

Chairman Joe Kerber on Wednesday November 21, 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 Joseph Kerber, Brian Merdian and Mark Petros. Also attending the meeting were Kathy Kerber, Daryl Dermotta, Tom Lord, Connie Bosko, Richard Bosko, John Seanor, Attorney Kansler, Janet Schork and Erika Horvat.

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

**An Executive Session was held tonight, November 21, 2018 at 6:30pm to discuss legal matters.**

### **Report from Roadmaster, Joe Kerber**

We were out salting roads once already this season. The crew has been out four days patching. Slaughter Hollow Road is still closed until further notice. We put up the Christmas lights and banner in Herminie. There are ongoing repairs to McCune Drive. The crew did some asphalt repairs to Carnegie Road. Apples Mill Road is reopened from the slide. It is opened as of today. Storm pipe repairs and catch boxes on Firehall Avenue and Lee Street were done due to damage done from the sewage installation. Did storm drain repairs on Bells Mill Road. We are currently working on a storm pipe repair on Third Street in Herminie that needs repaired due to sewage installation.

John Seanor had some questions regarding McGrogan Road. He asked if it is open. Mr. Kerber stated yes, we keep the sign up to keep traffic down for now but it is open. Mr. Seanor asked about the weight limit signs on McGrogan Road. Mr. Kerber stated they are up. Mr. Seanor asked if they are up on the other side. Mr. Kerber stated they are up on both ends. Mr. Seanor stated that he just came from there and there was not a weight limit sign up. Mr. Kerber stated that he will have to check it. Mr. Seanor stated that there is heavy traffic on that road. Mr. Kerber stated there is a weight limit sign where Creek Gun Shop is. Mr. Seanor stated that there is not one coming from Westinghouse down to McGrogan. Mr. Kerber asked if he is talking about on the flats road, that there is one there. Mr. Seanor asked when that weight limit sign was put up. Mr. Kerber stated that there was always a 10 ton weight limit on that road. Mr. Kerber stated he didn't know there was a weight limit sign missing and he will look at it. Mr. Seanor stated that weight limit bonds are not being done for these roads. He asked why the logging trucks come across that bridge. Mr. Kerber stated they got a bond. Mr. Seanor stated it was after I complained about them not bonding the road that they finally got one. Mr. Seanor stated there is damage on the road. Mr. Kerber stated that the road damage was done due to all the water. Mr. Seanor asked about getting the bridge paved. Mr. Kerber stated that we have some roads still closed and we need to get those opened. We have a machine rented right now to help with getting those roads opened so I need to get those done first. Mr. Seanor asked about 911 regarding the closed road sign. Mr. Kerber explained that 911 and the fire companies are aware that road is opened.

### **Report from Ordinance Officer, Pat Schmidt**

The complaints were low this month so I took the time to do some more research regarding dilapidated properties. I was in contact with five different property owners. One decided to put the home up for sale; three have charges against them filed at the Magistrate. One has been recently sold and the new owners are stating they will renovate the property to rent it out. Regarding the burned out house on Greenhills Road, I was actually able to get in touch with the new bank who owns it. I am still working with them; they were under the assumption that it was a livable home. Regarding the property on Adolph Lane, the owners did not attempt to clean it up and a final notice letter was sent. I attended a hearing this month based on abandoned vehicle charges and it was continued for two weeks. I ask if there are any loud noise complaints or complaints of narcotics or dealings to please call the police. Also, I would like to state that if tenets do not keep up with their rental properties, landlords can be held liable for it.

### **Report from Recreation Director, Janet Schork**

#### **Crabapple Park & Pool:**

- Final winterizing at Crabapple Park and Pool and baseball fields has been completed. Thank you to Clint Strosko and the township crew for all of their help.

#### **Recreation Center:**

- Due to the uncertainty of whether the recreation center would be opening and when, many of our former sports groups reserved time at other gyms and locations for their practice. So, it's been a slow start for the Fall/Winter season rentals at the gym. Fortunately, slots are starting to gradually fill up.
- Free, open gym for walkers will be on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday afternoons from 12:30p-3:30p starting in December and running through June.

We are opening the gym for youth basketball every other Saturday afternoon from 2:30p-4:00p starting in January and running through April. \$3/participant, Children 13 years & younger must be accompanied by an adult (18+), A Parent or Guardian must come in to complete an Emergency Card and Waiver Form in order for their child to participate

**Recreation Committee Proposed Event:**

- With the board's approval, the volunteer recreation committee and I would like to host the 1st Annual Yough Snowball Father/Daughter Dinner Dance. The details are:  
 Saturday, February 23, 5p-9p  
 Crystal Ballroom, Herminie  
 \$30/Adult      \$20/Child (ages 4-10)  
 Price includes: admission, buffet dinner catered by Rodney's, and Souvenir photo  
 Open to all Yough Area Residents

**Discount Ski Tickets:**

- The recreation office will be offering again this year discount ski tickets for Seven Springs and Hidden Valley Resorts.
- Once I receive the tickets in December, I will begin advertising and sending flyers to the school districts for distribution.

**Jump Start Sports Camps:**

- Also this season, we are offering the following Jump Start Sports Programs:  
 Dek Hockey, ages 4-10, Saturdays, January 5-February 9, 9:30a-11:30a  
 Indoor Soccer, ages 3-6, Saturdays, January 5-February 9, 12:00p-2:00p  
 Basketball, ages 4-10, Saturdays, February 23-March 30, 10:00a-12:00p  
 Fee: \$70/participant (includes t-shirt)

Mark Petros made a motion, seconded by Brian Merdian to approve the following minutes of the Sewickley Township Board of Supervisors:

- Special Meeting – October 4, 2018
- Regular Monthly Meeting – October 17, 2018

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

**Public Comment**

Rich Bosko stated he went to the sewage meeting last night and at the last minute it was canceled. It has been explained to me that, now that the water authority owns the sewage authority, there is nothing to discuss. Is it canceled into the future or just canceled for last night? Mr. Merdian stated that at this time the solicitor recommended that no more meetings are necessary being that the authority is not conducting any business and not handling any proceeds or writing checks. There is no business to be had so there will not be any meetings. If business does come up there may have to be a meeting, just too clean up any business that will come along with the sale of MSATS to MAWC. Attorney Kansler went on to explain the operations of MSATS are being conducted by MAWC. Mr. Bosko stated that MSATS cannot conduct business, under the Sunshine Law, without it being in a public meeting. A decision was made to cancel the meeting last night. Was that approved or discussed in a meeting open to the public. Mr. Merdian stated that at the last meeting there was discussion about the necessity of meetings going forward. Mr. Bosko stated that it was not voted on though. He was told that as of Monday at Noon there was still a meeting this week. This sounds like a violation of the Sunshine Law. Mrs. Bosko stated that she wants reconsideration of what's being done with the two million dollars from the sale of MSATS. If you're not having any open meetings regarding this, which is completely inappropriate, then you're limiting the people in this township to comment on the two million dollars, and the sewage authority closing. I am fully against it. Everything that has been done is completely inappropriate. Mr. Merdian stated that the process going on has been brought up at public meetings, both at sewage meetings and township meetings. The funds that you are referring to, the receipt of proceeds and possible use of these funds have been discussed in public budget meetings. If you will take a look at the budget draft out for public review, you will see the allocations for the use of these funds. Mrs. Bosko stated that the money should go back to the 1,242 people that made this project successful. It should not be distributed to everyone in this township and for the Supervisors to decide what they want to do with this money.

John Seanor asked Mr. Petros a question about when they met at lower Whyles, regarding the washout and cutting through a yard due to the deterioration of the road. Mr. Kerber stated that we will go down and take a look at the situation. Mr. Seanor asked if we have checked where the erosion is coming from. He stated that from where they logged, it is causing more water to run that way now. Mr. Kerber stated that this was all approved through the Westmoreland County Soil and Water Conservation. They will need to be called to have the situation looked at. Mr. Seanor went on to complain about the bonding of McGrogan Road.

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

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

Bear Com – monthly maintenance on portable radios	\$ 92.00
Comcast – phone, internet	\$ 184.24
Petty cash	\$ 129.89
Xycom – email setup for staff	<u>\$ 110.00</u>
	<b>\$ 516.13</b>

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

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

Three Rivers Fire Equip. – yearly service for air system	\$ 637.00
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Voting: Mr. Petros, Mr. Kerber, Mr. Merdian; yes. Motion carried unanimously.

Brian Merdian made a motion, seconded by Mark Petros to authorize the solicitor to prepare and advertise an ordinance amending the Township of Sewickley Code Chapter 7 to include fire insurance escrow requirements. Voting: Mr. Petros, Mr. Kerber, Mr. Merdian; yes. Motion carried unanimously.

Mark Petros made a motion, seconded by Brian Merdian to authorize the solicitor to prepare and advertise an ordinance amending the Township of Sewickley's municipal pension plan. Voting: Mr. Petros, Mr. Kerber, Mr. Merdian; yes. Motion carried unanimously.

Brian Merdian made a motion, seconded by Mark Petros to adopt Ordinance No. 7-2018 increasing the indebtedness of Sewickley Township by the issue of a general obligation note in the amount of \$54,000 for the purchase of a Single Axle Plow Truck. Voting: Mr. Petros, Mr. Kerber, Mr. Merdian; yes. Motion carried unanimously.

Mark Petros made a motion, seconded by Brian Merdian to introduce proposed Ordinance 8-2018 establishing the Tentative Budget for 2019 as the Proposed Budget for 2019 with adoption to be considered at the regular meeting of the Board of Supervisors to be held on Wednesday, December 19, 2018 at 7:00pm. Voting: Mr. Petros, Mr. Kerber, Mr. Merdian; yes. Motion carried unanimously.

Mark Petros made a motion, seconded by Brian Merdian to advertise the availability of the Proposed Budget for 2019 with public inspection being made possible at the Municipal Building between the hours of 8:00am and 3:30pm beginning Monday, November 26, 2018. Voting: Mr. Petros, Mr. Kerber, Mr. Merdian; yes. Motion carried unanimously.

Brian Merdian made a motion, seconded by Mark Petros to adopt Resolution No. 28-2018 establishing the real property taxes for fiscal year 2019 at 11.25 mills for general Township purposes, 2 mills to support ambulance, rescue, and other emergency services, .75 mills to light the highways, roads, and other public places in the Township, and .25 mills to establish and maintain fire hydrants and fire hydrant water service in the Township on each dollar of assessed valuation of property located within the Township of Sewickley. This is not an increase from the previous year. Voting: Mr. Petros, Mr. Kerber, Mr. Merdian; yes. Motion carried unanimously.

Brian Merdian made a motion, seconded by Mark Petros to adopt Resolution No. 29-2018 approving an Agricultural Security Area with additions and modifications to the property of Mr. Robert E. Sever with tax map number 58-11-00-0-115. Voting: Mr. Petros, Mr. Kerber, Mr. Merdian; yes. Motion carried unanimously.

Mark Petros made a motion, seconded by Brian Merdian to adopt Resolution 30-2018 authorizing an agreement between Sewickley Township and the Westmoreland County Transit Authority to provide public transportation within the community. Based on population, population density, and the number of trips within the community, the share assessment for Fiscal Year 2018-2019 will be \$850.50 and paid in January, 2019. There is no increase for this service. Voting: Mr. Petros, Mr. Kerber, Mr. Merdian; yes. Motion carried unanimously.

Mark Petros made a motion, seconded by Brian Merdian to advertise the appointment of a Certified Public Account for examination of all the books of the Township for the fiscal year 2018. Voting: Mr. Petros, Mr. Kerber, Mr. Merdian; yes. Motion carried unanimously.

Brian Merdian made a motion, seconded by Mark Petros to renew Property and Casualty Coverage for all Sewickley Fire Companies with Varine-Slavin using Selective at the premiums below. Policy is effective from December 18, 2018 to December 18, 2019.

Herminie Fire Company:	\$ 12,829.00
Lowber Fire Company:	\$ 14,603.00
Rillton Fire Company:	\$ 12,892.00
Hutchinson Fire Company:	\$ 13,423.00

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

Brian Merdian made a motion, seconded by Mark Petros to authorize the renewal of Township health insurance through UPMC Health Plan with an increase of 3.5%. The estimated annual premium is \$195,382.80. Voting: Mr. Petros, Mr. Kerber, Mr. Merdian; yes. Motion carried unanimously.

Proposals for a single axle plow truck were opened, read aloud, and recorded on Tuesday, November 20, 2018 at 10:00am. One proposal was submitted from Hunter Truck Sales in the amount of \$ 59,000 for a 2010 Single Axle International with 35,900 miles. Proposal included a plow, spreader, tarper and 11 foot stainless steel dump body.

Brian Merdian made a motion, seconded by Mark Petros to accept the proposal from Hunter Truck Sales in the amount of \$ 59,000 for a 2010 Single Axle International Plow Truck, upon final approval from the DCED. Voting: Mr. Petros, Mr. Kerber, Mr. Merdian; yes. Motion carried unanimously.

Brian Merdian made a motion, seconded by Mark Petros to purchase Bituminous Stockpile Patching material (cold mix) through Hei-Way, LLC which is also through the COSTARS Program. Voting: Mr. Petros, Mr. Kerber, Mr. Merdian; yes. Motion carried unanimously.

Brian Merdian made a motion, seconded by Mark Petros to pay the following invoices out of the Act 13 Impact Account:

Servpro – water damage and restoration to the Rec Center and gym floor	\$ 17,055.85
Servpro – water damage and restoration to the Library and Children’s room	\$ 15,863.77

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

Mark Petros made a motion, seconded by Brian Merdian to approve the following 2018-2019 recreation activities:

Yough Snowball Father/Daughter Dance – February 23, 2019	\$30/Adult	\$20/Child
Jump Start Sports Programs – Dek Hockey, Indoor Soccer, Basketball	\$70/participant	
Discount Ski Tickets to Hidden Valley and Seven Springs		
Open Gym for walkers	FREE	
Open Gym for youth basketball	\$3/participant	

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

Brian Merdian made a motion, seconded by Mark Petros to approve the following rental rates for the 2018-2019 seasons at the Sewickley Township Recreation Center:

Sewickley Township Residents/Teams	\$30.00 per hour
Non-Residents/Teams	\$50.00 per hour
Sewickley Township Resident Birthday Party	\$40.00 per hour
Non-Residents Birthday Party	\$45.00 per hour

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

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

**General Fund:**

Checks 9872 to 9886 - \$ 29,110.57 (10/25/18)	ACH Payments: First Energy - \$ 8.20 (10/25/18)
Checks 9887 to 9898 - \$ 20,255.04 (11/1/18)	First Energy - \$ 565.18 (10/26/18)
Checks to 9916 - \$ 11,933.87 (11/8/18)	S & T Loan - \$ 2,487.28 (10/1/18)
Checks 9917 to 9933 - \$ 16,915.62 (11/15/18)	Columbia Gas - \$ 36.97 (11/1/18)
Checks 9934 to 9946 - \$ 35,899.54 (11/21/18)	
Check 2014 - \$ 10,923.10 (11/15/18)	

**Crabapple:**

Checks 4633 to 4634 - \$ 141.56 (11/1/18)	ACH Payments: MSATS - \$ 61.95 (10/22/18)
Checks 4635 to 4636 - \$ 71.35 (11/15/18)	First Energy - \$ 128.15 (10/26/18)
	First Energy - \$ 218.20 (11/8/18)

**Recreation:**

Checks 2777 to 2778 – \$ 83.36 (11/1/18)  
 Check 2779 - \$ 3.50 (11/8/18)  
 Check 2780 - \$ 8.48 (11/15/18)  
 Checks 2781 to 2782 - \$ 670.26 (11/21/18)

ACH Payments: First Energy - \$ 8.20 (10/25/18)  
 MSATS - \$ 61.95 (10/22/18)  
 First Energy - \$ 22.34 (10/26/18)  
 First Energy - \$ 323.64 (10/29/18)  
 First Energy - \$ 13.14 (10/29/18)  
 Columbia Gas - \$ 50.43 (11/1/18)  
 MAWC - \$ 92.91 (11/13/18)

**Highway Aid:** Check 497 - \$ 6,520.32 (10/31/18)  
 Check 498 - \$1,756.49 (11/21/18)  
 Check 499 - \$ 5,630.00 (11/21/18)

**Payroll Invoices:**

Check 5686 to 5687 - \$ 2,016.28 (10/25/18)  
 Check 5696 - \$ 328.57 (11/8/18)

ACH Payments: Payroll Liabilities \$ 658.05 (10/18/18)  
 Payroll Liabilities \$ 2,264.68 (10/19/18)  
 Payroll Liabilities \$ 2,109.08 (10/26/18)  
 Payroll Liabilities \$ 2,064.66 (11/2/18)  
 Payroll Liabilities \$ 532.50 (11/5/18)  
 Payroll Liabilities \$ 2,566.52 (11/9/18)  
 Payroll Liabilities \$ 2,233.96 (11/16/18)  
 Payroll Liabilities \$ 563.28 (11/20/18)

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

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

Employees Payroll: 10/26/18 - \$ 9,097.64  
 11/2/18 - \$ 8,838.93  
 11/9/18 - \$ 10,964.84  
 11/16/18 - \$ 9,659.13  
 11/23/18 - \$ 9,604.79

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

**New / Old Business**

The Township Office will be closed on Thursday, November 22, 2018 and Friday, November 23, 2018.  
 The Township Office will close at Noon on Friday December 14, 2018 for the annual Christmas Party.

Crabapple Park closed for the season on October 31, 2018 to vehicular traffic. The park is open year-round to fishing, walkers, runners and pets (on leash) from 8:00am - dusk. There is additional parking at the ball-field lot (across from H.W. Good Elementary School). We ask that you do not block the gates for entryway into the park in case of an emergency.

Sewickley Township Light Up Night will be held on Saturday, December 1, 2018. Doors open at Noon at the Herminie Fire Hall. Registration for pet parade is at 12:30pm, Hayrides are free beginning at 1:30pm and Parade on Sewickley Ave begins at 4:30pm.

Mr. Merdian would like to let everyone know that the Sewickley Township Senior Citizen Center was recognized as the Senior Center of the year.

A resident asked what the process was for the scheduled budget meetings. The Board of Supervisors and Attorney Kansler went on to explain that the dates are voted on in a public meeting, the dates and times are then advertised in the newspaper as public meetings. The budget is then placed up for public view for a period of 20 days before it is officially approved.

With no further business to come before the Board, Mark Petros made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Brian Meridan.  
 Voting: Mr. Petros, Mr. Kerber, Mr. Merdian; yes. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 7:40pm.

Erika Horvat  
 Secretary/Treasurer