

Chairman, Mark Petros, on Wednesday, November 17, 2021 at 7:03pm, called the Regular Meeting of the Sewickley Township Board of Supervisors to order as advertised in the Tribune Review on Monday, December 28, 2020. The members of the Board of Supervisors present were Mark Petros, Brian Merdian, and Linda Harvey. Also attending the meeting were Donn Henderson, Tom Mignogna, Janet Schork, Solicitor Mark Hamilton, and Susan Leukhardt.

Mark Petros led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**An Executive Session was held this evening, November 17, 2021, at 6:30pm to discuss legal issues.**

Corporal Ochap of the Pennsylvania State Police was in attendance to introduce himself and listen to any concerns from our Residents. Among the concerns were speeding up and down Sewickley Avenue and Mars Hill Road, dirt bikes and quads running through town, patrolling needed on and near Limerick Road,

#### Report from Township Manager / Treasurer, Donn Henderson

Account	Beginning Balance	Deposits / Interest	Transfers / Payments	Ending Balance
<b>OCTOBER, 2021</b>				
FNB General Fund	\$ 77,885.77	\$ 225,955.90	\$ 249,309.25	\$ 54,532.42
PLGIT General Fund	\$ 268,299.02	\$ 25,481.44	\$ 75,000.00	\$ 218,780.46
FNB Reserve Account	\$ 114,680.00	\$ 11.85	-0-	\$ 114,691.85

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

This month we had over 40 One Calls where we locate our storm water drains for other utilities and contractors. The Safety Meeting and Video this month was on Cold Stress & Hypothermia. We stayed busy this month doing berm work. We've screened and put down 100's of tons of millings along a few of our newly paved roads which are Slaughter Hollow, Wolfe Lane, Brunazzi Road, & Shaner Road. The shop has been busy as well going over and getting the fleet ready for winter. There is signage done when needed. PennDOT required us to re-sign a bridge and the road along Shaner Road. There is always wind blowing over stop signs, theft, accidents, and so on. The holiday lights were put up today along Sewickley Avenue in Herminie for Light Up Night on December 4<sup>th</sup>.

#### Report from Ordinance Officer, Josh Bukovak --- given by Brian Merdian

2 Evans Street	On going, no improvements made since last inspection. Citation to be issued with magistrate.
251 Oak Street	Vacant structure. Severe disrepair. Citation to be issued with magistrate.
25 5 <sup>th</sup> Street	Garbage in the alleyway, garbage throughout the property. Citation to be issued with magistrate.
Oak Street Garage	Rubbish and garbage in front of a garage in severe disrepair, windows broken windows. Citation to be issued with magistrate.
206 Madison Avenue	Ongoing issues with weeds, building supplies in front of the house. Citation to be issued with magistrate.
144 Lily Street	House destroyed by fire. Citation to be issued with magistrate.

110 Limerick Road	Vehicle and garbage in yard. Illegal burning. Property has not improved since last visit. Intend to send letter to magistrate if nothing improves.
Warehouse Corner of 5th and Station Street	Ongoing issues. Will continue to monitor and cite if necessary.
3367 Pike Street	Letter sent in August for overgrown weeds. Garbage is still there. No citation sent yet.
819 Herminie Road	Junked vehicles, piles of rubbish. Letter sent to owner.
144 Lowber Road	Dumping and burning on property, house in disrepair. Letter sent to owner.
8 <sup>th</sup> Street Abandoned House	Dumping and burning on property, house in disrepair. Broken glass. Letter sent to owner.
278 Kunkle Road Trailer	Burning on burn day, but noxious odors. Letter sent.

### Report from Recreation Director, Janet Schork

#### Crabapple Park & Pool:

- Final winterizing at Crabapple Park, Pool, baseball, and football fields have been completed. Thank you to Tom Mignogna and the Township Cew for all their help.
- Crabapple Park is closed to vehicular traffic for the season.
- Also, a reminder that hunting is prohibited on park property.

#### Recreation Center:

- Everything is running smoothly at the Recreation Center. All weekday evenings are filled with some time available on Saturdays and Sundays.

#### Upcoming Activities at the Recreation Center:

- Two activities to be held at the Recreation Center and offered by the Rostraver/West Newton Emergency Services:
  - Free Flu Shot Clinic on Tuesday, November 23<sup>rd</sup> from 10:00am to 12:00pm and Tuesday, November 30<sup>th</sup> from 4:00pm to 6:00pm.
  - Community CPR/AED Classes on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of the month from 6:00pm to 9:00pm. First class is on Wednesday, December 8<sup>th</sup> and the cost is \$40. There are flyers on the sign-in table for both programs.

#### Fitness Classes:

- Reminder that we offer P90X and STEP classes at the Recreation Center on Tuesday and Thursday mornings.

#### Jump Start Sports Camps:

- Reminder that our indoor soccer and basketball camps start in January for Pre-K through 2<sup>nd</sup> grade. Information on the Township website.

#### Trunk-or-Treat:

- The Trunk-or-Treat hosted by the Sewickley Township Library and the Sewickley Township Recreation Volunteers held on Saturday, October 23<sup>rd</sup> at Crabapple Park was a huge success. We had 32 decorated trunks and over 150 participants. Thank you to Mandy Luchs, Jen Worley, and our Recreation Volunteers: Carol Keller, Ann McWilliams, and Patty Vanyo for all their help.

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

Brian Merdian made a motion, seconded by Mark Petros, to approve the minutes of the Sewickley Township Board of Supervisors Regular Meeting held on Wednesday, October 20, 2021. Voting: Mrs. Harvey, Mr. Petros, Mr. Merdian; yes. Motion carried unanimously.

Linda Harvey made a motion, seconded by Mark Petros, to approve the minutes of the Sewickley Township Board of Supervisors Special Meeting held on Tuesday, November 2, 2021. Voting: Mrs. Harvey, yes; Mr. Petros, yes; Mr. Merdian, abstain due to being absent from the meeting. Motion carried

Brian Merdian made a motion, seconded by Mark Petros, to disburse 2020 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	\$ 267.14

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

Brian Merdian made a motion, seconded by Mark Petros, to disburse 2020 EMS Tax funds on behalf of Herminie Volunteer Fire Company as follows:

First National Bank – monthly payment for radios	\$ 363.63
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Voting: Mrs. Harvey, Mr. Petros, Mr. Merdian; yes. Motion carried unanimously.

Mark Petros made a motion, seconded by Brian Merdian, to advertise the availability of the Proposed Budget for 2022 with public inspection being made possible at the Municipal Building between the hours of 8:00am and 3:30pm beginning Thursday, November 18, 2021. Voting: Mrs. Harvey, Mr. Petros, Mr. Merdian; yes. Motion carried unanimously.

Brian Merdian made a motion, seconded by Mark Petros, to approve Change Order No. 1 in the amount of \$12,357.54 and Pay Estimate No. 2 (Final) in the amount of \$18,784.31 to Derry Construction Co., Inc. for the 2021 Hot Mix Paving Program, Contract 2/2021. Voting: Mrs. Harvey, Mr. Petros, Mr. Merdian; yes. Motion carried unanimously.

Brian Merdian made a motion, seconded by Mark Petros, to reject the sale of 308 Sewickley Avenue, Herminie. Voting: Mrs. Harvey, Mr. Petros, Mr. Merdian; yes. Motion carried unanimously.

Linda Harvey made a motion, seconded by Mark Petros, to adopt Resolution 31-2021 approving the AL. Neyer LLC, Lot 3 of Commerce Crossing Industrial Park Resolution for Plan Revision for New Development. Voting: Mrs. Harvey, Mr. Petros, Mr. Merdian; yes. Motion carried unanimously.

Linda Harvey made a motion, seconded by Mark Petros, to adopt Resolution 32-2021 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 2021-2022 will be \$850.50 and paid in January, 2022. There is no increase for this service. Voting: Mrs. Harvey, Mr. Petros, Mr. Merdian; yes. Motion carried unanimously.

Brian Merdian made a motion, seconded by Mark Petros, to adopt Resolution No. 33-2021 entering into a contract with Hoffman's Boarding Kennels through December 31, 2023 at the rate \$180.00 per month for twenty-four (24) months paid by the Township. Overtime calls will be charged at the rate of \$100.00 per call. Voting: Mrs. Harvey, Mr. Petros, Mr. Merdian; yes. Motion carried unanimously.

Mark Petros made a motion, seconded by Linda Harvey, to adopt Resolution No. 34-2021 appointing Belinda Derr to the Sewickley Township Cultural Commission for a term of four (4) years. This term shall expire the first Monday of January, 2025. Voting: Mrs. Harvey, Mr. Petros, Mr. Merdian; yes. Motion carried unanimously.

Regarding the motion to receive quotes to install a fence around the Herminie VFC fire siren located near the Recreation Center, discussion was had and agreed upon to install existing fence stored by the Township.

Linda Harvey made a motion, seconded by Mark Petros, to approve offering CPR/AED Training classes at the Sewickley Township Recreation Center on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of every month from 6:00pm to 9:00pm starting on December 8, 2021. Classes will be taught by Rostraver West Newton Emergency Services. Cost is \$40.00. Voting: Mrs. Harvey, Mr. Petros, Mr. Merdian; yes. Motion carried unanimously.

Linda Harvey made a motion, seconded by Mark Petros, to approve offering two (2) Flu Shot Clinics at the Sewickley Township Recreation Center on Tuesday, November 23, 2021 from 10:00am to 12:00pm and Tuesday, November 30, 2021 from 4:00pm to 6:00pm. Shots will be administered by Rostraver West Newton Emergency Services. Cost is Free. Voting: Mrs. Harvey, Mr. Petros, Mr. Merdian; yes. Motion carried unanimously.

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

**General Fund:**

Checks 12209 to 12224 - \$ 39,059.70 (10/20/21)	ACH Payments: First Energy (8 payments) - \$ 602.88 (10/25/21)
Check 12225 - \$ 35,401.98 (10/29/21)	Columbia Gas - \$ 43.35 (11/1/21)
Checks 12226 to 12249 - \$ 13,971.61 (11/2/21)	First Energy - \$ 44.27 (11/5/21)
	MAWC - \$ 79.93 (11/12/21)

**Act 13:**

Check 1136 - \$ 18,702.60 (10/20/21)

**Crabapple:**

Check 4878 - \$ 119.99 (11/2/21)

ACH Payments: First Energy - \$ 56.06 (10/25/21)  
 First Energy - \$ 27.58 (10/25/21)  
 First Energy - \$ 124.70 (11/5/21)  
 First Energy - \$ 103.37 (11/5/21)  
 Cred Card Machine - \$ 29.89 (11/10/21)

**Liquid Fuels Account:**

Check 534 - \$ 321,500.00 (10/29/21)

**Payroll / Paychex ACH Liabilities:**

Paychex - \$ 120.84 (10/20/21)  
 Paychex - \$ 138.48 (10/22/21)  
 Paychex - \$ 138.48 (10/29/21)  
 Paychex - \$ 135.03 (11/5/21)  
 Paychex - \$ 141.93 (11/12/21)

Payroll Liabilities - \$ 2,787.31 (10/22/21)  
 Payroll Liabilities - \$ 2,614.64 (10/29/21)  
 Payroll Liabilities - \$ 2,445.85 (11/5/21)  
 Payroll Liabilities - \$ 32,765.67 (11/12/21)

**Recreation:**

Check 2938 - \$ 56.00 (10/20/21)  
 Checks 2939 to 2940 - \$ 320.41 (11/2/21)

ACH Payments: First Energy (3 payments) - \$ 320.17 (10/25/21)  
 Columbia Gas - \$ 41.76 (11/1/21)

**Street Light / Fire Hydrant:**

ACH Payments: First Energy - \$ 2,330.22 (11/3/21)  
 First Energy - \$ 632.35 (11/3/21)  
 First Energy - \$ 397.78 (11/3/21)

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

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

**Employees Payroll:** 10/29/21 - \$ 9,530.81  
 11/5/21 - \$ 8,976.54  
 11/12/21 - \$ 67,994.11  
 11/19/21 - \$ 9,208.28

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

**General Public Comment**

Norm Vinsick stated his issues with 110 Limerick Road. Pictures were presented to the Supervisors.

John Seanor stated about his neighbor's green pool, 949 Yukon Road. He hasn't received an update from the Ordinance Officer.

Mark Ghion issued a statement voicing concerns with the Lowber Fire Company. Specifically, their request to prevent the closest fire companies to respond to emergency situations. A 21-page petition was presented with signatures from Sewickley Township residents living in the Sutersville Hill, Gratztown, and Scott Haven areas, including the boundaries of Cool Springs and Van Kirk Roads, asking to immediately and permanently recognize the Sutersville Fire Company as their primary emergency service provider in Sewickley Township with the same provisions outlined in the previous 2017 agreement, but with no stipulation for reversal.

Linda Harvey stated that this needs to be looked at objectively. We're looking at all fire services and how best we can meet the needs of the people in our community.

Rick Critchfield asked why a Township Manager was hired when the Supervisors should be making the decisions. Mr. Petros responded that the Supervisors do make the decisions. Mr. Merdian stated that with municipal government, there is a lot more going on than just in the meetings. There are new rules and regulations that need to be followed. There are codes and documents that have to be updated on a regular basis. Two of the Supervisors here have full time jobs, and one is retired. The prudent thing to do is have someone here constantly to stay on top of all those things. Mr. Henderson is the source to gather all the information we need to make the necessary decisions.

Tyler Varney asked about the evaluations/background checks of the fire departments that were done last year. Mr. Henderson stated that the departments turned in required documents to the Township.

Dan Landini, Jr. read a statement regarding public safety and municipal government. He also quoted the Second Class Township Code, Sections 1801 and 1803 regarding Board of Supervisors and fire companies. He gave mileage and times from each fire department to his home with Sutersville VFC being the closest. We need all the help we can get when there is an emergency. Why limit who can respond?

Meri Beth Wees thanked the Supervisors for not selling the building tonight. It is very uplifting for Emergency Management. Regarding the fire departments, she believes all the fire chiefs need to sit down and talk this out.

Mark Petros made a motion, seconded by Brian Merdian, to convene into Executive Session. Voting: Mrs. Harvey, Mr. Petros, Mr. Merdian; yes. Time is 8:00pm.

Regular Meeting reconvened at 8:13pm.

Solicitor Hamilton stated that he advised the Supervisors that they are not empowered to make any decisions on items that have not been previously publicized as an agenda item. The concerns expressed this evening will be considered not only by the Supervisors, but also our consultant and County 911. There have been no changes in Lowber's call out sheet. Sutersville is still on their call out list.

#### **New / Old Business**

Reminder that we are still looking for applicants to fill our Recreation Director and Recreation Maintenance positions.

The Township Building will be closed on Thursday, November 25, 2021 and Friday, November 26, 2021.

The 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Sewickley Township Light Up Night is Saturday, December 4, 2021 with the parade at 4:30pm. Line up is at 3:30pm at the Herminie VFW parking lot.

The Board of Supervisors are looking for any persons interested in serving on the Sutersville-Sewickley Municipal Sewage Authority. Please send letters of interest to the Sewickley Township Municipal Building for consideration.

The next Regular Meeting of the Board of Supervisors will be held on Wednesday, December 15, 2021 at 7:00pm.

With no further business to come before the Board, Linda Harvey made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Brian Merdian. Voting: Mr. Petros, Mr. Merdian, Mrs. Harvey; yes. Meeting adjourned at 8:25pm.

Susan D. Leukhardt  
Township Secretary