.25 acres and Lot 2 containing 5.19 acres from the residual parcel 1. The property is zoned R-1 and has public water and sewage available. Utility and driveway access was added to the plan by way of a 35ft. easement to Mars Hill Road. The plan was approved 4-0. Voting: Mr. Kerber, Mr. Fossi, Mr. Merdian; yes. Motion carried unanimously.

Joe Kerber made a motion, seconded by Alan Fossi to approve the Herminie United Methodist Church plan. This subdivision divides Lot 1 containing 7,000 sf. from Lot 2 containing 13,346 sf. Lot 1 contains an existing residence and Lot 2 is a parking lot. It is zoned V-1 and is located on Church Street in Herminie. Public water and sewers are present. The plan was approved 4-0. Voting: Mr. Kerber, Mr. Fossi, Mr. Merdian; yes. Motion carried unanimously.

Joe Kerber made a motion, seconded by Alan Fossi to approve the Hutchinson Plant Subdivision and Right of Way plan. The plan sub-divides 1.772 acres from the residual 264.2 acres owned by R&PCC, LLC for the purpose of constructing a municipal sewage treatment plant. The plant will service approximately 143 houses in the village of Hutchinson. A motion was made and approved to conditionally approve the plan based on the final signed plans and the mylar being delivered to the Township Building prior to the Board of Supervisors meeting. These conditions were met and the plans have been signed. Mr. Merdian wanted to state that he does sit on the board for the Municipal Sewage Authority of Sewickley Township. Voting: Mr. Kerber, Mr. Fossi, Mr. Merdian; yes. Motion carried unanimously.

Joe Kerber made a motion, seconded by Alan Fossi to advertise in Tribune Review for Budget Workshops to be held at 8:30am on the following dates:

| | |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------|
| Tuesday, September 5, 2017 | Tuesday, October 10, 2017 |
| Tuesday, September 12, 2017 | Tuesday, October 17, 2017 |
| Tuesday, September 19, 2017 | Tuesday, October 24, 2017 |
| Tuesday, September 26, 2017 | Tuesday, October 31, 2017 |
| Tuesday, October 3, 2017 | Tuesday, November 7, 2017 |

Voting: Mr. Kerber, Mr. Fossi, Mr. Merdian; yes. Motion carried unanimously.

Joe Kerber made a motion, seconded by Alan Fossi to REJECT Resolution No. 28-2017 authorizing Elizabeth Township to revise the Act 537 Sewage Facilities Plan to evaluate sewage facilities alternatives to handle existing and future wastewater flows in the Boston and Buena Vista sewer sheds in Elizabeth Township. Voting: Mr. Kerber, Mr. Fossi, Mr. Merdian; yes. Motion carried unanimously.

Joe Kerber made a motion, seconded by Alan Fossi to approve an agreement to allow for the property at 205 Highland Avenue, Herminie to conditionally proceed through the Land Development Application Process, pending litigation and transfer of the property. Mr. Merdian stated that he will be abstaining from this vote due to his employment with the developer. Voting: Mr. Kerber, yes; Mr. Fossi, yes; Mr. Merdian; abstained. Motion carried.

Joe Kerber made a motion, seconded by Alan Fossi to authorize the solicitor to file action with the Court of Common Pleas to enforce the Township code in relation to real property owned or possessed by Anthony Costanza. Voting: Mr. Kerber, Mr. Fossi, Mr. Merdian; yes. Motion carried unanimously.

Joe Kerber made a motion, seconded by Alan Fossi to ratify the termination of the Intergovernmental Cooperation Agreement between Sewickley Township and Suterville Borough effective September 1, 2017. Voting: Mr. Kerber, Mr. Fossi, Mr. Merdian; yes. Motion carried unanimously.

Joe Kerber made a motion, seconded by Alan Fossi to authorize the Township to lease a 2016 Gradall 4x4 Excavator from Highway Equipment Company. This unit will be lease financed by F.N.B. Commercial Leasing for five years with a purchase option price of \$1.00 at the end of the lease. Annual payments will be \$50,574.42. Voting: Mr. Kerber, Mr. Fossi, Mr. Merdian; yes. Motion carried unanimously.

Joe Kerber made a motion, seconded by Alan Fossi to advertise the open position for a Road Crew Equipment Operator. Voting: Mr. Kerber, Mr. Fossi, Mr. Merdian; yes. Motion carried unanimously.

Joe Kerber made a motion, seconded by Alan Fossi to ratify authorizing Township employees to attend the Annual Picnic hosted by the Westmoreland County Association of Township Supervisors at Mammoth Park and to pay those that attend their regular hourly rate. Voting: Mr. Kerber, Mr. Fossi, Mr. Merdian; yes. Motion carried unanimously.

Joe Kerber made a motion, seconded by Alan Fossi to approve the Sewickley Township Recreation Board to host the Family Pirate Bus Trip on Saturday, September 23rd. The cost is \$50.00 per person and includes game ticket, \$10 food voucher and bus transportation to and from the game. Voting: Mr. Kerber, Mr. Fossi, Mr. Merdian; yes. Motion carried unanimously.

Joe Kerber made a motion, seconded by Alan Fossi to ratify Janet Schork to work over her allotted hours on the payroll dates of June 21, and August 11, 2017. Voting: Mr. Kerber, Mr. Fossi, Mr. Merdian; yes. Motion carried unanimously.

Joe Kerber made a motion, seconded by Alan Fossi to approve the following bills for payment.

General Fund: Check 8817 to 8829 - \$ 12,015.03 (7/20/17)
 Checks 8831 to 8874 - \$ 5,279.43 (7/28/17)
 Check 8848 - \$ 126.66 (7/31/17)
 Checks 8849 to 8858 - \$ 2,762.08 (8/3/17)
 Check 8859 - \$ 250.00 (8/8/17)
 Checks 8860 to 8879 - \$ 13,875.43 (8/11/17)
 Check 8880 - \$ 11,000.00 (8/11/17)
 ACH Payments: First Energy - \$ 765.81 (7/31/17)
 Columbia Gas - \$ 25.32 (8/3/17)

Light/Hydrants: ACH Payments: First Energy - \$ 3,679.12 (8/4/17)

Crabapple: Checks 4483 to 4485 - \$ 1,689.60 (7/20/17)
 Check 4486 - \$ 294.96 (7/25/17)
 Check 4487 - \$ 1,812.59 (7/28/17)
 Checks 1008 to 1009 - \$ 157.93 (8/2/17)
 Check 4488 - \$ 107.36 (8/3/17)
 Checks 4489 to 4495 - \$ 2,119.07 (8/10/17)
 ACH Payments: MSATS - \$ 58.95 (7/20/17)
 First Energy - \$ 597.04 (7/31/17)
 First Energy - \$ 255.90 (8/10/17)

Crabapple Fundraiser: Checks 1008 to 1009 - \$ 157.93 (8/2/17)

Recreation: Check 2720 - \$ 141.89 (7/20/17)
 Checks 2721 to 2722 - \$ 82.43 (7/27/17)
 Check 2723 - \$ 22.53 (8/3/17)
 ACH Payments: First Energy - \$ 375.98 (7/31/17)
 Columbia Gas - \$ 34.40 (8/3/17)

Highway Aid: Check 458 - \$ 3,398.40 (7/31/17)
 Check 459 - \$ 4,068.96 (8/2/17)

Payroll Invoices: Check 5057 - \$ 32.40 (7/20/17)
 Checks 5082 to 5084 - \$ 2,072.42 (7/27/17)
 Check 5106 - \$ 32.40 (8/3/17)
 Checks 5127 to 5128 - \$ 329.92 (8/10/17)
 ACH Payments: Payroll Liabilities \$ 1,040.52 (7/10/17)
 Payroll Liabilities \$ 52.00 (7/11/17)
 Payroll Liabilities \$ 3,918.74 (7/14/17)
 Payroll Liabilities \$ 861.73 (7/19/17)
 Payroll Liabilities \$ 2,924.02 (7/21/17)
 Payroll Liabilities \$ 90.82 (7/24/17)
 Payroll Liabilities \$ 3,262.66 (7/28/17)

Voting: Mr. Kerber, Mr. Fossi, Mr. Merdian; yes. Motion carried unanimously.

Joe Kerber made a motion, seconded by Alan Fossi to approve the following payrolls for payment.

Employees Payroll:

(twp) 7/28/17 - \$ 10,873.66
(pool) 7/28/17 - \$ 3,352.97
(twp) 8/4/17 - \$ 9,610.77
(pool) 8/4/17 - \$ 2,665.98
(twp) 8/11/17 - \$ 10,403.88
(pool) 8/11/17 - \$ 3,223.13
(twp) 8/18/17 - \$ 11,316.38
(pool) 8/18/17 - \$ 2,752.24

Voting: Mr. Kerber, Mr. Fossi, Mr. Merdian; yes. Motion carried unanimously.

New / Old Business

New Business: Discussion happened on the Recreation Master Plan with a motion to follow on how the Township wishes to proceed with the finalization of this plan.

Joe Kerber made a motion, seconded by Alan Fossi to allow recommendations for the Recreation master plan from the following: Yough School District, Sewickley Township Recreation Board, Sewickley Area Athletic Association, Yough Area Midget Football, Herminie Senior Center, and Yough Soccer. They have in till September 15th to get these recommendations to the Supervisors. Voting: Mr. Kerber, Mr. Fossi, Mr. Merdian; yes. Motion carried unanimously.

Joe Kerber made a motion, seconded by Alan Fossi to donate \$500.00 dollars to the Business and Civic Association for their annual Car and Craft Show. Voting: Mr. Kerber, Mr. Fossi, Mr. Merdian; yes. Motion carried unanimously.

With no further business to come before the Board, Joe Kerber made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Alan Fossi. Voting: Mr. Kerber, Mr. Fossi, Mr. Merdian; yes. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 8:12pm.

Erika Horvat
Secretary/Treasurer