

Chairman, Mark Petros, on Wednesday, June 17, 2020 at 7:00pm, called the Regular Meeting of the Sewickley Township Board of Supervisors to order as advertised in the Tribune Review on Friday, December 27, 2019. The members of the Board of Supervisors present were Mark Petros, Brian Merdian, and Linda Harvey. Also attending the meeting were Marci Suggars, John Seanor, Sandy Dull, Jim Harvey, Linda Pihonsky, Carol Hevia, Alan Fossi, Rodger Holsing, Janet Schork, Tom Mignogna, Solicitor Mark Hamilton, and Susan Leukhardt.

Mark Petros led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Executive Sessions were held on June 8, 2020 at 9:00am and June 17, 2020 at 6:00pm to discuss legal matters.

Report from Public Works Director, Tom Mignogna

We are still sanitizing the office and shop daily. This month's Safety Meeting talk and video on Traffic Control Safety. There were sixty-one (61) PA One Call requests to locate our storm water drains. We reclaimed over forty (40) guide rail ribbon and forty-two (42) posts from the Waltz Mill Industrial Park Project. The mowing tractor has been out almost every day. We do signage as needed. We have been out patching potholes weekly. We replaced the storm water cross pipe on Evanstown Road and cleaned the ditch and lined it with rock. We replaced the storm water cross pipe and installed a new catch basin on Chestnut Street in Rillton. For the past two (2) weeks, we have been out pulling ditches. We paved the roadway going into and exiting Crabapple Lake where the inlet pipe was replaced. We took down a tree at Bruno Field to make way for the school zone lights. We fixed the men's room door on the restroom at the ballfields. We repaired the fence at Bruno Field. In the Shop, we had Truck #2 and Truck #14 gone over for inspection. The Lowboy Trailer is being reworked for inspection. The plow for Truck #10 has been torn down and repaired in addition to all the routine maintenance.

Report from Recreation Director, Janet Schork

- Due to the continuing restrictions placed on us by the CDC and the PA Department of Health as well as the financial burden necessary for COVID-19 compliance, Crabapple Pool will remain closed this summer. Our pool is a licensed facility that must follow PA Department of Health guidelines. As much as this disappoints us, we simply do not have the staffing and resources to enforce social distancing and cleaning measures required as part of the reopening plan.
- We have, however, opened the playgrounds. Again, following the guidelines, we have placed required signage at each of our three playgrounds. Weeding and mulching Hutchinson and Crabapple Playgrounds will be completed this week or early next week. Lower Playground weeding will be completed next week.
- Also open, but with restrictions, are the athletic fields, Crabapple Park and Pavilion rentals.
- Finally, we are aware of the condition of the grass at Crabapple Park. We are working with our solicitor to rectify this situation.

Report from the Treasurer, Susan Leukhardt – May, 2020

Account	Beginning Balance	Deposits	Payments	Ending Balance
FNB General Fund	\$ 68,707.03	\$ 254,083.55	\$ 170,104.82	\$ 152,685.76
PLGIT General Fund	\$ 105,373.96	\$ 114,962.68	-0-	\$ 220,336.64
FNB Reserve Account	\$ 47,935.08	\$ 104,079.42	-0-	\$ 152,014.50

Linda Harvey made a motion, seconded by Mark Petros, to approve the minutes of the Sewickley Township Board of Supervisors Regular Meeting held on May 20, 2020. Voting: Mrs. Harvey, Mr. Petros, Mr. Merdian; yes. Motion carried unanimously.

Public Comment

Marci Suggars of the Sewickley Township Public Library inquired about the status of the feasibility study that's being done on the FNB building. Mr. Petros stated that Mike Stack went out and looked at it. Mr. Petros also contacted the architect and he went and looked at it Monday. He has some questions as far as the square footage. He also wanted to know about the occupancy. How many people do you have in there at one time? This would have to do with the restrooms, the multi levels, and being handicap accessible. Mrs. Suggars asked about parking spaces. Mr. Petros stated that there are twenty-nine spaces maybe? How many cars do you normally have? Mrs. Suggars stated that it depends on what is going on. If we have a big program, it will fill up and we currently have maybe forty-five (45) spots. Mrs. Schork stated that they are also sharing the parking with Recreation.

Linda Pihonsky of Wineberry Ridge read a statement written by Jay Stevens.

In April of 2015, Sewickley Township signed a Developers Agreement with Bell Rock Development on the Wineberry Ridge plan. In that agreement, it lists 24 criteria that needed to be followed with one of the criteria being the construction of the road within 12 months. It is now 5 years later and we have no completed road along with many other items that are still not addressed.

In July of 2017, residents of Wineberry Ridge addressed the Township Supervisors on the problems within the development as it pertained to the agreement. The residents have appeared before the Supervisors on numerous other occasions as well. There has been progress made, but there is still much more that the developer needs to complete as per the Agreement.

As it stands now, there has been little oversight on the conduct of the developer by the Township. The road, along with other numerous items listed in the final construction plans, still need to be completed as per the agreement and numerous violations still need to be addressed by the Conservation District and the Township.

We have repeatedly turned to the Township for help and here we stand no further along than 3 years ago. When work was actually done on the road, the base coat deteriorated in less than 6 months and the wearing course needs to be resurfaced. How this happened when there was constant supervision has yet to be explained.

The residents have an incomplete and dangerous road, yards that cannot be enjoyed, and legitimate concerns that the development will ever be completed to the specifications in the agreement by Mr. Serakowski with the Township.

I understand that there are processes that need to be followed, but is a year time frame truly acceptable for just one of the problems to be addressed? We still have no assurance from the Township that any of the other items will be completed as per the agreement. If you were a resident, would you be satisfied with the efforts that have been put forth so far or would your faith and patience be taxed as are ours?

In just the past six months, residents have paid upwards of \$50,000 in repairs for negligent work done by Mr. Serakowski. We have taken it upon ourselves to improve our community and are looking to Sewickley to do the same and compel Mr. Serakowski to finish the plan as per the signed Developers Agreement. The residents did not sign the developer's agreement for this is between the Township and the developer. After paying taxes for years along with paying for snow removal, what exactly has the Township done to hold up the agreement that they signed?

After 3 years of working with various Supervisors on the Board, it is time that something finally gets accomplished. The Conservation District says it's a Township problem, The Township says it's a Conservation District concern. When we sat down in January, there seemed to be legitimate understanding of the problems that still are plaguing the development. But here we sit, 5 months later with no real plan to correct this in place.

I'm not an attorney or have been Supervisor for a Township, but I do know right from wrong and what the residents have been subjected to is wrong.

Jay Stevens



Mark Hamilton, Township Solicitor, stated that essentially the only obligation that the Township has under this developer's agreement is to make sure that before we accept dedication of the road, it is inspected, put into the specs that are required. Once it meets them, we accept dedication that road becomes a public road and then we maintain it as we would any other road in the Township. That is the only responsibility of the Township under this developer's agreement. The Township is not responsible for the many deficiencies that Mr. Stevens has listed. We made our position public at several of these meetings along with speaking with him personally on the phone. The Township has satisfied every duty and every obligation. Regarding the road, we have called in the Performance Bond with approximately \$75,000 held in reserve that came from Surety. We have the assurances in a signed contract with Derry Construction that they're going to bring that road to where it needs to be. We've also accepted the proposal for the guiderail. Derry stated that they were hopeful to pave the end of June, beginning of July. The inspection by Gibson Thomas will then be done so we can fully dedicate that road to the Township. Solicitor Hamilton concluded he can't imagine how frustrating it has been for the residents of Wineberry Ridge. If the Township has done something wrong or ignored an obligation, it's his responsibility to advise us and get it corrected in a manner that is in the best interests of the Township and its residents. That's not the case here. If Mr. Stevens wants to bring litigation, he should do so against the developer. There are no grounds against the Township.

Carol Hevia of Wineberry Ridge asked Mr. Merdian about where we stand with the light at the mailboxes. Mr. Merdian stated that it has now moved to the Engineering Department with West Penn Power/First Energy. Ms. Hevia is hoping that it is installed by fall due to it getting darker earlier then. She then asked for a speed limit sign on their road. Mr. Merdian stated that there is a small study that will need to be done through our Engineer after the Township takes over the road to give it a speed limit. This would not be a problem at all.

Linda Pihonsky asked if they could get the specs of the road that the Township will be working on. We need to know what the Township is responsible for and what the HOA is responsible for. Is the Township responsible for the entire road from Pinewood to the cul de sac? Mr. Merdian stated that it is the entire road, from the stop sign to the cul de sac.

Brian Merdian made a motion, seconded by Mark Petros, to disburse 2019 EMS Tax funds on behalf of Herminie Volunteer Fire Department as follows:

Webb's Service Center – repairs to '93 engine & '08 brush	\$ 2,977.29
(2 invoices)	

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

Mark Petros made a motion, seconded by Brian Merdian, to disburse 2019 EMS Tax funds on behalf of Hutchinson Volunteer Fire Department as follows:

Harris Auto Repair – '10 ford attack state inspection	\$ 35.00
---	----------

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

Brian Merdian made a motion, seconded by Linda Harvey, to disburse 2019 EMS Tax funds on behalf of Sewickley Township Emergency Management as follows:

Bearcom – monthly maintenance on portable radios	\$ 92.00
Comcast – monthly EOC phone & internet	\$ 225.58
PennCare – hand sanitizer	\$ 100.49

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

Linda Harvey made a motion, seconded by Mark Petros, to submit Gibson-Thomas' engineering invoice for the HW Good School Zone Signal Installations in the amount of \$164.00 to be paid by Sewickley Township's ARLE Grant with PennDOT. Voting: Mrs. Harvey, Mr. Petros, Mr. Merdian; yes. Motion carried unanimously.

Mark Petros made a motion, seconded by Brian Merdian, to approve the Luft Driveway Permit for a lot on Highland Avenue in Herminie. This was approved by Gibson Thomas Engineering, the Public Works Director, and the Planning Commission. Voting: Mrs. Harvey, Mr. Petros, Mr. Merdian; yes. Motion carried unanimously.

Linda Harvey made a motion, seconded by Mark Petros, to authorize the renewal of the Township vision insurance through Highmark. The rates are the same as the past benefit period. Voting: Mrs. Harvey, Mr. Petros, Mr. Merdian; yes. Motion carried unanimously.

Linda Harvey made a motion, seconded by Mark Petros, to appoint Jackie Kumpf as the Deputy Right to Know Officer. Voting: Mrs. Harvey, Mr. Petros, Mr. Merdian; yes. Motion carried unanimously.

Linda Harvey made a motion, seconded by Brian Merdian, to advertise for two positions; Road Crew Equipment Operator and Mechanic. Board Comments: Mr. Merdian stated that Mr. Mignogna, our Public Works Director, is asking for flexibility in this motion to include a mechanic job posting as well. Mr. Mignogna stated that we won't have anyone to back up our Mechanic if something should happen to him. Our current backup is looking to retire. Voting: Mrs. Harvey, Mr. Petros, Mr. Merdian; yes. Motion carried unanimously.

Linda Harvey made a motion, seconded by Mark Petros, to ratify the hiring of Rodger Holsing as the part time Ordinance Officer on June 10, 2020. His rate of pay is \$13.00 per hour. Voting: Mrs. Harvey, Mr. Petros, Mr. Merdian; yes. Motion carried unanimously.

Linda Harvey made a motion, seconded by Mark Petros, to rehire Alexander Schork as a part time, seasonal Laborer to work with Recreation / Crabapple. His rate of pay will be \$10.00 per hour. Voting: Mrs. Harvey, Mr. Petros, Mr. Merdian; yes. Motion carried unanimously.

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

Lehigh Hanson – stone stockpile	\$ 2,214.20
---------------------------------	-------------

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

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

General Fund:

Checks 11175 to 11186 - \$ 29,265.62 (5/21/20)
 Checks 11187 to 11197 - \$ 14,139.56 (5/28/20)
 Checks 11198 to 11216 - \$ 5,055.62 (6/4/20)
 Checks 11217 to 11235 - \$ 11,403.06 (6/11/20)
 Checks 11236 to 11250 - \$ 24,825.93 (6/17/20)

ACH Payments: First Energy - \$ 323.53 (5/27/20)
 First Energy - \$ 49.43 (5/27/20)
 First Energy - \$ 13.40 (5/27/20)
 First Energy - \$ 10.16 (5/27/20)
 Columbia Gas - \$ 101.92 (6/3/20)
 S & T Loan - \$ 5,252.37 (6/15/20)

Crabapple:

ACH Payments: First Energy - \$ 36.32 (5/27/20)
 First Energy - \$ 19.49 (5/27/20)
 First Energy - \$ 137.33 (6/5/20)
 First Energy - \$ 112.79 (6/5/20)

MSATS Sale Account:

Check 1002 - \$ 9,900.00 (6/4/20)

Payroll Invoices:

Checks 6311 to 6313 - \$ 3,264.06 (5/26/20)
 Check 6319 - \$ 458.83 (6/17/20)

ACH Payments: Payroll Liabilities - \$ 2,415.86 (5/22/20)
 Payroll Liabilities - \$ 2,468.84 (5/29/20)
 Payroll Liabilities - \$ 596.29 (6/3/20)
 Payroll Liabilities - \$ 2,639.84 (6/5/20)
 Payroll Liabilities - \$ 2,643.94 (6/12/20)

Recreation:

Check 2882 - \$ 175.70 (5/28/20)
 Check 2883 - \$ 67.35 (6/11/20)

ACH Payments: First Energy - \$ 309.05 (5/27/20)
 First Energy - \$ 18.73 (5/27/20)
 First Energy - \$ 15.70 (5/27/20)
 Columbia Gas - \$ 32.80 (6/3/20)

Street Light / Fire Hydrant:

ACH Payments: First Energy - \$ 2,481.16 (6/3/20)
 First Energy - \$ 678.49 (6/3/20)
 First Energy - \$ 426.70 (6/3/20)

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

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

Employees Payroll: 5/29/20 - \$ 10,588.99
 6/5/20 - \$ 11,331.58
 6/12/20 - \$ 11,354.71
 6/19/20 - \$ 14,156.13

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

New / Old Business

Brian Merdian made a motion, seconded by Mark Petros, to amend the agenda. Voting: Mrs. Harvey, Mr. Petros, Mr. Merdian; yes. Motion carried unanimously.

Mark Petros made a motion, seconded by Linda Harvey, to re-advertise the bidding of the Crabapple Mowing contract for the 2020 season. Voting: Mrs. Harvey, Mr. Petros, Mr. Merdian; yes. Motion carried unanimously.

Brian Merdian made a motion, seconded by Mark Petros, to hire Jakob Wardezak as a part time, seasonal Laborer to work with Recreation / Crabapple. His rate of pay will be \$10.00 per hour. Voting: Mrs. Harvey, Mr. Petros, Mr. Merdian; yes. Motion carried unanimously.

With no further business to come before the Board, Linda Harvey made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Mark Petros. Voting: Mrs. Harvey, Mr. Petros, Mr. Merdian; yes. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 7:45pm.

Susan D. Leukhardt
Secretary-Treasurer