

Chairman Brian Merdian on Wednesday, January 18th, 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 Dianne Walters, Kathy Kerber, Mark Petros, John Seanor, Linda Harvey, Jim Harvey, Mr. Mignogna, Barbara Mignogna, Tracy Hampshire, Patty Vanyo, Lori Jones, Wayne Jones, Tom Lord, Shawn Krause, Stephanie Foreman, Attorney Kansler, Janet Schork, Debi Pils and Erika Horvat.

Mr. Kerber led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Report from Roadmaster, Joe Kerber

Since the last meeting in December, we've been working on Slaughter Hollow Road doing storm pipe replacement. In between bad weather we have replaced five pipes and have one more to go. We replaced storm pip on Tomatko Road also. We were out eight separate times for snow and ice removal. We used so far this year 800 ton of salt and 800 ton of anti-skid.

An Executive Session was held on January 18, 2017 at 6:00pm to discuss legal and personnel matters.

Report from Ordinance Officer, Bill Hause, given by Supervisor Brian Merdian

I have been handling various complaints of properties around the Township. I've received several complaints on nuisance properties of which I have sent certified letters requiring them to be brought into compliance within thirty days. Many of them are making progress with their issues. A reminder that business and property owners are to clear snow and ice from their sidewalks. Drivers when parking please leave room for our snow plows during weather situations.

Report from Recreation Director, Janet Schork

Recreation Center:

- All going well at the recreation center with rentals remaining steady with no problems.
- Our Jump Start basketball program will end on Saturday, January 21. Then on Saturday, February 4, the indoor soccer program begins and runs through March 11th.
- Open Gym is every Wednesday, from 4:30-5:30 now through the end of March
- Yoga/Fitness Classes
 - Are going well and we are adding an additional class on Thursdays.
 - The carpet was installed last week. I want to thank Larry Lint Flooring for installing the carpet at a 50% discount. Without his donation, we would not have been able to purchase the carpet. So, thank you Larry Lint!
 - There are rental times available for anyone interested in running fitness or martial arts program. The room can hold up to 14 participants.
- 7 Springs and Hidden Valley Ski Discount Tickets
 - I've received the discounted lift tickets for 7-Springs and Hidden Valley ski resorts.
 - Tickets are available by calling my office or by email.
 - Information will be on the website & Bruno digital sign. I will also be printing flyers for distribution to our Yough schools and around town.

Township Winter Newsletter:

- Work continues on the newsletter
- Our hope is to have it to our resident's mailboxes by February 1st.

Public Comment

Diane Walters lives off of Pinewood Road. She is complaining of a water and erosion issue coming from her neighbor's house, Mr. Ponsi. Mr. Ponsi for twenty years has had his rain water drain in the back of the house. He stated he was selling the house and now directed his roof runoff water to the front of his house, coming out of one pipe, and it is coming straight down the hill to my driveway. He is making sure that this causes damage. The ordinance stated that you are to put in a basic plan if you disturb and clear over an acre of property and change the water flow. Mrs. Walters stated that Mr. Ponsi put all his leaves on her property and when she asked him to move them he got very nasty and was calling her names. A big rainstorm came and at the end of her driveway she found a big spot of sediment. This can be corrected by changing the pipe to the back of the house where it has been for the last twenty years. If I would have to do something about this, it would cost me thousands of dollars. Mrs. Walters stated that Mr. Ponsi has diverted water over a bare surface. The EPA stated that you are not allowed to strip your property and not put grass seed and straw on it. This will cost him nothing to fix but could cost me thousands. I'm asking you to tell him to put the drain back behind his house. According to the ordinance, he should have had a plan and you could punish him with a fine. This is just not a dispute between neighbors. It is getting worse with every rain. This is a malicious act and this is not a dispute between landowners as I've been told. Mr. Merdian stated that he is in receipt of the packet that she has dropped off. Our response tonight would be that we have been advised of the situation and we have been in contact with the Conservation District and Mr. Ponsi also has been in contact with the Conservation District. There is communication there to make sure Mr. Ponsi will be addressing this situation using best practices to make sure he takes care of this and we will monitor the progress. Mrs. Walters asked about having him move the pipe to the back. Mr. Merdian stated that we are aware of communication between the Conservation District and Mr. Ponsi and we will monitor the situation. Mrs. Walters stated that somebody is putting nails on her driveway. I've had the police out four times now. You cannot ignore the fact that he put this pipe to the front maliciously where it is causing great damage. If you are not going to enforce him to do this at least put it in writing so I can take this further?

Lori Jones asked for the Business Association, if on August 5th we could hold community days at Bruno Field. Mr. Merdian stated that the Supervisors will discuss it and if everything works out accordingly we will have it on next month's agenda. Mrs. Jones said she will send in the letter.

Tom Lord stated that he had several residents complaining to him about the garbage rate increase. Mr. Merdian stated that they were competitively bid. Waste Management was the lowest at almost 40%. When you take a look at the logistics in the township as far as the amount of households, the distance these trucks have to travel to and from properties as opposed to other joining municipalities where there are a lot more households they can bill and make a profit. With the smaller amount of households in the township there is a proportional increase. The other factor is which we will take a look at in the future but for now the bid stands, is the fact that we have universal coverage throughout the township in one day. In the future we can see if having the pickup day be broken into two days will decrease cost. Mrs. Harvey asked if next time can we not have a contract or can we use some negotiating tools to try to decrease these rates. Also we have a contract with Comcast and those bills are going up also. Mr. Kerber stated that we needed to go to one garbage company throughout the township and we made it mandatory for there to be garbage pickup because we had garbage thrown all over the township. We also have over a 25% delinquent rate in the Township and the companies know it and they are going to bid and raise the rates accordingly because of it. Mr. Merdian stated that they also know that they are required to pick up the garbage even if a resident does not pay their bill and the rest of us are left to pay the price. Attorney Kansler stated that the reason it is a good idea to stay with a contract is that the residents get a lower rate because we negotiated at a quantity. The same goes for a franchise agreement.

Joe Kerber made a motion, seconded by Alan Fossi to disburse the 2016 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 \$97,481.54. Each entity will receive \$16,246.92. 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. Merdian, Mr. Fossi, Mr. Kerber; yes. Motion carried unanimously.

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

Schulte's Enterprise – maintenance on firetrucks	\$ 1,944.55
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Voting: Mr. Merdian, Mr. Fossi, Mr. Kerber; yes. Motion carried unanimously.

Joe Kerber made a motion, seconded by Alan Fossi to disburse 2015 and 2016 EMS Tax funds on behalf of Sewickley Township Community Ambulance Service as follows:

KS State Bank – 2013 International Ambulance	\$ 31,221.00
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Voting: Mr. Merdian, Mr. Fossi, Mr. Kerber; yes. Motion carried unanimously.

Joe Kerber made a motion, seconded by Alan Fossi to adopt Resolution 17-2017 whereas the Township is desirous of adopting consultant selection procedures including a selection committee consisting of a minimum of three people based on requirements set forth by the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation, in order to advertise for an engineer of record for a five year period. Voting: Mr. Merdian, Mr. Fossi, Mr. Kerber; yes. Motion carried unanimously.

Joe Kerber made a motion, seconded by Alan Fossi to adopt Resolution No. 18-2017 authorizing Horner, Wible & Terek to conduct a formal audit of all Township financial business for the 2016 calendar year. Voting: Mr. Merdian, Mr. Fossi, Mr. Kerber; yes. Motion carried unanimously.

Joe Kerber made a motion, seconded by Alan Fossi to adopt Resolution No. 19-2017 appointing Richard Bosko to the Sutersville Sewickley Municipal Sewage Authority for a term of five (5) years. This term shall expire the first Monday of January, 2022. Voting: Mr. Merdian, Mr. Fossi, Mr. Kerber; yes. Motion carried unanimously.

The Annual Convention of the Westmoreland County Association of Township Supervisors will be held on Friday, March 10, 2017 at Ferrante's Lakeview Restaurant, Route 30 East, Greensburg, A. Section 1401 (b) and (c) (1), (2) and (3) of the Second Class Township Code states, The supervisors, auditors, tax collectors, managers, solicitors, engineers, treasurer and secretary of the board of supervisors shall attend the conventions when possible. Each supervisor, auditor, tax collector, manager, solicitor, engineer, treasurer and secretary attending the convention shall receive a certificate, signed by the secretary of the county association, attesting their presence at the convention. The certificate entitles the official to collect from the township treasurer the sum of fifty dollars (\$50) for each day's attendance, expenses which are limited to the registration fee, mileage for use of a personal vehicle or reimbursement of actual transportation expense going to and returning from the meeting plus all other actual expenses that the board of supervisors agrees to pay. Every delegate attending the meeting shall submit to the board of supervisors an itemized account of expenses incurred at the meeting. If the meeting is held during township employee's normal work schedule, the board of supervisor may authorize township employees, including supervisors employed by the township, to be compensated at their regular

employee rate during their attendance at the meeting, in which case the employee is not entitled to the fifty dollars (\$50) mentioned in this section. The board of supervisors may authorize a supervisor who is not employed by the township to receive total or partial reimbursement for lost wages or salary while attending the annual meeting, in which case the supervisor is not entitled to the fifty dollars (\$50) mentioned in this section, provided that sufficient documentation of such wages or salary is presented to the board of supervisors to justify the reimbursement.”

Motion to authorize those outlined in this Section of the Code, along with the Ordinance Officer to attend the Convention and that their expenses for travel, etc. be paid by the Township and that Township employees be compensated at their regular employee rate and others receive the stipend as outlined in the Code. Voting: Mr. Merdian, Mr. Fossi, Mr. Kerber; yes. Motion carried unanimously.

Joe Kerber made a motion, seconded by Alan Fossi to close the Township Office at Noon on Friday, March 10, 2017 and to advertise the same while employees attend the Annual Convention of the Westmoreland County Association of Township Supervisors. Voting: Mr. Merdian, Mr. Fossi, Mr. Kerber; yes. Motion carried unanimously.

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

General Fund:	Checks 8359 to 8385 - \$ 28,090.55 (1/6/17)
	Checks 8386 to 8398 - \$ 6,287.91 (1/11/17)
	Drafts 2282 to 2285 - \$ 2,639.50 (1/12/17)
Crabapple:	Checks 4417 to 4418 - \$ 134.14 (1/6/17)
Highway Aid:	Check 436 - \$ 38,000.00 (4/25/16)
	Check 437 - \$ 35,533.08 (5/26/16)
Payroll Invoices:	Checks 4796 to 4799 - \$ 3,551.62 (1/5/17)
	Checks 4804 to 4805 - \$ 375.77 (1/11/17)

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

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

1/6/17 - \$ 9,789.09
1/13/17 - \$ 13,418.96
1/20/17 - \$ 9,828.87

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

New / Old Business

Mr. Kerber stated that he forgot to mention that he had the Road Crew take down the Christmas lights.

With no further business to come before the Board, Joe Kerber made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Alan Fossi. Voting: Mr. Kerber, Mr. Merdian, Mr. Fossi; yes. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 7:28pm.

Erika Horvat
Secretary-Treasurer