

Chairman, Mark Petros, on Wednesday, October 16, 2019, 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 Friday, December 28, 2018. The members of the Board of Supervisors present were Mark Petros, Brian Merdian, and Joseph Kerber. Also attending the meeting were Daryl Demotta, Millie Blانش, Bob MacPherson, Geno Kerti, Chuck Schropp, Erika Horvat, Carol Farmer, Maureen Williams, Sandy Dull, Ken Collins, Rick Critchfield, Linda Harvey, Mary Ann Stevens, Carol Hevia, Bill Luzar, Ann McWilliams, Cindie DeJesus, Carol Totaro, Matt Geis, John Seanor, Alan Fossi, Bob Janzef, Judy Janzef, Linda Pihonsky, Marianne Everett, Jill Petros, Marcie Suggars, Tom Lord, Linda Knor, Clarence Ruddon, Karen Ruddon, Margaret Sensue, Paul Zontek, Randy Landman, Kathie Simpson, Solicitor Kansler, and Susan Leukhardt.

Mark Petros led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Executive Sessions were held on October 4, 2019 at 8:30am, October 7, 2019 at 10:00am, October 15, 2019 at 7:15pm, and October 16, 2019 at 6:15pm to discuss personnel and litigation matters.

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

We were out with the mowing tractor for four (4) days this month. We had one (1) day out repairing signs and three (3) days out patching roads. Replaced the storm pipe and catch box on Wineland Drive. Trimmed trees on Shaner and Volk Roads and took trees down that fell over. Paving on Curry Road and Chopp Street is complete. The storm pipe, catch box, and paving is finished on Korpar Lane. On October 8, 2019, we received a check from Sunoco for Hildebrand Road, Apples Mill Road, Kalamazoo Road, and Angelcyk Road. The amount was \$185,880.00 to pay for the materials that we need. To date, the Township, this does not include Dick Station Road or Creek Road which were State Turnback Roads, we have put 10,888 tons of asphalt material. A question was asked if that road work was completed by Township employees? Mr. Kerber responded that it was all done by the Township Road Crew. Dick Station and Creek Road were bid out because it was a Turnback Road by the State. The State gave us money to do it. But the 10,888 tons were done all in-house. The only thing we did was hire a couple of trucks to help on Curry Road due to Lehigh Hanson being broken down. In Hutchinson, we started to put some storm pipe in. There is equipment in Hutchinson and on Hildenbrand Road. We started pulling the sides of the road today on Hildenbrand Road.

### **Report from Ordinance Officer, Joe Poscatko**

From September 19, 2019, to October 16, 2019: 30 violations are open with 2 being rectified with the owners complying with the Ordinance. Negotiating two violations by working with the owners. Eight violations have ignored him completely and will be entering the enforcement phase and eighteen will be expiring and can begin the enforcement phase.

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

#### **Crabapple Pool:**

Now that the baseball season has concluded, we can turn off the water for the park, pool, and baseball fields. Then winterizing can be completed over the next week or two. The last day that Crabapple Park will be open to vehicular traffic is October 31, 2019. However, the park is open year-round for fishing, to walkers, runners, and pets (on leash) from 8:00am to dusk. We ask that cars do not block park gates in case of an emergency. Parking is available at the ball-field lot across from H.W. Good Elementary School.

#### **Recreation Center:**

The Recreation Center is now open and rental spots are filling quickly. All weekday evenings are filled as well as our returning morning senior groups. Starting November 1, 2019, free, open gym is offered to the public on Monday and Wednesday afternoons from 12:30pm to 3:30pm.

**Fitness Classes:**

Reminder that we offer P90X, Yoga, High Intensity interval and strength training classes at the Recreation Center. Full schedule is available on the Township website.

**Jump Start Sports Camps:**

Our Jump Start Sports Basketball program for pre-K up to 2<sup>nd</sup> grade starts on Saturday, November 2, 2019.

Brian Merdian made a motion, seconded by Joe Kerber, to approve the minutes of the Sewickley Township Board of Supervisors Meetings held on August 21, 2019, and September 18, 2019. Voting: Mr. Kerber, Mr. Petros, Mr Merdian; yes. Motion carried unanimously.

**Public Comment**

Geno Kerti stated he noticed work has been started on Hildenbrand Road. What is going to be done with the Carnegie side of that road where it hasn't been paved for many years? Mr. Kerber responded that it will be done all the way to Carnegie. Mr. Kerti asked if the old road will be ground up and new base put down? Mr. Kerber stated that grinding it up will not be done, new base material will be done and then overlay with a top coat. Mr. Kerti stated there's a drain about 100 feet down from his driveway that was skipped over because the grass hides it and it was paved over because the pipe is not long enough. Mr. Kerber asked Mr. Kerti to mark it so we can find it and fix it before the road is paved. Mr. Kerti then asked what it takes to get a catch basin installed? Mr. Kerber stated there has to be a natural waterway to divert the water to. It cannot be diverted on to another person's property. If he can get a catch box in, he will do it.

Maureen Williams stated she lives in Sewickley Township and is here representing the 2020 Census Bureau. I'm here to tell you that the Census Bureau is hiring in our area specifically. They are temporary part-time jobs with a minimum start rate of \$16.00 per hour with flexible hours. It's very important that we get a complete count in our community because all that money funnels back into our libraries, schools, and liquid fuels. The job is not necessarily going door to door knocking. This is the first time that you can do your census on-line. They need IT people, people to answer the phones, and they train you. The job is ideal, especially for college students. Colleges in the area, such as Saint Vincent and Seton Hill, are giving kids college credit and being paid internship depending on their major. Apply now because they're hiring thousands of people and it takes a couple months to get hired. The duration of the job is from now to possibly being finished by August, 2020. Also, if anyone that you know that gets State benefits, it will not affect their benefits such as food stamps or medical assistance. If you are on disability, you will have to check with your caseworker since that's a little different. Ms. Williams stated that this is one way the government is trying to help people get back on their feet.

Mary Ann Stevens thanked the Supervisors taking the time to drive out to Wineberry Ridge. We know that you're taking our concerns seriously. Ms. Stevens stated she still has a concern about the road and asked what is the status of the road? Mr. Kerber stated it's moving forward and it's moving forward at a snail's pace though and the bond is in effect. Ms. Stevens asked if she filed a right-to-know, would there be a current bond on file that she would get a copy. Ms. Stevens asked why does a maintenance bond need to be in place? Attorney Kansler stated first, the performance bond can't be released until the road is formally accepted into Township Road System. They issue those statements that have a duration on them, but the duration is ineffective. They are in effect until they have been formally released. It might say on the bond 2016 hyphen 2017, but that end date means nothing. Second, I do have correspondence from the Surety that the bond is in effect. Third, they delivered a maintenance bond when the wearing course was installed, however the maintenance bond was not accepted by the municipality because we did not accept the roadway into the system. The roadway won't be accepted into the system until appropriate drawings are submitted by the developer and an inspection is done by the consulting engineer and we deem it acceptable. I can tell you that we are in the process of working with the Conservation District. We are in the process of working with the Surety. We are in the process of working with the Engineer. Solicitor Kansler stated he can't really get into specifics at this point due to pending litigation. Ms. Stevens stated she has also been in contact with the Conservation District. Ms. Stevens asked Brian Merdian about his past statement that Mr. Serakowski had 45 days to complete the road or the Township was going to pull

the bond. How many chances does he get? Mr. Merdian stated his chances are up and we are now getting into a new stage with Mr. Serakowski. We cannot discuss pending litigation.

A resident then stated so it's safe to assume that that with the asphalt season coming to a close probably nothing will be done on the road in the next month or two? Joe Kerber stated that would be a good assumption. Ms. Steven's concern is regarding all the water that runs down the center and doesn't go into any catch basins and will turn to ice. Mr. Kerber stated that he was talking with the engineer about trying to either mill a path for the water to go into, but we want to make sure that we're all on the same boat with the bonding agency so we don't get ourselves in hot water for going out there and milling a path to the catch basin. Ms. Steven's asked about the status of placement of the guiderails by the bridge. Mr. Merdian stated deficient work that the bonding company is aware of right now would be part of any claim that we would go after with them and that would include the guiderails. Regarding snow removal, Mr. Serakowski could pay the Township to do it.

Bill Luzar asked what the status of the street lights are at the Hutchinson Firehall. The Supervisors did not know the status and would look into it. Mr. Luzar asked if there was any information of when the sewage will be signed over to MAWC. Mr. Merdian stated it is a pending litigating matter and are unable to give additional information. Mr. Luzar asked if the Board looked at the budget for next year yet for a tax increase. Mr. Merdian stated there is no tax increase coming for 2020. Mr. Luzar asked how the Township splits up the royalties and money that comes from the gas wells in the future that are underneath Township property, schools, football fields, etc. Where does that money go, how does it get spread out? Mr. Kerber stated that anything that goes under the Park and Pool go to the Park and Pool. Mr. Luzar asked about the school's royalty money? Mr. Kerber stated that that is up to the School Board how the money is used. Mr. Luzar asked how the Township's pension is paid. Mr. Merdian stated that the employees have to pay it from their paycheck each week. Mr. Luzar asked about the Roadmaster's position for next year. He stated that one of the candidates running for Supervisor wants to eliminate the Roadmaster's position next year. Mr. Kerber stated that if the Supervisor is not running the Road Crew, it's not a Roadmaster position. It would be a Public Works Director and that position is not allowed to work with the Union. They can not get in equipment or trucks so you eventually lose another employee. Mr. Luzar stated that the Township will have to hire someone to take Mr. Kerber's position plus they're going to hire another employee to run the Road Crew. Linda Harvey stated that there was a Director of Public Works here before. This is nothing new. Mr. Luzar stated the Township won't find a Public Works Director for what you're paying the Supervisor now. Alan Fossi stated that Mr. Volpe's salary was \$50,000 per year. Mr. Kerber added that Mr. Volpe was also given comp time.

Karen Rudden is representing the Herminie United Methodist Church. There are concerns about the building that is next door to the Church and has talked to the Ordinance Officer about this. If it catches on fire, it could very well catch the Church on fire. Mr. Merdian stated that all the properties that have been torn down had already gone through the process of getting all the liens cleaned off of them. Joe Pocsatko stated that 3367 Pike Street is in the enforcement phase currently with the Township. Violation letters were sent to the owner and they tried by cutting some bushes but fell short by far. Mr. Merdian stated that there's a step by step process to get the property condemned and Sandy Dull added that there is an IRS lien on the property. Solicitor Kansler stated that the problem becomes paying for the demolition being that it is so close to another structure. The liens also must be paid or released. The condemnation notice would come from the Township and it would be the property owner's responsibility to demolish it. Mr. Pocsatko stated that a violation order will be filed with District Judge Christner. Residents explained the deplorable conditions of the property. Solicitor Kansler stated if the homeowner does not respond to the violation order, it's a summary offense violation with a fine of up to \$1,000 and we would continue to cite her to get leverage for her to demolish it. The problem is that this house is subject to an IRS lien so getting them to approve the demolition might be an issue. If the Township had the funding for demolition, the Township Engineer could possibly deem it to be in imminent risk. Then the Township can get the Common Pleas Court in Greensburg to confirm the condemnation and ask that the Township be given authority to demolish the structure. But again, the Township cannot demolish a structure that the IRS is using as collateral for their lien. The IRS would have to release their lien on the property before the Township would be able to petition the court to authorize demolition. Mr. Merdian stated that another avenue that Ms. Rudden could possibly take is to continue to work with the Land Bank and the Township can engage them as well.

Brian Merdian made a motion, seconded by Joe Kerber, to disburse 2018 EMS Tax funds on behalf of Lower Volunteer Fire Department as follows:

S & T Bank – mortgage payment	\$ 602.25
Josh's Safety Training – first aid, life support, CPR/AED training	\$ 750.00
Josh's Safety Training – AED battery	\$ 150.00

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

Brian Merdian made a motion, seconded by Joe Kerber, to disburse 2018 EMS Tax funds on behalf of Herminie Volunteer Fire Department as follows:

Palko Truck & Trailer Shop – two (2) invoices for rescue	\$ 1,617.46
Oliver Kiehl – three (3) invoices for fire training	\$ 380.00

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

Brian Merdian made a motion, seconded by Joe Kerber, to disburse 2018 EMS Tax funds on behalf of Sewickley Township Emergency Management as follows:

Bearcom - monthly maintenance on portable radios	\$ 92.00
FNB Commercial Credit Card – training & ema supplies	\$ 574.80
Comcast – monthly office phone & internet	\$ 250.63

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

Joe Kerber made a motion, seconded by Brian Merdian, to table the award of the Solid Waste Garbage Removal Contract. Voting: Mr. Kerber, Mr. Petros, Mr. Merdian; yes. Motion carried unanimously to table.

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

Brian Merdian made a motion, seconded by Joe Kerber, to ratify the acceptance of the Minimum Municipal Obligation for the non-uniformed pension plan in the amount of \$19,664.00 and incorporate the amount into the 2020 General Fund budget as the State Aid Pension payment and the Township payment to the Pennsylvania Municipal Retirement System. Voting: Mr. Kerber, Mr. Petros, Mr. Merdian; yes. Motion carried unanimously.

Brian Merdian made a motion, seconded by Joe Kerber, to ratify Janet Schork to work over her allotted hours on the payroll date of September 27, 2019. Voting: Mr. Kerber, Mr. Petros, Mr. Merdian; yes. Motion carried unanimously.

Brian Merdian made a motion, seconded by Joe Kerber, to accept the Halloween Activities as follows:

Saturday, October 26, 2019  
 12:30pm – Parade line up at VFW & Church Street  
 1:00pm – Parade begins  
 3:00pm to 6:00pm – Trick or Treating

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

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

Lehigh Hanson – asphalt for Pinewood Road	\$ 3,749.14
Lehigh Hanson – asphalt for Pike Street Alley	\$ 10,956.96

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

Brian Merdian made a motion, seconded by Joe Kerber, to approve the following bills for payment:

**General Fund:**

Checks 10604 to 10623 - \$ 93,465.42 (9/20/19)  
 Checks 10624 to 10631 - \$ 1,983.49 (9/25/19)  
 Checks 10632 to 10635 - \$ 30,734.80 (9/27/19)  
 Checks 10636 to 10653 - \$ 15,997.57 (10/3/19)  
 Checks 10654 to 10684 - \$ 283,272.06 (10/15/19)

ACH Payments: First Energy - \$ 315.20 (9/27/19)  
 First Energy - \$ 174.77 (9/27/19)  
 First Energy - \$ 102.02 (9/27/19)  
 First Energy - \$ 8.25 (9/27/19)  
 S & T Loan - \$ 2,487.28 (9/30/19)  
 Columbia Gas - \$ 26.06 (10/3/19)  
 MAWC - \$ 62.79 (10/10/19)

**Crabapple:**

Checks 4758 to 4761 - \$ 318.52 (9/20/19)  
 Check 4762 - \$ 95.98 (10/3/19)  
 Check 4763 to 4764 - \$ 1,362.33 (10/15/19)

ACH Payments: First Energy - \$ 349.14 (9/27/19)  
 First Energy - \$ 34.25 (9/27/19)  
 First Energy - \$ 134.28 (10/10/19)  
 First Energy - \$ 110.31 (10/10/19)

**Payroll Invoices:**

Checks 6204 to 6206 - \$ 3,120.71 (10/1/19)  
 Check 6218 - \$ 440.22 (10/15/19)

ACH Payments: Payroll Liabilities - \$ 3,110.24 (9/20/19)  
 Payroll Liabilities - \$ 711.21 (9/20/19)  
 Payroll Liabilities - \$ 3,285.32 (9/27/19)  
 Payroll Liabilities - \$ 3,153.36 (10/4/19)  
 Payroll Liabilities - \$ 749.57 (10/7/19)  
 Payroll Liabilities - \$3,451.84 (10/11/19)

**Recreation:**

Check 2833 - \$ 167.67 (9/20/19)  
 Checks 2834 to 2835 - \$ 183.38 (10/3/19)  
 Checks 2836 to 2837 - \$ 375.00 (10/15/19)

ACH Payments: MAWC - \$ 123.90 (9/19/19)  
 MAWC - \$ 39.55 (9/19/19)  
 First Energy - \$ 366.59 (9/27/19)  
 First Energy - \$ 17.28 (9/27/19)  
 First Energy - \$ 13.74 (9/27/19)  
 Columbia Gas - \$ 34.42 (10/3/19)

**Street Light / Fire Hydrant:**

ACH Payments: First Energy - \$ 2,415.56 (10/4/19)  
 First Energy - \$ 660.95 (10/4/19)  
 First Energy - \$ 415.68 (10/4/19)  
 MAWC - \$ 2,763.50 (10/15/19)

**Turnback:** Check 1037 - \$ 329,000.00 (9/20/19)

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

Brian Merdian made a motion, seconded by Joe Kerber, to approve the following payrolls for payment:

<b>Employees Payroll:</b>	(twp)	9/27/19 - \$ 13,403.97
	(twp)	10/4/19 - \$ 12,898.30
	(twp)	10/11/19 - \$ 14,950.90
	(twp)	10/18/19 - \$ 10,818.95

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

**No New / Old Business**

With no further business to come before the Board, Brian Merdian made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Joe Kerber. Voting: Mr. Kerber, Mr. Petros, Mr. Merdian; yes. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 7:50pm.

Susan D. Leukhardt  
 Secretary-Treasurer