

Chairman Brian Merdian on Wednesday January 17, 2018 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 29, 2017. The members of the Board of Supervisors present were Brian Merdian, Joseph Kerber, and Mark Petros. Also attending the meeting were Brian Kumpf, Jack McWilliams, Ann McWilliams, George Lord, John Seanor, Linda Harvey, Sandy Dull, Tracy Hampshire, Jean Bacha, Ray Bacha, Alan Fossi, Gary Wetzler, Jill Petros, Margaret Sensue, Zachary Kansler, Janet Schork, Debi Pils and Erika Horvat.

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

An Executive Session was held on January 9, 2018 at 9:00am and January 17, 2018 at 6:00pm to discuss legal and personnel matters.

Report from Roadmaster, Joe Kerber

Road Crew has been out for twelve days salting roads. We put down 1800 tons of salt this year. The crew took down the Christmas lights in Herminie. The township has one truck down with a broken axle. It looks like it will be down about two weeks. We have been busy keeping up with the equipment. We broke eight sets of chains in the snow storm last week. We received our new Dodge 5500 truck yesterday. A resident expressed their concerns with Tomatko Road. Mr. Kerber stated that the road is bonded and we will keep an eye on it.

Report from Ordinance Officer, Nick Newcaster

All of the following information has taken place since the last Board of Supervisors Meeting on 12/20/17: Three (3) warning letters were mailed, which pertained to JMV's (Junk Motor Vehicles), garbage, dangerous structures, and a junk yard violation. The warning letter pertaining to garbage has been resolved. Some complaints have been resolved without having to mail letters and one complaint which I looked into was not a Township Code violation. Two hearings were held on 01/09/18, before MDJ CHRISTNER, in reference to filed complaints for JMV's. Both defendants were given 90 days to get in compliance or be found guilty and fined. Both hearings were continued until 04/11/18. Two tagged vehicles, both in Herminie, have been voluntarily moved. Two tagged vehicles in Rillton have not been moved and a complaint shall be filed against the owner. One (1) JMV has been remedied from the Herminie area. I have been in contact with bank representatives about an abandoned, dangerous structure in the Herminie area. The bank's legal department is currently researching the property to determine if it can be remedied in a beneficial way for the Township. I am also working with a citizen in the Hutchinson area also attempting to remedy a similar structure. With cold weather here, please be aware if you are parking on a Township maintained road/street/alley, it needs to be passable for snow plows. There were two parking complaints received during recent snowfalls, both of which were in the Lowber area. As always, if someone has noticed a violation and would like to make a complaint, my extension is 7, which does have voicemail. Mr. Fossi asked if Mr. Kerber received his spray permit yet. Mr. Kerber stated no, the materials to take the test came in last week.

Report from Recreation Director, Janet Schork

Recreation Center:

- All going well at the recreation center with rentals remaining steady.
- Our Jump Start basketball program will end on this Saturday, January 20. Then on Saturday, January 27, the Jump Start Indoor Soccer program for children ages 3-6 begins and runs through March 3rd.
- Yoga/Fitness Classes
 - Our new 2018 yoga/fitness winter schedule is as follows:
 - Morning Classes:
 - P90x on Monday mornings 9:30a-10:30a
 - Ultimate Workout on Tuesday mornings 9a-10a
 - Core de Force on Wednesday mornings 9:30a-10:30a
 - Evening Classes:
 - Beginner Yoga on Mondays 6:15p-7:15p
 - Strength Training Workout on Wednesdays from 6:30p-7:30p
- 7 Springs and Hidden Valley Ski Discount Tickets
 - I've received the discounted lift tickets for 7-Springs and Hidden Valley ski resorts.
 - So far, I've sold 14 discount tickets
 - Tickets are available by calling my office or by email.

Recreation Board Activities:

- With the board of supervisors' decision to dissolve the recreation board at the December meeting, I am moving forward to solicit volunteers for upcoming 2018 recreation activities and events. My first order of business is to forward this week to the supervisors a tentative list of 2018 activities for their review.

- I will be seeking community involvement via, Facebook, the Sewickley Township website, Bruno Field Digital Sign, and a flyer sent out to my recreation email contacts. Additionally, if approved by Dr. Sardon, I'd like to distribute a notice to the Yough Students to take home to their parents or guardians.
- Volunteers can pick one activity, two, or all in which to participate. What's nice about this new arrangement is that volunteers do not have to commit to organizing all yearly activities but can pick and choose those for which they are interested in participating.
- If you or you know of anyone that is interested in helping, please forward to my email a letter of intent and the activity for which they would like to be considered.

Restroom Renovations Update:

- I'm very excited to report that the ADA renovations at Crabapple Pool, Park, and baseball field restrooms were started last week. These renovations are made possible with a CDBG grant awarded to the township in 2017. I will be monitoring the construction project and report the progress to the supervisors weekly from this day forward to completion.

Public Comment

Linda Harvey asked if the Sewage authority is going to be sold to the Water Authority. I really hope that this is going to be made public because this will affect a lot of people. Attorney Kansler stated that Brian is going to address what happened at the sewage meeting last night. MAWC has made a proposal to MSATS. To the extent that MSATS is going to address the proposal, the public is allowed to attend their meetings. If MSATS would consider the offer from MAWC, it would be done so at an advertised meeting. Mrs. Harvey asked didn't this start here, last month with a vote. Attorney Kansler stated no, the vote last month was to allow me to engage in any negotiations if they were to happen. What's to happen is MAWC is to make a proposal to MSATS and the township and once I am in receipt of that, I will review it and provide my services from there. Mrs. Harvey asked who negotiated this. Attorney Kansler stated that MAWC approached MSATS.

Mrs. Bacha from Hutchinson stated she is concerned with the fact that she keeps getting flooded. Her house and garage is getting flooded and it's all since they paved the road and put the curbs in. Now all the water from the road comes their way. There are no storm drains and this is a violation of the storm water act. The plow truck came and took the curb out in front of my house again. I need to know who your general insurance company is, so I can give them a call when my house floods this weekend from all the warm weather we are going to have. Mr. Kerber stated that he was down past it and saw what happened. The only thing we can do now is take some cold patch down and build a temporary curb until spring. Since Mr. Costanza put the curb in at the beginning of our street we get all the water. We get all the pine needles and garbage and are constantly cleaning it up. Mr. Kerber stated that maybe taking the curb out would solve the problem. We have been dealing with this problem now for fifteen years. I can't keep fixing my house. The insurance doesn't fix damage from water that seeps through walls. Mr. Kerber stated that he would have the township engineer look at the problem.

Alan Fossi from Wilps Drive in Herminie wanted to make a statement directed to Mr. Kerber. In the January 2, 2018 meeting, when speaking to a resident you said that you have been accused of stealing fuel. I think you are referring to an incident in 2012. I looked at the auditor's report from 2012 and they do address fuel. I am reading this straight from the auditor's report. We noticed a big difference in fuel. We went through the 2012 gas slips and attached multiple items we have in question. We found employees that purchased fuels from vehicles and it stated on their time log that they were in the shop all day. Time logs were showing an employee working on one vehicle but filling up with fuel on another vehicle. The odometer reading was out of sequence. We are not sure what the solution is but there has to be a better way of keeping track of fuel. Mr. Fossi stated that this is the only reference. I don't see any accusation of you stealing fuel. That is a very serious matter. I would recommend that you focus on something else other than something that happened in 2012. I would rather you focus more on doing a better job as Roadmaster. I went over our budget for 2017 and I added up the expenses incurred by the township that we are paying you for your salary, overtime, trip to Hershey etc. It comes to \$ 87,101. That is equivalent to 13.5% of our real state taxes. I would really like you to focus on doing a better job as Roadmaster. This fact that you don't have your spray license is unacceptable. I brought that up in January of 2017.

Mrs. Dull stated that she is an elected auditor and now we no longer have the ability to look at the financial reports because of how things change through the years. As an auditor we are to set Joe's wage and that is the only job we have. I had come up to get some information to set his wage and I had to fill out a right to know which I think it's not fair because it's the only job we have in the township. I requested to have the Roadmasters past pay and benefits and was told I should have a right to know. I don't think that's fair. Mr. Merdian stated that you can always get the budget. Mrs. Dull stated that she was never told she could have the budget. Mr. Merdian stated that the budget is public record. You can get it off line.

Mrs. Sensue asked about the issue with the junkyards in the area that she lives in. Attorney Kansler stated that he does not want to get into specifics due to the fact that it is in litigation. A hearing date has not yet been set. You can go to the prothonotary website to get the pleadings. Mrs. Sensue asked if Sewickley Township has received a grant for an industrial plant in the township. Mr. Kerber stated that there is an Industrial Park being put in out township. They purchased some land off of Walt Mill. Mrs. Sensue asked how it is zoned. Attorney Kansler stated that he does not know how it is zoned. To the extent that they are going to build, they will need to submit Land Development Plans and if zoning doesn't match its proposed usage, they are going to have to apply for a variance request. They are going to have to abide by our code. Mrs. Sensue asked if there will be potential tax revenue from this. Mr. Kerber answered yes. The sewage for the Industrial Park is going to go to Hemphfield's Treatment Plant.

Brian Merdian made a motion, seconded by Mark Petros to disburse the 2017 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 \$100,346.47. Each entity will receive \$16,724.41. 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. Kerber, Mr. Merdian, Mr. Petros; yes. Motion carried unanimously.

Brian Merdian made a motion, seconded by Mark Petros to disburse 2017 EMS Tax funds on behalf of Lowber Volunteer Fire Company as follows:

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

Brian Merdian made a motion, seconded by Mark Petros to disburse 2017 EMS Tax funds on behalf of Sewickley Township Emergency Management as follows:

Comcast – monthly phone, internet, cable	\$ 90.00
WordPress – annual fee for webpage	\$ 96.00
MSATS – 2018 lease	<u>\$ 900.00</u>
	\$ 1,086.00

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

Mark Petros made a motion, seconded by Brian Merdian to use Act 13 Impact Fee Funds to pay the following invoices:

American Rock Salt – 291.41 tons salt	\$ 18,297.64
Derry Stone & Lime – 323.17 tons anti-skid	\$ 5,106.09

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

Mark Petros made a motion, seconded by Brian Merdian to ratify authorizing the Sewickley Township Planning Commission to obtain independent counsel in regards to the Herminie Dollar Store Project to specifically comment on the following topic:

Compliance with Section 606 of the Sewickley Township Zoning Ordinance

Voting: Mr. Kerber, yes; Mr. Merdian, abstains; Mr. Petros, yes. Motion carried.

Brian Merdian made a motion, seconded by Mark Petros to adopt Ordinance No. 1-2018 abolishing the Sewickley Township Recreation Board. This Board will no longer be filled by the Township. The Township will still keep a Recreation Director and Assistant Recreation Director to handle all of the day-to-day aspects of recreation within the Township. Volunteers will be selected to assist the Recreation Director with activities and events that are scheduled during the year. These volunteers will report to the Recreation Director while the Recreation Director will then report to the Board of Supervisors. Voting: Mr. Kerber, Mr. Merdian, Mr. Petros; yes. Motion carried unanimously.

Mark Petros made a motion, seconded by Brian Merdian to adopt Resolution No. 16-2018 reappointing Lisa Nickels to the Sewickley Township Cultural Commission for a term of four (4) years. This term shall expire the first Monday of January, 2022. Voting: Mr. Kerber, Mr. Merdian, Mr. Petros; yes. Motion carried unanimously.

Brian Merdian made a motion, seconded by Mark Petros to ratify the increase in compensation for Sam Slick, Sewickley Township Public Works Laborer, from \$14.50 per hour to \$15.00 per hour effective January 5, 2018. Voting: Mr. Kerber, Mr. Merdian, Mr. Petros; yes. Motion carried unanimously.

Brian Merdian made a motion, seconded by Mark Petros to approve Joseph Kerber to carry over any unused benefit time from 2017 into 2018. Voting: Mr. Kerber, Mr. Merdian, Mr. Petros; yes. Motion carried unanimously.

Mark Petros made a motion, seconded by Brian Merdian to purchase a 25.4CC Handheld Leaf Blower from Labuda Farm Service in the amount of \$145.00 to be used at Crabapple Park and Pool. Voting: Mr. Kerber, Mr. Merdian, Mr. Petros; yes. Motion carried unanimously.

The Annual Convention of the Westmoreland County Association of Township Supervisors will be held on Friday, March 9, 2018 at Ferrante's Lakeview Restaurant, Route 30 East, Greensburg, PA. 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."

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

Brian Merdian made a motion, seconded by mark Petros to close the Township Office at Noon on Friday, March 9, 2018 and to advertise the same while employees attend the Annual Convention of the Westmoreland County Association of Township Supervisors. Voting: Mr. Kerber, Mr. Merdian, Mr. Petros; yes. Motion carried unanimously.

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

General Fund:

Checks 9166 to 9181 - \$ 51,750.52 (12/22/17)
Checks 9182 to 9194 - \$ 10,685.13 (12/27/17)
Checks 9195 to 9126 - \$ 30,414.06 (1/5/18)
Check 9217 - \$ 2,000.00 (1/9/18)
Check 9218 - \$ 87.90 (1/4/18)
Checks 9219 to 9242 - \$ 21,566.51 (1/12/18)

ACH Payments: First Energy - \$ 41.72 (12/28/17)
First Energy - \$ 459.96 (12/29/17)
S&T Loan - \$ 2,487.28 (1/2/18)
Columbia Gas - \$ 210.22 (1/5/18)

Crabapple:

Checks 4523 to 4524 - \$ 428.43 (1/4/18)
Check 4525 - \$ 36.10 (1/12/18)

ACH Payments: MSATS - \$ 58.95 (12/20/18)
First Energy - \$ 30.89 (12/29/18)
First Energy - \$ 225.84 (1/11/18)

Recreation:

Checks 2737 to 2739 - \$ 233.43 (12/21/17)
Check 2740 - \$ 122.72 (12/27/17)
Check 2741 - \$ 13.98 (1/11/18)

ACH Payments: MSATS - \$ 58.95 (12/20/17)
First Energy - \$ 536.36 (12/28/17)
First Energy - \$ 32.00 (12/29/17)
Columbia Gas - \$ 487.91 (1/5/18)

Highway Aid: Check 470 - \$ 18,869.76 (11/16/17)
Check 474 - \$ 13,800.00 (1/5/18)

Payroll Invoices:

Check 5280 - \$ 21.61 (12/21/17)
Check 5284 - \$ 3,068.95 (12/27/17)
Checks 5288 to 5290 - \$ 144.92 (1/4/18)
Checks 5295 to 5296 - \$ 355.38 (1/11/18)

ACH Payments: Payroll Liabilities \$ 1,136.34 (12/20/17)
Payroll Liabilities \$ 2,779.56 (12/22/17)
Payroll Liabilities \$ 2,473.46 (12/29/17)
Payroll Liabilities \$ 94.19 (12/29/17)
Payroll Liabilities \$ 1,439.85 (1/2/18)
Payroll Liabilities \$ 749.85 (1/2/18)
Payroll Liabilities \$ 601.14 (1/4/18)
Payroll Liabilities \$ 3,876.72 (1/5/18)
Payroll Liabilities \$ 2,964.72 (1/12/18)

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

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

Employees Payroll: (twp) 12/29/18 - \$ 10,284.99
(twp) 1/5/18 - \$ 15,009.44
(twp) 1/9/18 - \$ 12,647.89

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

New / Old Business

Mrs. Dull made a statement regarding the compensation time that was paid to Mr. Volpe in the amount of \$ 8,654.00. Mr. Kerber stated that this was brought in by Wanda. That was used for overtime. Mr. Kansler went on to explain that in other municipalities some pay comp time instead of Holiday pay. Erika Horvat went on to explain that Mr. Volpe did not get paid for overtime. In lieu of overtime he received paid time off at his regular salaried rate. In this amount was also his sick, personal and vacation time along with 257 hours of compensation time. Mrs. Dull stated that it seems like a lot of hours. Mrs. Horvat stated that the Road Crew worked a lot of hours that year. Mr. Volpe’s comp hours match their overtime hours. He also accumulated those hours over a period of 14 months. Mr. Volpe was going to roll over his comp time into next year to use but he was terminated so we owed him his time worked. Mrs. Horvat went on to explain that if he was still here he would only be getting his salaried pay of \$ 50,000 for the year.

Mr. Merdian wanted to bring everyone up to date regarding the selling of MSATS. At the MATS meeting we did make a motion to begin any negotiations to with the Water Authority. At the meeting a presentation was given by a representative from the Water Authority. At the end of the meeting the MSATS board voted unanimously to begin these negotiations. Some of the criteria will be the water authority will incur all the current debt that is roughly about 10 million dollars. Cash paid to the Township will be in the amount of \$ 1,750,000. This 10 million dollar debt is guaranteed by the Township and will be wiped of the Townships responsibility. Other terms will include a five year rate freeze for all customers; there will be no consumption charges, on any MSATS current or new customers coming aboard on the Hutchinson Expansion Project. The building that MSATS owns on Sewickley Avenue will then be turned over to the Township. The Hutchinson Expansion Project will continue to its full completion, additional sewage will be expanded to the housing complex off of Mars Hill Road, Municipal Building, Church, businesses and houses near the area. Preliminary design has been looked at by Gibson Thomas Engineering to complete the sewage expansion in these areas. Also an extension of sewage will be brought to Crabapple Park and Pool so they will no longer be relying on a holding tank. Sixteen additional fire hydrants will be installed throughout the township. There will also be an agreement or confirmation of how these funds given to the Township will be allocated or spent. The water authority also agreed to hire the office manager at MSATS. Finally, any funds or cash that MSATS has on hand would be given back to the Township after all existing debts have been paid, in addition to the \$ 1,750,000. Mr. Merdian wanted to state that this has nothing to do with Sutersville Sewickley Municipal Sewage Authority.

With no further business to come before the Board, Brian Merdian made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Mark Petros. Voting: Mr. Kerber, Mr. Merdian, Mr. Petros; yes. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 7:55pm.

Erika Horvat
Secretary/Treasurer