

Chairman Joe Kerber on Wednesday December 19, 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 Daryl Dermotta, Terrie Balko, Jim Balog, Jim Harvey, Bill Luzar, Patricia Volpe, Marianne Errett, Jack McWilliams, Ann McWilliams, Susan Hitchins Caroleo, John Cunniry, Sandy Dull, Kathy Kerber, Tracy Hampshire, John Seanor, Alan Fossi, Mike Volpe, Andy Carosella, Tom Lord, Margaret Sensue, Attorney Kansler, Janet Schork and Erika Horvat.

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

**An Executive Session was held tonight, December 19, 2018 at 6:30pm to discuss legal matters.**

**Report from Roadmaster, Joe Kerber**

The crew has been out four days patching roads. We were out two days salting roads. We have McCune Drive open from all the flooding. We took two days to replace and repair signs throughout the township. The slide on Scott Haven Road has been repaired. Storm pipe and catch boxes were replaced on Third Street. Trimmed trees on Freeman and Rodebaugh Road. We are currently working on Slaughter Hollow Road repairing the slide. We are hoping to have it opened by the end of this week.

**Report from Ordinance Officer, Pat Schmidt**

For this month I have been working on Demo Fund applications. Submitted were ones for 105 Madison Ave., 107 Madison Ave., 312 Madison Ave., all are vacant properties. Some of the other remaining vacant properties throughout the Township have been sold off under current new ownership and so far they are taking amends to bring the properties up to code. I have been working on the parked cars throughout the township that the snow plows have a hard time getting around. It has come to my attention that Waste Management has stopped picking up some garbage in the township. I called and found that some accounts are not registered or extremely delinquent. I asked for a list and found 492 homes that have a delinquent balance. The total delinquent amount is \$125,123.33. Out of the 492 accounts, 252 have never registered service with Waste Management. I have been identifying and sending letters and trying to get some type of positive response. Today there were 27 who responded and started to correct the issues or got on a payment plan. The only thing I would like to remind everyone, if you are a land lord you have a responsibility to make sure utilities and garbage is being paid. Allot of the people I have contacted have rental properties. If your places are vacant, you can call Waste Management to make sure you don't get billed if they are not picking up. Margaret Sensue stated that she has left messages about the sheep and goat in the road on Herminie Wendel Road. I also called the state police because they could cause a vehicle accident. Pat stated that he had contacted the Humane Society. Unfortunately this is something I have a hard time taking care of. I can't go get a cow in the middle of the road. We don't have anything that promotes me to go out and take the species. I have contacted the owners several times. Mr. Merdian stated that the animals are located in Hempfield Township. Attorney Kansler stated that we have been there and the property line shows that the animals are located in Hempfield Township. I have communicated to Hempfield with our concerns. The PA state code addresses this issue and this is for the constable to be notified. They are to take the animal and if the owner does not come to claim the animal it can be sold. Pat stated the issue is it is hard to just manage these animals when they get loose. They are fairly large farm animals. I have turned this over to the Humane Society also and they are very aware of who the owners of these animals are. Daryl Dermotta asked a question regarding the garbage pickup in the township. He wanted to state that it is unfair that there are so many delinquent accounts and those who pay for their garbage are the ones that pay for it. The Board of Supervisors stated that they do stop picking up the garbage after so long. The conversation continued on about having to change the policies regarding garbage pickup and how in the contract it needs to state that we can take delinquent property owners to the magistrate. The Board of Supervisors stated that we are going to go after the folks who have not paid their bills. Mr. Seanor asked why our garbage bill went up. The Board stated that we put out the garbage service for public bid and Waste Management was the lowest bid, with Advanced Disposal coming in second at around \$72.00.

**Report from Recreation Director, Janet Schork**

Recreation Center: Everything is running smoothly at the recreation center. However, rental slots are still available. I'm hoping the open slots will begin to fill in January.

Upcoming Activities: The Jump Start Dek Hockey and Soccer programs start on Saturday, January 5 from 9:30am-2pm. The program is for youth ages 4-10. The fee is \$70 and includes a t-shirt. I have received the discounted Ski Lift Tickets for 7 Springs and Hidden Valley. They will be available at my office on Monday, Wednesday, and Fridays from 10am-4p. Tickets for our 1<sup>st</sup> annual Snowball Father/Daughter Dinner Dance will be on sale on Saturday, January 12, from 11am-1p at the Sewickley Township Municipal Building. Free, open gym for walkers is on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday afternoons from 12:30p-3:30p. Due to the holiday, open gym resumes on Thursday, January 3. We are opening the gym for youth basketball every other Saturday afternoon from 2:30p-4:00p starting on January 12 and running through April. The only exception will be in February. Open gym will be on February 9 and February 16. The full schedule will be available on Friday on the website.

## **Report from Skip Wees, Emergency Management Director**

We have been working with our grant consultant regarding two grants we are going to try for. One is for a drone and the other for an early weather alert system. So far there isn't anything available. We will be the first to look into trying to obtain a grant for these items. After the flood we lost a lot of our equipment. What happened was, when the items were set up, the water came up so fast that it washed away the barricades. What we would like to do is purchase new barricades for each fire department. We lost three fourths of our equipment. We had barricades up in Yukon and they were found in Lowber. Joe got one out of the creek in Lowber for us. What I would like to do is buy four sets of barricades and some road closed signs for each fire department. We are up to nine people on our staff. Tracy Hampshire came on board with us recently. We would like to get about six more people. Skip asked what the status of the MSATS buildings is. Mr. Merdian stated that the township has not taken over the building yet. Skip stated that for the EMA office to become an official Emergency Operations Center, we need to have security cameras. We would like to get permission to get the rest of the cameras up. This is also good for Linda because she would have a monitor to watch. Mr. Merdian stated he will look into getting permission for those.

Mark Petros made a motion, seconded by Brian Merdian to approve the minutes of the Sewickley Township Board of Supervisors Regular Meeting held on November 21, 2018. Voting: Mr. Kerber, Mr. Merdian, Mr. Petros; yes. Motion carried unanimously.

## **Public Comment**

Jim Harvey would like to know if there is any progress on the Quality of Life Ordinance. The Board stated that there has been none over the last four weeks.

Bill Lazar has a few questions on the Ordinances that will be passed tonight. Attorney Kansler stated the County Industrial Park funded the plan preparation and study work and purchased the land. They are going to be investing a substantial amount of money and also had to obtain grants and bonds for this project. In order to pay back some of the money they are going to be spending, they suggested a TIF and what the TIF plan does is allows them to receive the increases in taxes that come in above what the base level is now, 70% of the taxes will go back to the Industrial Development Authority and pay down the debt. It is going to be for a period of eight years. The extra 30% of additional will go to the taxing bodies, School, County and Township. Once the debt is paid off then the entire increased taxes will start to go to the taxing authorities. Mr. Lazar stated that there are other industrial parks in the area and if people think that they are going to come to this industrial park instead of the others, they are fooling themselves. The Board of Supervisors and Attorney Kansler went on to explain the infrastructure changes that is going to make this Industrial Park very appealing to businesses. There is going to be a roundabout put in and there is also a rail road access that comes under 70 and goes right up to the buildable parcels. The County is fronting the money on all this, not the township. Mr. Lazar asked what the fire protection Ordinance is. He stated it seems that the Township wants to take a portion of the insurance money and put it into an escrow account and the township is going to be managing it to make sure the burned property is taken care of properly. Attorney Kansler stated the reason for the Ordinance is if there is a burned out property, a portion of the funds are held in escrow as security to make sure the property owner demolishes the property and pays off the outstanding debt. Once the property owner does that, then the money is released to the property owner. The only way we would need to use that money is if the property owner, over a period of time, did nothing to clean up the fire destroyed property, we could use those funds to demolish the building and any unused funds will then be returned back to the property owners. Attorney Kansler went on to explain this applies to structures that have major fire damage. This does not apply to a small kitchen fire. We just want to make sure the insurance money is spent on demolishing the structure. What is happening is people are taking the insurance money and running and leaving us with an eyesore. We just want to make sure this doesn't happen anymore. Attorney Kansler went on to explain that this is a popular ordinance in surrounding townships and boroughs and PSATS strongly supports this ordinance. Mr. Lazar asked if there is money in the budget for paving in Hutchinson. Mr. Kerber stated that there is not. Mr. Lazar asked where the money is that is left over from the sewage project. Mr. Merdian stated that the project is not yet closed out and we are waiting to see what we are getting back in terms of the application to the state for the stormwater improvements and then we will know how to close out the project accordingly. There are still open issues there right now. The grant from PA Greenways is still an option there also. Mr. Lazar asked how much money is left from that project. Mr. Merdian stated he is not sure due to all the changes, additions and deletions to the project. Mr. Merdian stated that the Hutchinson project is still bonded. Mr. Lazar asked who do we direct any complaints to. Mr. Merdian stated that all complaints are to be directed to MAWC.

Susan Hitchins Caroleo lives on Skyview Drive. She stated that during the snow we had a couple weeks ago she couldn't get out for a couple of days because of the ice on the hill. The township has been maintaining that road since we moved in. A couple of years ago I talked to Mr. Kerber and he stated to me that it is a private road and the township cannot plow or salt or go onto the road. Mr. Kerber stated that it is a private road and the other residents that live on the private road stated that they do not want me to plow or salt it. They told the township to stay off of it, so we need to stay off of it. Attorney Kansler stated that we cannot go onto private property. What you have is a community driveway and we cannot go onto it if we were asked not to, that would be trespassing.

John Seanor asked why at the last meeting Mr. Kerber asked him what he is so worried about, that you live on a state road. Mr. Seanor wanted to know what Mr. Kerber meant by that. Mr. Kerber replied that it seemed that that you are concerned about a road that you don't really use that much. Mr. Seanor said he owns property off that road.

Alan Fossi would like to address the Reorganization meeting. He stated that Mr. Kerber has been a Supervisor for 11 years, you are also the Roadmaster, you are also the Chairman of the Board and your wife serves on the Zoning Board, your Sister serves on the Planning Commission and your Son serves on the Sewage Board. I would hope for at least a new Chairman for next year. Mr. Kerber stated that it has already been discussed and I will not be Chairman of the Board next year.

Andy Carosella brought up the mess he has in front of his house due to the water issues that are not his. Now I have a pile of waste in front of my house and nobody is doing anything about it. When my garage burnt down we received a letter from the Board of Supervisors saying that we had a certain amount of time to clean up the property or we were going to start to pay a fine. Why can't you send the owners of all the waste in front of my house a letter like this? Giving them certain amount of time to get this cleaned up. Mr. Kerber stated that the Fish and Game and the DEP is now involved with this situation down there. They will be the ones to dictate the time frame of the situation. Mr. Kerber stated that the property owner who is responsible for this did pay the township for all the expenses from the emergency situation that happened there.

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:

Bear Com – monthly maintenance on portable radios	\$ 92.00
WordPress – webpage	\$ 96.00
Rain Wise – weather station	\$ 1,059.00
Amazon – wireless adaptor	\$ 39.97
Comcast – monthly phone, internet	\$ 184.24
Premier Safety - barricades	<u>\$ 1,132.80</u>
	<b>\$ 2,604.01</b>

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 Herminie Volunteer Fire Company as follows:

Southeastern Emergency Equipment – battery	\$ 278.60
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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 Rillton Volunteer Fire Company as follows:

Schulte's – inspection, maintenance on tanker	\$ 2,060.56
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Voting: Mr. Kerber, Mr. Merdian, Mr. Petros; yes. Motion carried unanimously.

Mark Petros made a motion, seconded by Brian Merdian to approve the Commerce Crossing sub-division. The items in question from the Planning Commission meeting in November were all addressed. The plan was approved 4-0.

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

Mark Petros made a motion, seconded by Brian Merdian to approve Ordinance No. 8-2018 adopting the general fund budget for the Township of Sewickley for the fiscal year 2019. Voting: Mr. Kerber, Mr. Merdian, Mr. Petros; yes. Motion carried unanimously.

Brian Merdian made a motion, seconded by Mark Petros to approve Ordinance No. 9-2018 authorizing participation in the Waltz Mill Redevelopment Tax Increment Financing Plan. Voting: Mr. Kerber, Mr. Merdian, Mr. Petros; yes. Motion carried unanimously.

Brian Merdian made a motion, seconded by Mark Petros to approve Ordinance No. 10-2018 removing exemptions from real property tax, earned income tax, net profits tax, mercantile and business privilege tax within a specific geographic area designated as the Westinghouse Strategic Development Area. Voting: Mr. Kerber, Mr. Merdian, Mr. Petros; yes. Motion carried unanimously.

Mark Petros made a motion, seconded by Brian Merdian to approve Ordinance No. 11-2018 amending the Municipal Pension Plan administered by the Pennsylvania Municipal Retirement System. Voting: Mr. Kerber, Mr. Merdian, Mr. Petros; yes. Motion carried unanimously.

Mark Petros made a motion, seconded by Brian Merdian to approve Ordinance No. 12-2018 providing that in certain fire losses the insurance company, association or exchange shall transfer insurance proceeds to a designated officer of the Township of Sewickley as a portion of the insurance proceeds to be held as security against the total cost of removing, repairing, or securing the damaged building, providing for fees, providing for penalties for violation and setting forth procedures and requirements retaining to such insurance proceeds and to the implementation of said legislation in the township. Voting: Mr. Kerber, Mr. Merdian, Mr. Petros; yes. Motion carried unanimously.

Brian Merdian made a motion, seconded by Mark Petros to approve Resolution No. 31-2018 appointing Horner, Wible & Terek to make an examination of all the accounts of the township for fiscal year 2018. Voting: Mr. Kerber, Mr. Merdian, Mr. Petros; yes. Motion carried unanimously.

Brian Merdian made a motion, seconded by Mark Petros to use Act 13 funds in the amount of \$ 19,302.33 for 292.77 tons of road salt. Voting: Mr. Kerber, Mr. Merdian, Mr. Petros; yes. Motion carried unanimously.

Mark Petros made a motion, seconded by Brian Meridan to advertise the reorganization meeting for the Board of Supervisors to be held on Monday, January 7, 2019 at 7:00pm located at the Sewickley Township Municipal Building. Voting: Mr. Kerber, Mr. Merdian, Mr. Petros; yes. Motion carried unanimously.

Mark Petros made a motion, seconded by Brian Merdian to advertise the Board of Supervisors regular monthly meeting to be held on Monday, January 7, 2019 following the reorganization meeting. Voting: Mr. Kerber, Mr. Merdian, Mr. Petros; yes. Motion carried unanimously.

Mark Petros made a motion, seconded by Brian Meridan to establish the regular monthly meeting location for the Sewickley Township Board of Supervisors at the Sewickley Township Municipal Building, 2288 Mars Hill Road, Irwin PA 15642. The dates on which the Board of Supervisors shall meet will be the third Wednesday of each month at 7:00pm and to advertise the same in the Tribune Review in accordance with the Sunshine Law. Voting: Mr. Kerber, Mr. Merdian, Mr. Petros; yes. Motion carried unanimously.

Brian Merdian made a motion, seconded by Mark Petros to approve Resolution No. 32-2018 entering into a contract with Hoffman's Boarding Kennels through December 31, 2019 at the rate \$170.00 per month for twelve (12) months paid by the Township. Overtime calls will be charged at the rate of \$85.00 per call. Voting: Mr. Kerber, Mr. Merdian, Mr. Petros; yes. Motion carried unanimously.

Mark Petros made a motion, seconded by Brian Merdian to hire James Fidei as an Equipment Operator at the rate of \$19.32 per hour for a 90-day probationary term. His starting date will be determined after February 1, 2019. Voting: Mr. Kerber, Mr. Merdian, Mr. Petros; yes. Motion carried unanimously.

Mark Petros made a motion, seconded by Brian Merdian to hire Matthew Sosko as a Mechanic for the Township of Sewickley at the rate of \$19.92 per hour for a 90-day probationary term. His starting date will be January 2, 2019. Voting: Mr. Kerber, Mr. Merdian, Mr. Petros; yes. Motion carried unanimously.

Brian Merdian made a motion, seconded by Mark Petros to allow the Recreation Director and the Recreation Committee use of the Sewickley Township Municipal Conference Room on Saturday, January 12 from 11am-1pm to sell Father/Daughter Dinner Dance Tickets. 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 9947 to 9956 - \$ 3,398.97 (11/28/18)	ACH Payments: First Energy - \$ 419.64 (11/26/18)
Check 9957 - \$ 101.75 (12/4/18)	First Energy - \$ 8.20 (11/27/18)
Checks 9958 to 9973 - \$ 11,167.28 (12/6/18)	S & T Loan - \$ 5,252.37 (12/7/18)
Checks 9974 to 10004 - \$ 23,535.48 (12/13/18)	Columbia Gas - \$ 159.91 (12/4/18)
Checks 10005 to 10019 - \$ 57,265.47 (12/19/18)	
Check 2015 - \$ 9,000.00 (11/27/18)	

**Crabapple:**

Checks 4637 - \$ 42.00 (11/28/18)  
 Checks 4638 to 4640 - \$ 214.72 (12/13/18)

ACH Payments: First Energy - \$ 54.42 (11/26/18)  
 First Energy - \$ 24.21 (11/24/18)  
 First Energy - \$ 107.83 (12/10/18)

**Recreation:**

Checks 2783 to 2785 - \$ 281.42 (11/28/18)  
 Check 2786 - \$ 169.58 (12/6/18)  
 Check 2787 to 2788 - \$ 202.08 (12/13/18)  
 Checks 2789 to 2790 - \$ 206.26 (12/19/18)

ACH Payments: MAWC - \$ 92.91 (11/13/18)  
 First Energy - \$ 350.69 (11/26/18)  
 Columbia Gas - \$ 243.74 (12/4/18)

**Payroll Invoices:**

Check 5708 to 5709 - \$ 2,774.29 (11/27/18)  
 Check 5719 - \$ 328.57 (12/13/18)

ACH Payments: Payroll Liabilities \$ 2,275.16 (11/23/18)  
 Payroll Liabilities \$ 2,049.42 (11/30/18)  
 Payroll Liabilities \$ 3,537.60 (12/7/18)  
 Payroll Liabilities \$ 2,475.54 (12/14/18)  
 Payroll Liabilities \$ 794.51 (12/14/18)

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: 11/30/18 - \$ 8,661.00  
 12/7/18 - \$ 14,005.96  
 12/14/18 - \$ 10,757.24  
 12/21/18 - \$ 8,290.79

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

**New / Old Business**

The Township Office will be closed on Tuesday, December 25, 2018 and Tuesday, January 1, 2019.

The Township Office will close at Noon on Monday, December 24, 2018 and Monday December 31, 2018.

January's regular monthly meeting of the Board of Supervisors will be held following the Reorganization meeting on Monday, January 7, 2019. There will not be a meeting on January 19, 2019.

**We would like to wish everyone a Happy, Healthy Holiday Season!**

With no further business to come before the Board, Mark Petros made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Brian Meridan.

Voting: Mr. Kerber, Mr. Merdian, Mr. Petros; yes. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 7:51pm.

Erika Horvat  
 Secretary/Treasurer