

Chairman Alan Fossi on Monday, January 4, 2016 at 7:00pm in the Meeting Room of the Municipal Building called the Reorganization Meeting of the Sewickley Township Board of Supervisors to order as advertised in the Times-Sun on Thursday, December 31, 2015. The members of the Board of Supervisors present were Alan Fossi, Joseph Kerber, and Brian Merdian. Also attending the meeting were Kathy Kerber, Linda Harvey, Jim Harvey, Ann McWilliams, Jack McWilliams, John Fedorko, Sandy Dull, Mike Volpe, Patty Volpe, Patricia Hufford, Harold Hufford, Avalene Cantini, Yvonne Merdian, Shari Diak, Mike Diak, Amber Kline, Eric Kline, Tracy Hampshire, CS Crossen Bosko, Lori Jones, Rich Bosko, Tom Lord, Ruth Lucoy, Mike Liny, Tim Luft, Daryl Dermotta, Millie Blanish, Janet Schork, Jeff Wilson, Brad Mellor, Bob Regola, Paula Alcott, and Erika Horvat.

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

Brian Merdian made a motion, seconded by Alan Fossi, to appoint Joe Kerber as Temporary Chairperson of the Board of Supervisors. Voting: Mr. Fossi, Mr. Kerber, Mr. Merdian; yes. Motion carried unanimously.

Brian Merdian called for nominations for Chairperson of the Board of Supervisors. Brian Merdian made a motion, seconded by Alan Fossi, to appoint Joe Kerber as Chairman of the Board of Supervisors. Voting: Mr. Fossi, Mr. Kerber, Mr. Merdian; yes. Motion carried unanimously.

Joe Kerber called for nominations for Vice-Chairperson of the Board of Supervisors. Joe Kerber made a motion, seconded by Alan Fossi to appoint Brian Merdian as Vice-Chairman of the Board of Supervisors. Voting: Mr. Fossi, Mr. Kerber, Mr. Merdian; yes. Motion carried unanimously.

Brian Merdian made a motion, seconded by Alan Fossi, to adopt Resolution No. 1-2016 reappointing Erika Horvat as Secretary-Treasurer of the Township of Sewickley until the Reorganization Meeting to be held on Monday, January 2, 2017 Mrs. Horvat will be paid at the rate of \$12.75 per hour working up to 29 hours per week. Voting: Mr. Fossi, Mr. Kerber, Mr. Merdian; yes. Motion carried unanimously.

**Public Comment was invited to address any public concerns, questions, opinion, or requests regarding the items on the agenda:**

Mr. Merdian would like to take a moment to introduce Bob Regola before he speaks. When I campaigned for this position one of the things that I pushed for in this community was a Supervisor Board that would work with all the different entities and organizations that we have in this Township, and in so doing I've been fortunate enough to come in contact with the gentleman who is going to speak now, former State Senator Bob Regola. I would like Mr. Regola to take some time to explain the type of services his company can provide to our community. Someone who can facilitate the growth, development, and the expansion we want to see within our community. Not only to clean things up, but to reinvigorate our business district, to find a way to bring new ideas to our community, to help our tax base, to help our children, and many other things that will come after helping those core ideas. With that being said I would like to let Mr. Regola speak for a few minutes.

Bob Regola has a small consulting company based out of Greensburg. We do a lot of work across the Commonwealth and we also do some work in D.C. We do consulting, business development, and a lot of assistance with grants. I am looking forward for the chance to work with Sewickley Township and helping the Supervisors with their vision, helping them identify opportunities, assist with grants, help them set up key meetings whether it be with the county, state, or on the federal level and be their advocate to help them get their grants. Give them the opportunity to speak with the key people to help them elevate that application to help bring some money back to the Township.

Mr. Kerber then asked if there were any questions for Mr. Regola.

Conne Bosko stated that she heard that pertaining to grants that some people work off of the percentage of the grant or is it an hourly basis. Mr. Regola stated that when he was in Senate we passed a legislation that prohibits you to work on a percentage basis. Everything has to be based off of a retainer. A resident then asked Mr. Regola if he would be available to help other boards in the township other than the Supervisors Board. Mr. Regola went on to explain that the Board of Supervisors would have to give him direction to do so.

Linda Harvey stated that this is a brand new opportunity in the community which we've never had before. She asked if it is basically consulting and helping us get grants. Mr. Regola went on to explain that there is also a government affairs part and if there is legislation that I'm aware of that may hurt or help the township, or if there are issues with an agency whether it be DEP or Penn Dot I am going to try to inform the board and navigate them through the process. With regards to the grants we sit down with the board and challenge them with what are their first year, five year and ten year goals. Then identify what grants are out there and inform them. Mr. Merdian went on to explain that in the upcoming months it is our goal to work to create a Community Development Corporation, which will be to attack and get rid of vacant and hazardous properties and get them into a position that we can make them desirable for private individuals or to whomever to invest in. This will take some time and a lot of effort and with the direction from Mr. Regola this is something we are ready to sink our teeth into and see what kind of success we can obtain. Linda Harvey then asked if this is on a yearly basis or is this a contract. Mr. Kerber and Mr. Merdian stated that we will be giving him a four year contract. Mrs. Harvey then asked what the projected cost would be. Mr. Merdian stated that it will cost \$15,000.00 a year.

Lori Jones asked if he would be acting like a mainstream manager for us. Mr. Regola stated more like someone who will sit down with the board and find out what their vision and directions are as we navigate through the first few months and identify opportunities that may or may not exist.

Amber and Eric Kline want to know if there is any resolution to the sewage that is seeping into their backyard. Mr. Kerber stated not that he is aware of. Mr. Merdian stated as of this point no. With the information I've been able to deem or let's say not deem from our solicitor who represents at this time both MSATS and the Sewage Authority, we've ran into a little bit of a road block as far as who owns the responsibility for this. It is my intent to take the bull by the horns here in a new direction and get you the response and the action that you need. Amber Kline stated that if nothing is done in a timely manner we will have to seek other options. Mr. Kerber stated that we are going to address it within the next two weeks weather permitting. Amber Kline commented that would be great. I have the kids and I don't want them playing in sewage. Mr. Kerber stated he is aware of it, that the Sewage Authority has called him and he has not been over to look at it yet. Mr. Kline went on to explain that he has a 4 X 4 sheet of plywood over top of it. Mr. Kerber asked how deep the hole was. Mr. Kline stated we've only dug down about 1 ½ feet and came across a 6 to 8 inch piece of terracotta pipe. We covered it back up because the odor was just bad.

Lori Jones went on to read two letters she provided the Board of Supervisors. As a resident and tax payer of the Township I am concerned that the residents unfairly paid for actions that were not performed in accordance with the Second Class Township code. It is my understanding that recently Supervisor Alan Fossi contracted the Jeannette Ambulance company in order to enter into an agreement with the Jeannette Ambulance Company to provide Ambulance services to Sewickley Township. It is also my understanding that this action was construed by the Jeannette Ambulance Company to have created a binding contract between Sewickley Township and the Jeannette Ambulance Company. It is also my understanding that this action was taken without authorization of the Sewickley Township Board, either by board vote or by public discussion. It is also my understanding that because of this action the Sewickley Township Board of Supervisors were forced to pay the Jeannette Ambulance Company a sum of money to settle the potential litigation that Mr. Fossi's action caused. My request to the Board of Supervisors is that a motion be taken to have the Solicitor move forward to sanction Mr. Fossi for this action and require him to repay the residents of Sewickley Township for the sum of money that was paid to Jeannette Ambulance Company. On May 21, 2014 under new business, Mr. Turik was appointed to the Municipal Authority of Sewickley Township. Mrs. Layman made a motion with Mr. Fossi seconding it, and Joe Kerber voted no. This motion was added to the meeting agenda and voted on without allowing the required public comment period. This is a clear violation of the provisions of the Second Class Township Code that requires public comment to be allowed before any board action is taken. My request to the board of Supervisors is that a motion be taken to have Mr. Jon Turik's appointment to the Municipal Authority of Sewickley Township rescinded and recognize that this appointment was made in violation of the Second Class Township Code and that going forward if any future appointments are necessary that the Township Supervisors follow the Second Class Township Code and allow public comment to occur before any vote be taken.

Mr. Kerber asked if there were any questions and the response was no.

Connie Bosko went on to explain the issues she is having with the water coming off of Seventh Street. It runs down Seventh Street, down past my house, past the old church and is tearing up the asphalt there. It is now down two to three layers of asphalt. I am hoping you could do something to catch the water and fix the asphalt in the summer time. She is worried about people tripping, falling, and getting hurt. Mr. Kerber stated he will definitely look at it. Mr. Merdian asked if there is a catch basin up stream that needs cleaned. Mr. Kerber stated maybe one needs to be put in.

Sandy Dull asked if she could save her comment for later. Mr. Kerber stated he didn't see why not.

Brian Merdian made a motion, seconded by Joe Kerber, to table the motion to adopt Resolution No. 2-2016 setting the compensation and benefits for Office Manager, Paula Alcott as follows: This shall be effective January 1, 2016.

- \$ 16.00 regular hourly wage up to 40 hours per week
- \$ 24.00 overtime wage (hours worked over 40 per week, following union contract)
- 11 paid holidays
- 3 weeks plus a day paid vacation days
- 5 paid sick days
- 3 paid personal days

UPMC Medical, United Concordia Dental, Highmark Vision (all family coverage), Life Insurance, Short and Long Term Disability Insurance (employee paying 10% of major medical, dental, and vision).

Voting: Mr. Fossi, no; Mr. Kerber, yes; Mr. Merdian, yes. Motion carried to table.

Alan Fossi made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 3-2016 setting the salary and benefits for Public Works Director, Mike Volpe at an annual salary of \$55,000 with the following specific benefits:

2 weeks plus a day paid vacation  
3 paid sick days  
2 paid personal days  
up to a max of 240 hours comp time

UPMC Medical, United Concordia Dental, Highmark Vision (all family coverage), Life Insurance, Short and Long Term Disability Insurance (employee paying 10% of major medical, dental, and vision).

Board Comments: Mr. Merdian asked for someone to explain how the comp time works. Mr. Kerber stated he feels that this was something that was brought in here about six years ago, that is used for overtime. Mr. Kerber stated in his opinion it should be gone because it screws up the books. Motion failed due to lack of second.

Brian Merdian made a new motion, seconded by Joe Kerber, appointing Joe Kerber as Roadmaster for the Township of Sewickley for the year 2016. Voting: Mr. Fossi, no; Mr. Kerber, yes; Mr. Merdian, yes. Motion carried.

Alan Fossi made a motion, seconded by Brian Merdian to adopt Resolution No. 4-2016 setting the compensation of the following Township of Sewickley employees until the Reorganization Meeting to be held on Monday, January 2, 2017 and setting their compensations as follows. These rates shall be effective January 1, 2016.

Susan Leukhardt, Township Clerk - \$12.25 per hour  
Mitchell Gross, Ordinance Officer - \$10.75 per hour  
Janet Schork, Recreation Director - \$13.25 per hour  
Yvonne Shawl, Assistant Recreation Director - \$10.00 per hour  
Doug Loughner, Township/Crabapple Maintenance - \$11.50 per hour  
Roger Anthony, Recreation/Crabapple/Township Maintenance - \$11.50 per hour

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

Alan Fossi made a motion, seconded by Brian Merdian to set the Treasurer's Bond at \$2,000,000 with H.A. Thomson for a premium of \$2,486.00. Voting: Mr. Fossi, Mr. Kerber, Mr. Merdian; yes. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion to adopt Resolution No. 5-2016 reappointing The Law Offices of McDonald Snyder, P.C. as Solicitor for the Township of Sewickley. Motion fails due to lack of no motion.

Brian Merdian made a new motion, seconded by Joe Kerber to appoint K. Bradley Mellor as Solicitor for the Township of Sewickley for the year 2016. Voting: Mr. Fossi, Mr. Kerber, Mr. Merdian; yes. Motion carried unanimously.

Brian Merdian made a motion, seconded by Alan Fossi, to adopt Resolution No. 6-2016 reappointing Gibson-Thomas Engineering Co., Inc. as Engineer for the Township of Sewickley. Voting: Mr. Fossi, Mr. Kerber, Mr. Merdian; yes. Motion carried unanimously.

Brian Merdian made a motion, seconded by Alan Fossi, to adopt Resolution No. 7-2016 reappointing Mike Stack as the Building, Sewage, and Zoning Officer for the Township of Sewickley. Voting: Mr. Fossi, Mr. Kerber, Mr. Merdian; yes. Motion carried unanimously.

Brian Merdian made a motion, seconded by Joe Kerber to adopt Resolution 8-2016 appointing Regola Consulting as a private consultant for The Township of Sewickley for a (4) year term. Board Comments: Mr. Fossi stated we usually appoint our professional services for one year. He asked if there is an out clause or contract in case we are not satisfied with his performance. It was stated there was. Voting: Mr. Fossi, Mr. Kerber, Mr. Merdian; yes. Motion carried unanimously.

Brian Merdian made a motion, seconded by Alan Fossi, to adopt Resolution No. 9-2016 appointing George Thomas Lord as Chairman of the Vacancy Board to the Township of Sewickley. Voting: Mr. Fossi, Mr. Kerber, Mr. Merdian; yes. Motion carried unanimously.

Brian Merdian made a motion, seconded by Alan Fossi to table the motion to adopt Resolution No. 10-2016 reappointing Dan Augustine as the Township of Sewickley's Emergency Management Coordinator. Voting: Mr. Fossi, Mr. Kerber, Mr. Merdian; yes. Motion carried unanimously.

Brian Merdian made a motion, seconded by Alan Fossi, to adopt Resolution No. 11-2016 appointing Joseph (Boe) Kerber to the Municipal Authority of the Township of Sewickley for a term of five (5) years. This term shall expire the first Monday of January, 2021. Voting: Mr. Fossi, yes; Mr. Kerber, abstained; Mr. Merdian; yes. Motion carried.

Brian Merdian made a motion, seconded by Alan Fossi, to adopt Resolution No. 12-2016 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, 2020. Board Comments: Mr Merdian would like to take a moment to send our condolence out to John Cochran on the passing of his father. Voting: Mr. Fossi, Mr. Kerber, Mr. Merdian; yes. Motion carried unanimously.

Alan Fossi made a motion, seconded by Brian Merdian Motion to adopt Resolution No. 13-2016 reappointing Janet Fawcett to the Sewickley Township Cultural Commission for a term of four (4) years. This term shall expire the first Monday of January, 2020. . Voting: Mr. Fossi, Mr. Kerber, Mr. Merdian; yes. Motion carried unanimously.

Brian Merdian, made a motion, seconded by Alan Fossi, to adopt Resolution No. 14-2016 reappointing Robert Romano to the Sewickley Township Recreation Board for a term of four (5) years. This term shall expire the first Monday of January, 2021. Voting: Mr. Fossi, Mr. Kerber, Mr. Merdian; yes. Motion carried unanimously.

Alan Fossi made a motion, seconded by Brian Merdian to appoint the following authorized representatives to make purchases from the Federal Surplus Property Program.

Alan Fossi  
Joe Kerber  
Brian Merdian

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

Brian Merdian made a motion, seconded by Alan Fossi to notify the Pennsylvania State Police and 911 of the persons to be notified in case of an emergency after business hours as:

(1) Joe Kerber  
(2) Alan Fossi  
(3) Brian Merdian

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

Joe Kerber made a motion, seconded by Alan Fossi, to adopt Resolution No. 15-2016 appointing Brian Merdian as the Official Contact Person for the Commercial Driver's License Drug and Alcohol Program.  
Voting: Mr. Fossi, Mr. Kerber, Mr. Merdian; yes. Motion carried unanimously.

Brian Merdian made a motion, seconded by Alan Fossi to adopt Resolution No. 16-2016 appointing Joe Kerber as the representative for the Township of Sewickley at the Central Westmoreland Council of Government meetings. Voting: Mr. Fossi, Mr. Kerber, Mr. Merdian; yes. Motion carried unanimously.

Alan Fossi made a motion, seconded by Joe Kerber to adopt Resolution No. 17-2016 appointing Brian Merdian as the alternate representative for the Township of Sewickley at the Central Westmoreland Council of Government meetings. Voting: Mr. Fossi, Mr. Kerber, Mr. Merdian; yes. Motion carried unanimously.

Brian Merdian made a motion, seconded by Alan Fossi, to adopt Resolution No. 18-2016 appointing Joe Kerber as the representative for the Township of Sewickley at the Indiana-Westmoreland Council of Government meetings. Voting: Mr. Fossi, Mr. Kerber, Mr. Merdian; yes. Motion carried unanimously.

Alan Fossi made a motion, seconded by Joe Kerber, adopt Resolution No. 19-2016 appointing Brian Merdian as the alternate representative for the Township of Sewickley at the Indiana-Westmoreland Council of Government meetings. Voting: Mr. Fossi, Mr. Kerber, Mr. Merdian; yes. Motion carried unanimously.

Brian Merdian made a motion, seconded by Alan Fossi, reappoint First National Bank of Pennsylvania and Pennsylvania Local Government Investment Trust as depositories for the Township of Sewickley. Voting: Mr. Fossi, Mr. Kerber, Mr. Merdian; yes. Motion carried unanimously.

Brian Merdian made a motion, seconded by Alan Fossi, to appoint Alan Fossi, Joe Kerber, and Brian Merdian as delegates to the 94th Annual State Convention of the Pennsylvania State Association of Township Supervisors' along with one (1) office staff employee to be selected later, to be held April 17, 2016 to April 20, 2016 at the Hershey Lodge and Convention Center and to direct that delegates be paid their regular wage, if any, from the Township of Sewickley while attending the conventions. Voting: Mr. Fossi, Mr. Kerber, Mr. Merdian; yes. Motion carried unanimously.

Brian Merdian made a motion, seconded by Alan Fossi, to appoint Joe Kerber as the voting delegate for the Township of Sewickley at the PSATS' Annual Convention. Voting: Mr. Fossi, Mr. Kerber, Mr. Merdian; yes. Motion carried unanimously.

Brian Merdian made a motion, seconded by Alan Fossi, to adopt Resolution No 20-2016 establishing the allowable mileage rate established by the Internal Revenue Service at \$.54 cents per mile. Voting: Mr. Fossi, Mr. Kerber, Mr. Merdian; yes. Motion carried unanimously.

Brian Merdian made a motion, seconded by Alan Fossi to grant authorization to begin the process of interviewing outside auditing firms to conduct a full audit of all Township financial activity and accounts in 2015. Board Comments: Mr. Fossi asked if this was going to be an ongoing process for every year. Mr. Kerber stated that because we have new auditors this year we need to do this just for this year. Voting: Mr. Fossi, Mr. Kerber, Mr. Merdian; yes. Motion carried unanimously.

Brian Merdian made a motion, seconded by Alan Fossi, 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. Fossi, Mr. Kerber, Mr. Merdian; yes. Motion carried unanimously.

Brian Merdian made a motion, seconded by Joe Kerber to reopen the 2016 Operating Budget for the Township of Sewickley due to significant shortfalls being discovered in the accounts associated with both the general fund and reserve fund. Voting: Mr. Fossi, no; Mr. Kerber, yes; Mr. Merdian, yes. Motion carried.

Alan Fossi made a motion, seconded by Joe Kerber, to add Supervisor Brian Merdian and his family to the Township of Sewickley's Health Insurance Program effective January 1, 2016 with him also paying 10% of major medical, dental, and vision coverage. Voting: Mr. Fossi, Mr. Kerber, Mr. Merdian; yes. Motion carried unanimously.

Brian Merdian made a motion, seconded by Alan Fossi, to disburse 2014 EMS Tax funds on behalf of Lower Volunteer Fire Company as follows:

S & T Bank – mortgage payment	\$ 602.25
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Voting: Mr. Fossi, Mr. Kerber, Mr. Merdian; yes. Motion carried unanimously.

Brian Merdian made a motion, seconded by Alan Fossi, to begin the process of establishing up to a \$200,000.00 Line of Credit to serve as an emergency fund source due to significant shortfalls being discovered in the accounts associated with both the general fund and reserve fund. Voting: Mr. Fossi, Mr. Kerber, Mr. Merdian; yes. Motion carried unanimously.

Brian Merdian made a motion, seconded by Alan Fossi to begin the due diligence efforts including ordering appraisals, preparing bid packages and offering for sale the following properties owned by the Township of Sewickley:

Keystone Property Parcel ID 58-07-12-0-097 Keystone Road Herminie, PA 15637	Railroad Property Parcel ID 58-07-11-0-053 Railroad Street Herminie PA 15637	Highland Avenue (Old Reservoir Property) Parcel ID 58-07-15-0-060 Highland Avenue Herminie PA 15637
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Voting: Mr. Fossi, Mr. Kerber, Mr. Merdian; yes. Motion carried unanimously.

Brian Merdian made a motion, seconded by Alan Fossi, to authorize the placement of a Hidden Driveway sign along Route 136 subsequent to the payment by the requesting resident of all costs for the sign, including installation by the Township employees. Board Comments: Mr. Merdian asked for some more information on this motion. Erika Horvat went on to explain the location of her residence and that she is requesting a Hidden Driveway sign because of the speed that cars travel on her road and she needs to cross the road to get to her mailbox. Mr. Fossi stated he didn't discuss the cost with her yet because he is very doubtful that Pen Dot will approve this anyway. We are thinking it is around \$100.00. Voting: Mr. Fossi, Mr. Kerber, Mr. Merdian; yes. Motion carried unanimously.

Alan Fossi made a motion, seconded by Joe Kerber to approve Brian Merdian to attend the PSATS New Supervisor Boot Camp on January 23, 2016 and January 30, 2016 at the Holiday Inn Express in Canonsburg, PA and be reimbursed for all costs incurred for attending this seminar. Voting: Mr. Fossi, Mr. Kerber, Mr. Merdian; yes. Motion carried unanimously.

Brian Merdian made a motion, seconded by Alan Fossi, to ratify Janet Schork to work over her allotted 25 hours on the payroll date of December 18, 2015. Voting: Mr. Fossi, Mr. Kerber, Mr. Merdian; yes. Motion carried unanimously.

Brian Merdian made a motion, seconded by Alan Fossi, to ratify Erika Horvat to work over her allotted 29 hours on the payroll date of December 18, 2015. Voting: Mr. Fossi, Mr. Kerber, Mr. Merdian; yes. Motion carried unanimously.



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

General Fund:	Checks 7528 to 7553 - \$ 28,131.11 (12/23/15) Draft 150138 - \$ 471.32 (12/22/15)
Crabapple:	Check 4286 - \$ 35.23 (12/23/15)
Light Districts:	Draft 195 - \$ 6,220.26 (12/22/15) Draft 196 - \$ 1,123.54 (12/22/15) Draft 197 - \$ 1,266.23 (12/22/15) Draft 198 - \$ 492.41 (12/22/15)
Equipment Fund:	Check 105 - \$ 2,423.62 (12/24/15) Check 106 - \$ 107.65 (12/24/15)
Payroll Invoices:	Draft 150137 - \$ 585.89 (12/21/15) Checks 4265 to 4266 - \$ 392.18 (12/23/15) Draft 150138 - \$ 827.74 (12/29/15)

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

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

Employees Payroll:	12/24/15 - \$ 10,317.21 – checks 4260 to 4264, drafts 25121 to 25130 12/31/15 - \$ 8,413.63 – checks 4267 to 4270, drafts 25131 to 25141
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Voting: Mr. Fossi, Mr. Kerber, Mr. Merdian; yes. Motion carried unanimously.

### **New / Old Business**

Effective January 6, 2015, Waste Management will be moving residential garbage pickup from Tuesdays to Wednesdays.

With no further business to come before the Board, Brian Merdian made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Alan Fossi. Voting: Mr. Fossi, Mr. Kerber, Mr. Merdian; yes. Meeting adjourned at 7:40pm.