

Chairman, Mark Petros, on Wednesday, December 15, 2021 at 7:00pm, 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.

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

Account	Beginning Balance	Deposits / Interest	Transfers / Payments	Ending Balance
<b>NOVEMBER, 2021</b>				
FNB General Fund	\$ 54,532.42	\$ 211,886.93	\$ 225,257.94	\$ 41,161.41
PLGIT General Fund	\$ 218,780.46	\$ 102,159.96	\$ 100,000.00	\$ 220,940.42
FNB Reserve Account	\$ 114,691.85	\$ 13.07	-0-	\$ 114,704.92

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

This month's safety video was on Caught Between Hazards. We had 39 PA One Call requests for storm water pipe marking from other utilities & contractors. We spent some time on both upper & lower McGrogan Road. We put over 1,200 ton of modified stone over 75% of lower McGrogan Road and cold patch at the bridge. We cut the shoulders on upper McGrogan Road and added No. 4 stone where needed. We used R5 stone to repair a washout at McGrogan and Tomajko Roads. We went back and finished berming Volk Road with screened millings. We replaced a collapsing storm water pipe at the top of Shuglie Hill Road where we found a hole in the road also. There's been days of cold patch work and that is ongoing. The shop has been busy with a lot of precautionary prep work on the trucks and equipment. With each storm, we have tree work all over the township. The signage takes a beaten as well. Stop signs are a priority. The rest are when time allows. If you see something, call in. Your input is welcome.

#### Report from Ordinance Officer, Josh Bukovak --- given by Donn Henderson

Nittany Lane – complaint received this week  
 824 Yukon Road – letter was sent  
 6 Magee – compliance letter sent, property is being sold  
 Various violation letters sent  
 Burning complaints

#### Report from Recreation Director, Janet Schork

##### Recreation Center:

- All going well at the Recreation Center with weekday evenings filled, but some time available on Saturdays and Sundays.

##### Upcoming Activities at the Recreation Center:

- We had two (2) community events held at the Recreation Center, both offered by the Rostraver/West Newton Emergency Services:
  - Free Flu Shot Clinic brought ten (10) folks in for their shot.
  - We had nine (9) participants in our first Community CPR/AED Class held on December 8<sup>th</sup>. CPR/AED classes will be held the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of the month at the Recreation

Center. Registration is required by calling me or Bob Stark at the Rostraver/West Newton Emergency Services.

**Fitness Classes:**

- Along with our morning P90X and STEP classes, we will be offering Introduction to Yoga. Starting in January, with the exception of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday each month which is reserved for our CPR/AED training, yoga will be held from 6:00pm to 7:00pm. For more information, you can call me at the Recreation Center or go to our Recreation page on the Township website.

**Jump Start Sports Camps:**

- Reminder to sign up for our indoor soccer and basketball camps. They start in January and are for Pre-K through 2<sup>nd</sup> grade age youth. Again, more information is found on the Recreation page on the Township website

**My Retirement:**

- I've agreed to stay a few more weeks through January, if necessary, to help train my replacement. So I will see you all at January's meeting!

**Public Comment on Agenda Items**

Rick Critchfield asked about the Ordinance Officer not showing up at monthly meetings and also being from Uniontown. He called the office with a complaint about residents burning on Mondays and Tuesdays. Mr. Henderson stated that we had the job posted for three (3) months with no applicants. Mr. Petros added that it has been a revolving door with Ordinance Officers. By hiring K2 Engineering, they are in our price range. It is working out for the most part, but still working on some issues. Mrs. Harvey added that if someone is burning after hours, please make a record of the date, time, and location. We will then turn it over to Mr. Bukovak.

John Van Dyke, Fire Chief of Lowber VFC, spoke about the readouts and Sutersville VFC. He clarified that Sutersville was not taken off of Lowber's readouts. He then provided details of an incident on October 2, 2021 on Cool Springs Road. He was just protecting the people working on the call and the patient. Cool Springs can be very dangerous. It had nothing to do with Sutersville. He also expressed that he doesn't want the Supervisors to give any of his area to Sutersville, but he's fine with Sutersville being on the calls. Lowber is doing everything they can to meet the requirements of the Supervisors. Mr. Van Dyke is working with the County Department of Public Safety developing a plan for the readouts. He will not jeopardize public safety.

Dan Landini stated that he doesn't believe that Sutersville wants to take over Lowber's territory. It's the distance that is what's important. .4 miles as opposed to 4 miles from his house. The citizens of his area are just asking for the closest fire department, which is Sutersville.

Mrs. Harvey stated that a major issue is the calling off of fire departments during calls. We have to make sure the people in our community are protected. Mr. Merdian added that what is most important is to make sure that the best units are available to the residents of this Township at any given time. Right now, we can't guarantee that with how the fire departments are acting. Mr. Petros stated that whatever is the best way to provide for our residents, we will do. We have to ensure safety for our residents.

Paul Rupnik, Fire Chief of Rillton VFC, says use the closest available. Let the computer pick. There would be no bickering. No fighting. If there is an automatic fire alarm a mile from the Rillton fire station, he is not on it. Herminie doesn't have them on it. Let the computer pick the closest available.

Brian Merdian made a motion, seconded by Mark Petros, to approve the agenda as presented below. Voting: Mr. Petros, Mr. Merdian, Mrs. Harvey; 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, November 17, 2021. Voting: Mr. Petros, Mr. Merdian, Mrs. Harvey; yes. Motion carried unanimously.

Mark Petros made a motion, seconded by Brian Merdian, to disburse 2020 EMS Tax funds on behalf of Sewickley Township Emergency Management as follows:

Bearcom – monthly maintenance on portable radios	\$ 92.00
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Voting: Mr. Petros, Mr. Merdian, Mrs. Harvey; 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: Mr. Petros, Mr. Merdian, Mrs. Harvey; yes. Motion carried unanimously.

Linda Harvey made a motion, seconded by Mark Petros, to adopt Resolution 35-2021 fixing the annual tax rate for General Township purposes and other purposes as the following: General Township Purposes as 11.25 mills; Fire Hydrants and Fire Hydrant Water Service as .25 mills; Light the Highways, Roads, and other Public Places in the Township as .75 mills; and Ambulance, Rescue, and other Emergency Services as 2 mills. This reflects no tax increase from 2021. Voting: Mr. Petros, Mr. Merdian, Mrs. Harvey; yes. Motion carried unanimously.

Brian Merdian made a motion, seconded by Mark Petros, to adopt the General Fund Budget for the Township of Sewickley for the fiscal year 2022. Voting: Mr. Petros, Mr. Merdian, Mrs. Harvey; yes. Motion carried unanimously.

Mark Petros made a motion, seconded by Brian Merdian, to advertise the Reorganization Meeting for the Board of Supervisors to be held on Monday, January 3, 2022 at 7:00pm located at the Sewickley Township Municipal Building. Voting: Mr. Petros, Mr. Merdian, Mrs. Harvey; yes. Motion carried unanimously.

Linda Harvey made a motion, seconded by Mark Petros, to advertise Ordinance 9-2021 amending Chapter 7 of the Township Code to establish annual reporting criteria to be provided to the Township by the Fire Departments who are based in the Township, designated as first responders and eligible for Township funds. The Board may also request the same information from other companies who request to be designated first responders for specific areas of the Township prior to their designation. Voting: Mr. Petros, Mr. Merdian, Mrs. Harvey; yes. Motion carried unanimously.

Brian Merdian made a motion, seconded by Mark Petros, to advertise Ordinance 10-2021 establishing a No Brake Retarder Ordinance for a portion of Mars Hill Road. Voting: Mr. Petros, Mr. Merdian, Mrs. Harvey; yes. Motion carried unanimously.

Linda Harvey made a motion, seconded by Mark Petros, to authorize the Township Manager to consult with Lower VFC, County 911 Center, and Sutersville VFC to take action to include Sutersville VFC as Initial Dispatch in previously designated areas. Board Comments: Mrs. Harvey stated that this is an opportunity to come together. We have been dealing with this for two (2) years. We just need to come together when that whistle blows. Take this seriously and forget about who you like and who you don't like. Voting: Mr. Petros, Mr. Merdian, Mrs. Harvey; yes. Motion carried unanimously.

Brian Merdian made a motion, seconded by Mark Petros, for conditional approval of the Eori Phase 2B Subdivision contingent upon the approval from DEP. Voting: Mr. Petros, Mr. Merdian, Mrs. Harvey; yes. Motion carried unanimously.

Brian Merdian made a motion, seconded by Mark Petros, to renew Property and Casualty Coverage for all Sewickley Fire Companies with Varine-Slavin using Provident Fire Plus at the premiums below. Policy is effective from December 18, 2021 to December 17, 2022. This is an increase of approximately \$5,400.00 from the previous year.

Herminie Fire Company:	\$ 12,851.00
Lowber Fire Company:	\$ 13,226.00
Rillton Fire Company:	\$ 11,372.00
Hutchinson Fire Company:	\$ 12,199.00

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

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

**General Fund:**

Checks 12250 to 12271 - \$ 57,581.76 (11/19/21)	ACH Payments: MAWC - \$ 185.85 (11/17/21)
Checks 12272 to 12274 - \$ 49,276.74 (11/22/21)	MAWC - \$ 62.13 (11/17/21)
Checks 12275 to 12291 - \$ 27,742.59 (12/2/21)	First Energy (8 payments) - \$ 542.41 (11/23/21)
	Columbia Gas - \$ 155.44 (12/2/21)
	First Energy - \$ 44.27 (12/6/21)

**Crabapple:**

Checks 4879 to 4880 - \$ 188.44 (11/19/21)	ACH Payments: MAWC - \$ 86.03 (11/18/21)
Checks 4881 to 4882 - \$128.16 (12/2/21)	MAWC - \$ 61.95 (11/18/21)
	First Energy - \$ 51.60 (11/23/21)
	First Energy - \$ 24.95 (11/23/21)
	First Energy - \$ 124.70 (12/6/21)
	First Energy - \$ 103.37 (12/6/21)
	Cred Card Machine - \$ 9.02 (12/10/21)

**Payroll / Paychex ACH Liabilities:**

Paychex - \$ 135.03 (11/19/21)	Payroll Liabilities - \$ 2,533.48 (11/19/21)
Paychex - \$ 120.84 (11/23/21)	Payroll Liabilities - \$ 2,543.73 (11/26/21)
Paychex - \$ 135.03 (11/26/21)	Payroll Liabilities - \$ 2,507.63 (12/3/21)
Paychex - \$ 135.03 (12/3/21)	Payroll Liabilities - \$ 4,530.12 (12/10/21)
Paychex - \$ 135.03 (12/10/21)	

**Recreation:**

Checks 2941 to 2942 - \$ 253.17 (11/19/21)	ACH Payments: MAWC - \$ 123.90 (11/18/21)
Check 2943 - \$ 75.50 (12/2/21)	MAWC - \$ 30.97 (11/18/21)
	First Energy (3 payments) - \$ 353.97 (11/23/21)
	Columbia Gas - \$ 234.17 (12/2/21)

**Street Light / Fire Hydrant:**

ACH Payments: First Energy - \$ 2,355.21 (12/3/21)
First Energy - \$ 639.15 (12/3/21)
First Energy - \$ 402.05 (12/3/21)

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:

<b>Employees Payroll:</b>	11/26/21 - \$ 8,091.43
	12/3/21 - \$ 9,075.91
	12/10/21 - \$ 14,046.88
	12/17/21 - \$ 9,130.63

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

### **No General Public Comment**

### **New / Old Business**

The Township Building will be closed on Friday, December 24, 2021 and Friday, December 31, 2021.

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.

Mr. Petros also thanked Mr. Merdian for serving on this Board for six (6) years. It was a pleasure working with you and wish you all the best. You have done a lot for Sewickley Township.

Mr. Merdian wished the incoming Supervisor, Bill Dull, much success with his upcoming term.

Mr. Henderson noted that the ParMar Hearing regarding the liquor license at the gas station in Herminie is on December 22, 2021. If anyone wishes to listen in on the hearing, call the Township Office for details on how to log in.

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

With no further business to come before the Board, Brian Merdian made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Mark Petros. Voting: Mr. Petros, Mr. Merdian, Mrs. Harvey; yes. Meeting adjourned at 8:00pm.

Susan D. Leukhardt  
Township Secretary