

Chairman, Mark Petros, on Wednesday, July 15, 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 Sally Lapina, Mike Aujay, Rita Aujay, Bill Luzar, Marci Suggars, John Seanor, Scott Keteles, Jay Stevens, Mary Ann Stevens, Linda Pihonsky, Carol Hevia, Debi Pils, Vicki Ankney, Anna Sudaric, Adam Kerber, Jeremy Lishego, Tyler Varney, Justin Mueseler, Randy Smith, Tony Sudaric, others not legible, Rodger Holsing, Janet Schork, Tom Mignogna, Solicitor Mark Hamilton, and Susan Leukhardt.

Mark Petros led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **Report from Public Works Director, Tom Mignogna**

We are still sanitizing and practicing social distancing in the office and shop daily. This month's safety talk and video was on Covid-19, Reduce the Risk and Prevention. A lot of PA One Call requests to locate our storm water drains. The mowing tractor is out every day, weather permitting. Patching potholes and putting up signs weekly. Please call to report any potholes. The two (2) bridges on Limerick Road have been reduced to one (1) lane. Guiderails and weight limit signs have been put up. Repaired the fence and removed tires at Bruno Field. Covered almost 13 miles (26 miles counting both sides of the road) of pulling ditches. We are now starting berm work and stabilization. In the shop, doing standard maintenance on the trucks.

John Seanor asked about Tomajko Road. Solicitor Hamilton responded that Westinghouse and MAWC have both responded. Mr. Seanor stated that he has photos to provide to the Township.

### **Report from Ordinance Officer, Rodger Holsing**

Properties in Violation	14
Properties Complied w/ Violation Notice	2
Properties in Progress of Being in Compliance	6
Criminal Charges Filed / Pending	7
Other Circumstances/ Refer to Other Agencies	0

Mr. Seanor asked about a vehicle tagged in a church parking lot in lower Whyles. Mr. Holsing asked Mr. Seanor to call the Township to provide more information.

Bill Luzar asked about building permits issued in Hutchinson. Mr. Holsing responded that Mike Stack handles and enforces the building permits.

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

- Due to the continuing Covid-19 crisis, our Parks & Recreation normal summer activities have suffered. Some of the dismal highlights: amidst record heat and sunshine, Crabapple Pool is closed. Our annual summer Pool-a-Palooza is cancelled. We've had no pavilion rentals this season (last year rentals were already at twelve (12) to this date). There are a couple on the horizon.
- However, there are positives: Our maintenance crew has been able to catch up on work they are unable to get to in a normal summer due to pool maintenance. The restrooms have been painted at the park. All three (3) playgrounds have been weeded and mulched. All park flower beds, including Bruno digital sign area, have been weeded and mulched. The walking path by the butterfly garden has been power-washed to remove the moss.
- Additionally, since our contracted park and field mowing company, Pittsburgh Lawn Care, unexpectedly quit at the end of May, our maintenance crew has been cutting the park and baseball and football fields weekly.
- I'm currently working on integrating an online mailing list and newsletter on our Township website. I will have more information next month.

- My time has been spent between website maintenance, Recreation Center support, organizing 2019 Recreation Center and pool documentation, and working with the maintenance crew cleaning, weeding, mulching, and painting.

Debi Pils asked about what is going on with Crabapple Lake. Will there be any work done on it? Mark Petros responded that we have been in contact with the Conservation District. Everything has been put on hold due to Covid-19.

Brian Merdian spoke about the CARES Act. Westmoreland County is receiving \$31,000,000 to supplement small business and non-profit community organizations. Guidelines and regulations will be released tomorrow that we can apply for regarding Crabapple and the Rec Center.

#### Report from the Treasurer, Susan Leukhardt – June, 2020

Account	Beginning Balance	Deposits	Payments	Ending Balance
FNB General Fund	\$ 152,685.76	\$ 57,413.88	\$ 117,839.62	\$ 92,260.02
PLGIT General Fund	\$ 220,336.64	\$ 58,692.38	-0-	\$ 279,029.02
FNB Reserve Account	\$ 152,014.50	\$ 74,110.16	-0-	\$ 226,124.66

Brian Merdian made a motion, seconded by Mark Petros, to approve the minutes of the Sewickley Township Board of Supervisors Regular Meeting held on June 17, 2020. Voting: Mr. Petros, Mr. Merdian, Mrs. Harvey; yes. Motion carried unanimously.

#### Public Comment

Sally Lapina stated that her address for the last four years has been 620 Apples Mill Road. Now that they are ready to move into their home, 911 wants to change to the address to 621 Apples Mill Road. Mrs. Lapina is asking to be exempt from that change and keep the address as 620 Apples Mill Road. Mr. Petros stated this will be addressed under New and Old Business.

Mike Aujay spoke about the building at the baseball fields. The concrete block is collapsing and coming apart near the restroom doors. Mr. Merdian reached out to Gibson-Thomas. They will be looking at it to see what can be done. Mr. Aujay asked if things can be handled quicker by filing an insurance claim? The door to the restroom has already been adjusted twice. His concern is if a child gets stuck in there if the building shifts more. Mr. Merdian stated that he will contact Dan Schmitt again to follow up.

Bill Luzar has a concern over the storm drainage on Reynolds Street in Hutchinson. He understands that there's not to be any cross drains put in on Reynolds Street at this time. Mr. Petros asked that Tom Mignogna go out and take a look at the issue. Mr. Merdian stated that if needed, the Township will speak with Gibson-Thomas about it also. Mr. Luzar also asked about the purpose of having two (2) budget meetings every month. Linda Harvey stated that they are workshops. We need to know how much money we have to work with. Mr. Petros added that we are doing these to see where we are at financially this year so we stay within the budget. Mrs. Harvey stated that we don't know what will happen next year due to Covid-19. We depend on monies from Liquid Fuels and other funds that will be affected next year by what is happening this year. Mr. Luzar then asked how the paving is being paid for in Herminie. Mr. Merdian replied through a CDBG County grant. Mr. Luzar then finished speaking about the two (2) street lights being installed at the Hutchinson Firehall.

Marci Suggars spoke about line painting the Recreation Center / Library parking lot. The Supervisors agreed that the paint can be billed to the Township from Pitt Industrial and thanked her. She then asked for an update on the Bank building. Mr. Petros stated that they decided to go in a different direction. It would take too much to update it for our needs.

John Seanor appreciates the agenda being posted online before the meeting each month. He then stated that after hearing about the issues with the roads and concession stand, we can't just go with whoever is cheapest. We have to go with people that know what they are doing. Mr. Merdian stated that sometimes the bidding process is very limiting. If you see something of concern in the Township, call the office, Tom, or the Supervisors. That's how we can be proactive in resolving issues.

Scott Keteles and his family purchased the Crystal Ballroom in April, 2019. They have been doing extensive work with fixing the place up making it more attractive to bring business into the Township. Mr. Keteles received an Ordinance violation letter for not maintaining the area above his parking lot. In previous years, this area was maintained by the Township. Why, all of a sudden, did he receive a violation letter? Rodger Holsing, Ordinance Officer, stated he received a complaint and has to act accordingly. The Supervisors stated they are not sure why it was maintained in the past and asked Mr. Mignogna to check with the crew. Mr. Keteles stated that he mowed it down and is now in compliance. He then stated that there is water running along his property line. It is coming from under Madison Avenue. Someone will get hurt from the ice buildup and it is swampy other times of the year. Mr. Petros asked Mr. Mignogna to take a look at it.

Debi Pils has lived along Sewickley Avenue for 23 years. There has never been any major road work done. She understands that it is a State Road. She is asking Mr. Mignogna to reach out to PennDot to repair a three (3) foot wide area where rebar is showing. Vehicles are coming through and it's very loud and also damaging the vehicles.

Adam Kerber issued a statement voicing concerns over the closing of the Lowber Social Club and the management of the Lowber Volunteer Fire Co. Solicitor Hamilton responded with the dilemma the Township faces. This is a volunteer fire department as opposed to firemen being paid and on the payroll of the Township. The Social Hall is basically considered private enterprise. The Township cannot interfere with that relationship. Having said that, ensuring public safety of its residents is one of the chief priorities of any municipal government. They are getting money from tax revenue and that money should be going to that public safety function. Mr. Merdian clarified that all 2-mil tax money never touches the hands of the volunteer fire departments. The Township receives the bills and once approved by the Supervisors, they are paid directly to that vendor. Solicitor Hamilton went on to say that he has reached out to a third party to assist us in making sure that the public safety function is being fulfilled by all four (4) of our companies. This is a top priority for the Township.

Tony Sudaric is the President of the Yough Youth Soccer Association (YYSA). The younger teams have been playing at the Lowber fields since 2013 or 2014. The land was always donated to them. As of yesterday, a fireman approached them saying they are charging YYSA \$2,000 per year to use the facility due to having the Township for insurance. Mr. Merdian clarified that the insurance for the Lowber VFD is paid through the Township General Fund. The Lowber Social Club insurance is paid for by the Township but is reimbursed to the Township from the Lowber Social Club.

Anna Sudaric is asking if YYSA can use Bruno Field. Mr. Petros responded to get in touch with Janet Schork to see what can be worked out since YAMF is also using that field.

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	\$ 1,502.33
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Voting: Mr. Petros, Mr. Merdian, Mrs. Harvey; yes. Motion carried unanimously.

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

Advanced Fire Company – service fire extinguishers	\$ 653.53
Kush Kustoms – repairs to attack 85	\$ 464.00

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

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

PennCare – masks , gloves , hand sanitizers \$ 920.50

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

Linda Harvey made a motion, seconded by Brian Merdian, to approve Pay Estimate No. 1 (\$177,871.07) and Change Order No. 1 (\$4,014.50) to Tresco Paving Corporation for the Herminie Storm Sewer/Paving Project – Phase 2, Contract 1/2020. Voting: Mr. Petros, Mr. Merdian, Mrs. Harvey; yes. Motion carried unanimously.

Proposals for the following were opened, read aloud, and recorded on Monday, July 13, 2020 at 10:00am as follows:

<b>“CRABAPPLE MOWING” Includes the following locations</b>	<b>Gary’s Lawn Care and Landscaping</b>	<b>Blaizin Bladez</b>	<b>The Lawnfather</b>
<b>a) John C. Bruno Memorial Football Field</b>	\$ 895.00	\$ 649.75	<b>\$ 760.00</b>
<b>b) All Baseball and Softball Fields</b>			
<b>c) Crabapple Park</b>			

Brian Merdian made a motion, seconded by Linda Harvey, to award the “Crabapple Mowing” contract for the locations listed above to The Lawnfather. This includes the cutting and trimming of those locations every (5) five to seven (7) days. The Contractor shall be responsible for labor, fuel, materials, equipment costs and Workers Compensation and Liability Insurance. The contract shall be effective July 16, 2020. Voting: Mr. Petros, Mr. Merdian, Mrs. Harvey; yes. Motion carried unanimously.

Mark Petros made a motion, seconded by Linda Harvey, to advertise in the Tribune Review for Budget Workshops to be held on the following dates and times:

Tuesday, July 28, 2020 at 6:30pm	Thursday, October 8, 2020 at 6:30pm
Thursday, August 13, 2020 at 6:30pm	Wednesday, October 14, 2020 at 6:30pm
Tuesday, August 25, 2020 at 6:30pm	Tuesday, October 27, 2020 at 6:30pm
Thursday, September 10, 2020 at 6:30pm	Tuesday, November 3, 2020 at 6:30pm
Tuesday, September 22, 2020 at 6:30pm	Thursday, November 12, 2020 at 6:30pm
Wednesday, September 30, 2020 at 6:30pm	

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

Brian Merdian made a motion, seconded by Mark Petros, to ratify Janet Schork, Clint Strosko, and Alex Schork to work over their allotted hours on the payroll date of June 26, 2020. Voting: Mr. Petros, Mr. Merdian, Mrs. Harvey; yes. Motion carried unanimously.

Linda Harvey made a motion, seconded by Brian Merdian, to approve Resolution 25-2020 authorizing the partial closure of 3<sup>rd</sup> Street off Sewickley Avenue in Herminie next to Zala’s Café. Their event will be held on August 8, 2020 from 6:00pm to 9:45pm. Board Comments: Mrs. Harvey stated that it is the responsibility of the owner to follow State Health Department Guidelines. Voting: Mr. Petros, Mr. Merdian, Mrs. Harvey; 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 – evanstown road asphalt	\$ 405.42
Chemung Supply – safehit reflectors	\$ 1,250.00
Golden Triangle – 200 loads of millings	\$ 20,000.00
Lehigh Hanson – apples mill road asphalt	\$ 332.80

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

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

**General Fund:**

Checks 11251 to 11268 - \$ 5,898.89 (6/25/20)	ACH Payments: First Energy - \$ 326.98 (6/24/20)
Checks 11269 to 11290 - \$ 36,568.99 (7/1/20)	First Energy - \$ 49.24 (6/24/20)
Checks 11291 to 11308 - \$ 23,680.67 (7/9/20)	First Energy - \$ 11.67 (6/24/20)
Checks 11309 to 11322 - \$ 5,419.75 (7/15/20)	First Energy - \$ 10.16 (6/24/20)
	S & T Loan - \$ 2,487.28 (6/30/20)
	Columbia Gas - \$ 26.32 (7/2/20)
	MAWC - \$ 71.36 (7/10/20)

**Crabapple:**

ACH Payments: First Energy - \$ 41.22 (6/24/20)
First Energy - \$ 15.46 (6/24/20)
First Energy - \$ 124.46 (7/7/20)
First Energy - \$ 102.97 (7/7/20)

**MSATS Sale Account:**

Check 1003 - \$ 42,258.00 (6/29/20)

**Payroll Invoices:**

Checks 6322 to 6323 - \$ 2,558.80 (6/25/20)	ACH Payments: Payroll Liabilities - \$ 643.46 (6/18/20)
Check 6334 - \$ 464.68 (7/13/20)	Payroll Liabilities - \$ 3,564.32 (6/19/20)
	Payroll Liabilities - \$ 2,804.04 (6/26/20)
	Payroll Liabilities - \$ 2,711.04 (7/2/20)
	Payroll Liabilities - \$ 743.52 (7/6/20)
	Payroll Liabilities - \$ 3,582.96 (7/10/20)

**Recreation:**

Check 2884 - \$ 175.12 (6/25/20)	ACH Payments: MAWC - \$ 123.90 (6/19/20)
Check 2885 - \$ 97.61 (7/1/20)	MAWC - \$ 39.55 (6/19/20)
Check 2886 - \$ 68.36 (7/9/20)	First Energy - \$ 304.38 (6/24/20)
	First Energy - \$ 17.77 (6/24/20)
	First Energy - \$ 15.15 (6/24/20)
	Columbia Gas - \$ 33.57 (7/2/20)

**Street Light / Fire Hydrant:**

ACH Payments: First Energy - \$ 2,502.22 (7/7/20)
First Energy - \$ 678.49 (7/7/20)
First Energy - \$ 426.70 (7/7/20)
MAWC - \$ 2,763.50 (7/15/20)

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

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

**Employees Payroll:** 6/26/20 - \$ 12,058.27  
7/2/20 - \$ 11,786.03  
7/10/20 - \$ 15,642.72  
7/17/20 - \$ 12,047.68

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

### **New / Old Business**

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

Brian Merdian made a motion, seconded by Mark Petros, to change the address for Gregory and Sally Lapina to 620 Apples Mill Drive, West Newton, PA 15089. Voting: Mr. Petros, Mr. Merdian, Mrs. Harvey; yes. Motion carried unanimously.

As part of Sewickley Township's clean storm water program, we would like to remind everyone that our storm water inlets, curbs and gutters, drainage ditches and storm pipes discharge into the Sewickley Creek or the Youghiogheny River which are used for fishing, boating, and swimming. In order to help improve the quality of our river and creek, we remind residents and businesses to please do not discard grass clippings, used oil, paints, solvents, or other wastes into the storm drains. Maintain the grass height in your yard at no less than three (3) inches. Longer grass is healthier, retains more moisture, and requires less fertilizer. If using fertilizers or pesticides, always follow the directions and never apply immediately before a rainstorm. If draining your pool, allow your pool to dechlorinate first by keeping it uncovered and waiting at least ten days after its last chlorination to allow the chlorine to dissipate in the air. Then have the pool drain into a grassy area. Pick up after your pet. Don't let pet waste lie in the streets or alleyways where they can get washed into the storm drain. Wash your vehicle in an area where the dirty wash water will not run directly into a storm inlet. Preferably, wash your vehicle at a car wash or in a grassy or gravel area. Properly dispose of used motor oil, oil-based paints, solvents, household cleaners, and other hazardous household chemicals. We remind residents and businesses that it is illegal to dispose of these chemicals in the Township's storm inlets. Go to [www.dep.pa.gov/stormwatermgmt](http://www.dep.pa.gov/stormwatermgmt) for more information. Together we can protect and preserve a very important resource of our community.

With no further business to come before the Board, Linda Harvey made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Mark Petros. Voting: Mr. Petros, Mr. Merdian, Mrs. Harvey; yes. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 8:36pm.

Susan D. Leukhardt  
Secretary-Treasurer