

Chairman, Mark Petros, on Wednesday, July 20, 2022 at 7:00pm, called the Regular Meeting of the Sewickley Township Board of Supervisors to order as advertised in the Tribune Review on Thursday, January 6, 2022. The members of the Board of Supervisors present were Mark Petros, Linda Harvey, and Bill Dull. Also attending the meeting were Tom Methven, Scott Morrison, Solicitor Lee Demosky, and Susan Leukhardt.

Mark Petros led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Executive Sessions were held on June 23, 2022 at 6:00pm, July 8, 2022 at 7:00am, and July 20, 2022 at 6:00pm to discuss legal and personnel matters.**

**Report from Township General Fund Accounts, Susan Leukhardt**

Account	Beginning Balance	Deposits / Interest	Transfers / Payments	Ending Balance
<b>JUNE, 2022</b>				
FNB General Fund	\$ 178,946.38	\$ 43,999.16	\$ 144,965.37	\$ 77,980.17
PLGIT General Fund	\$ 291,701.59	\$ 68,035.37	-0-	\$ 359,736.96
FNB Reserve Account	\$ 140,851.95	\$ 104.19	-0-	\$ 140,956.14

**Report from Public Works Director, Tom Methven**

We responded to 78 PA One Call requests this month for the Township to locate and mark our storm water pipes from other utilities and contractors. Our sealcoat program for 2022 was completed last month. We are very happy with the results. We had some oil bleeding due to unusually high temperatures, but we acted and dusted the roads to lock down the oil. Now that we have moved to a project first schedule, we will patch potholes during inclement weather or breakdowns. Right-of-way mowing is still occurring on the roads. Sight distance issues are handled first, then the mower is working its way around the Township. If you see the tractor mowing, please slow down and pass, when possible, with care. If you own trees, especially decorative trees, that have grown out over the side of the road, please trim them back. Larger vehicles need clearance for height and mirrors. During road surveys for future road improvement projects, I have noticed an alarming amount of road signs missing or vandalized. When the schedule permits, we will start to replace signs on our roads. Every time we replace just a green street sign, it costs us \$80.00. When we have to replace a STOP sign and post, it costs \$213.65. A speed limit sign with post is \$154.86. Another disturbing trend is the amount of garbage, not litter, and large waste items we are receiving complaints about. We are also noticing it while working on the roads. People are dumping truckloads of construction waste, tires, furniture, and appliances along our roads. If you see anyone dumping, please get a description or license plate number so we can call the State Police. The last business to do a roadside clean-up found enough waste to fill a roll-off dumpster and two (2) dump trucks. We have had some vandalism at Crabapple Park. Picnic tables are overturned, the American flag was taken off the flagpole, bathrooms were broken into, and a groundhog was shot and left at the small pavilion. The Columbia Gas line replacement project in Hermine is in progress. This will last all summer while NPL crews work in phases to update the gas lines. Please be patient and aware there will be daylight street closures and flaggers during the length of the project. Please slow down and drive through our work areas with caution.

**Report from Ordinance Officer, Josh Bukovac**

Warehouse Corner of 5th and Station St	Hearing scheduled for August.
Costanza Properties	Hearing Held on 7/6/2022. Owner did not show up. Fined \$1,000

8th Street Abandoned House	Hearing held on 7/6/2022. Owner did not show up. Fined \$1,000
112 Daisy Street	Hearing pending.
Kubik Junkyard	Hearing held on 7/6/2022. Owner fined \$300.
2564 Mars Hill Road	Citation to be filed with magistrate.
Porter Junkyard	Citation to be filed with magistrate.
2271 Mars Hill Road	Violation letter sent.
Cowansburg Properties	Violation letters sent. Citations will be issued if there is no response.
24 Clopper Street	Violation letter sent.
606 Sewickley Ave	Violation letter sent.
10831 Guffey Rillton Road	Violation letter sent.
10829 Guffey Rillton Road	Violation letter sent.
207 Church Street	Violation letter sent.
123 Limerick Road	Violation letter sent.
111 McGrogan Road	Grass has been cut at this property.
112 Dutchtown Road	Pending inspection.
110 Limerick Road	Ongoing issues with burning and dumping of materials. Will be addressed.

### Report from Recreation Director, Scott Morrison

#### Recreation Center:

- Step and P90X classes are still being held on Tuesday and Thursday mornings from 9:30am to 10:30am and Body Sculpt is on Fridays at 9:30am. Yoga is on pause for now and is scheduled to restart in September. CPR classes are still being held in the Yoga Room on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of each month. The July 8<sup>th</sup> class had eight (8) participants. I encourage anyone who needs to get a CPR certification to sign up for the class.

#### Lowber and Hutchinson Playgrounds:

- Both playgrounds have been recently weeded and mulched. Hutchinson Playground last week and Lowber Playground this week. I would like to thank Tom, his crew, and our maintenance person, Harlyn, on getting those playgrounds in great shape.

#### Crabapple Park:

- A few weekend Pavilion rentals are still available for the month of August for anyone interested in booking during that time.

### No Public Comment on Agenda Items

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

### Presentation from Enviro 21

Mr. Chip Purcell gave a presentation regarding the developing of solid waste and hazardous waste contracts. This is at no charge to the municipality as they take a percentage of the gross value of the contract. It is a "live auction" online with the starting price established by the municipality. They look over and make recommendations of the bid specs. On the current Waste Management contract, if there are option years, he recommends to exercise them as they will be a better price due to rising costs.

Mark Petros made a motion, seconded by Bill Dull, to approve the minutes of the Sewickley Township Board of Supervisors Regular Meetings held on Wednesday, April 20, 2022 and May 18, 2022. Voting: Mr. Dull, Mr. Petros, Mrs. Harvey; yes. Motion carried unanimously.

Linda Harvey made a motion, seconded by Mark Petros, to disburse 2021 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	\$ 312.17
UVT – drone certificate of authorization development	\$ 4,160.00
Staples – binders for drone training	\$ 82.66

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

Mark Petros made a motion, seconded by Bill Dull, to authorize distribution of 2021 EMS Tax Funds on behalf of Sewickley Township Emergency Management to reimburse emergency personnel directly after completing, passing, and providing their Pilot License testing certificate for the operation of the drone. Testing is \$175.00 per person with disbursement of up to \$4,375.00 total for all licenses. Voting: Mr. Dull, Mr. Petros, Mrs. Harvey; yes. Motion carried unanimously.

Bill Dull made a motion, seconded by Mark Petros, to disburse 2021 EMS Tax funds on behalf of Herminie Volunteer Fire Company as follows:

Bound Tree Medical, LLC – Infant/Child Key for HS FRx	\$ 84.25
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Voting: Mr. Dull, Mr. Petros, Mrs. Harvey; yes. Motion carried unanimously.

Mark Petros made a motion, seconded by Bill Dull, to disburse 2021 EMS Tax funds on behalf of Rillton Volunteer Fire Company as follows:

Luft's Auto & Truck Repair – 2008 ford f350 brakes & rotors	\$ 474.36
Luft's Auto & Truck Repair – 2008 ford tires	\$ 1,202.40
Fortunato's Service & Repair – repairs to quint 14	\$ 2,281.44

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

Mark Petros made a motion, seconded by Linda Harvey, to enter right of way agreements with Paul C. Little and Michelle L. Little to access parcels identified as Westmoreland County Tax Map Nos. 54-14-00-0-097, 58-02-00-0-027, and 58-02-00-0-029 for and in consideration of \$1.00 each. (Streambank stabilization). Voting: Mr. Dull, Mr. Petros, Mrs. Harvey; yes. Motion carried unanimously.

Linda Harvey made a motion, seconded by Mark Petros, to approve Change Order #3 in the amount of \$ 5,537.76 and Pay Estimate #1 – Final in the amount of \$95,804.16 for the 2021 Shot and Chip Program, Contract 3-2021. Voting: Mr. Dull, Mr. Petros, Mrs. Harvey; yes. Motion carried unanimously.

Mark Petros made a motion, seconded by Bill Dull, to enact Ordinance 4-2022 setting the speed limit at 30 MPH on Pinewood Road. Voting: Mr. Dull, Mr. Petros, Mrs. Harvey; yes. Motion carried unanimously.

Linda Harvey made a motion, seconded by Mark Petros, to approve advertising the enactment of Ordinance 5-2022 updating the Sewickley Township Code, Chapter 21, Section 104 for pipe trenching and road restoration specifications on Township roads. Voting: Mr. Dull, Mr. Petros, Mrs. Harvey; yes. Motion carried unanimously.

Bill Dull made a motion, seconded by Mark Petros, to ratify the hiring of James Ponzetti as a 90-day Seasonal Laborer at the rate of \$16.00 per hour. Voting: Mr. Dull, Mr. Petros, Mrs. Harvey; yes. Motion carried unanimously.

Linda Harvey made a motion, seconded by Mark Petros, to accept Scott Morrison’s resignation as Recreation Director with a date to be determined. Voting: Mr. Dull, Mr. Petros, Mrs. Harvey; yes. Motion carried unanimously.

Bill Dull made a motion, seconded by Mark Petros, to ratify the advertising for the position of Recreation Director at an hourly wage of up to \$19.00 per hour. Voting: Mr. Dull, Mr. Petros, Mrs. Harvey; yes. Motion carried unanimously.

Mark Petros made a motion, seconded by Bill Dull, to accept the proposal from Civic Engage/Civic Plus for development of an updated Sewickley Township website. Voting: Mr. Dull, Mr. Petros, Mrs. Harvey; yes. Motion carried unanimously.

Mark Petros made a motion, seconded by Bill Dull, to accept Mike Ulyan’s resignation as Township Auditor effective June 23, 2022. Voting: Mr. Dull, Mr. Petros, Mrs. Harvey; yes. Motion carried unanimously.

Bill Dull made a motion, seconded by Mark Petros, to close the Township Office at Noon on Friday, August 12, 2022 so the Township employees may attend the Annual Picnic hosted by the Westmoreland County Association of Township Supervisors at Mammoth Park. Employees will be paid their regular hourly rate while attending this event. Voting: Mr. Dull, Mr. Petros, Mrs. Harvey; yes. Motion carried unanimously.

Linda Harvey made a motion, seconded by Mark Petros, to hire the following employees to work the 2022 season at Crabapple Pool at the rates listed below.

<b>POSITION</b>	<b>NAME</b>	<b>YEARS OF SERVICE</b>	<b>PAY RATE PER HOUR</b>
<b>LIFEGUARDS</b>	Hanna Klingensmith	1	\$ 9.75
<b>GATE / CONCESSION</b>	Jayla Rause	1	\$ 8.75
	Melani Schmidt	1	\$ 8.75
	Hannah Schultz	1	\$ 8.75

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

Mark Petros made a motion, seconded by Bill Dull, to close 5<sup>th</sup> Street in Herminie from the intersections of Church Street and Station Street on Saturday, August 13, 2022 from 9:00am to 12:00pm and from 4:00pm to 5:30pm. These closures are for the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Michael Pils Memorial Bike Run. Voting: Mr. Dull, Mr. Petros, Mrs. Harvey; yes. Motion carried unanimously.

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

**General Fund:**

Checks 12593 to 12638 - \$ 71,639.88 (6/16/22)  
Checks 12639 to 12658 - \$ 15,915.92 (6/29/22)

First Energy - \$ 42.22 (7/11/22)  
MAWC - \$ 62.79 (7/18/22)

ACH Payments: S & T Loan - \$ 5,252.37 (6/15/22)  
MAWC - \$ 185.85 (6/17/22)  
MAWC - \$ 62.14 (6/17/22)  
First Energy (8 payments) - \$ 576.10 (6/27/22)  
S & T Loan - \$ 2,487.28 (6/30/22)  
Columbia Gas - \$ 35.81 (7/5/22)

**Act 13:**

Check 1139 - \$ 1,240.00 (6/16/22)

**Crabapple:**

Checks 4899 to 4914 - \$ 7,228.58 (6/16/22)  
Checks 4915 to 4919 - \$ 1,640.76 (6/27/22)  
Check 4920 - \$ 536.98 (6/29/22)

Energy - \$ 98.36 (7/11/22)

ACH Payments: MAWC - \$ 137.46 (6/17/22)  
MAWC - \$ 61.95 (6/17/22)  
First Energy - \$ 68.31 (6/27/22)  
First Energy - \$ 26.27 (6/27/22) First  
Credit Card Machine - \$ 150.90 (7/11/22)  
First Energy - \$ 118.49 (7/11/22)

**Liquid Fuels:**

Check 535 - \$ 77,298.60 (6/16/22)

**Payroll / Paychex ACH Liabilities:**

Paychex - \$ 190.95 (6/17/22)  
Paychex - \$ 131.97 (6/21/22)  
Paychex - \$ 190.95 (6/24/22)  
Paychex - \$ 201.90 (7/1/22)  
Paychex - \$ 230.50 (7/8/22)  
Paychex - \$ 205.55 (7/15/22)

Payroll Liabilities - \$ 3,999.73 (6/17/22)  
Payroll Liabilities - \$ 3,068.53 (6/24/22)  
Payroll Liabilities - \$ 3,573.00 (7/1/22)  
Payroll Liabilities - \$ 4,216.73 (7/8/22)  
Payroll Liabilities - \$ 4,517.44 (7/15/22)

**Recreation:**

Checks 2971 to 2973 - \$ 930.85 (6/16/22)  
Checks 2974 to 2975 - \$ 616.17 (6/27/22)

Columbia Gas - \$ 48.93 (7/5/22)

ACH Payments: MAWC - \$ 123.90 (6/17/22)  
MAWC - \$ 39.55 (6/17/22)  
First Energy - \$ 17.78 (6/23/22)  
First Energy - \$ 307.47 (6/27/22)  
First Energy - \$ 13.12 (6/27/22)

**Street Light / Fire Hydrant:**

MAWC - \$ 3,038.50 (7/15/22)

ACH Payments: First Energy - \$ 2,250.89 (7/6/22)  
First Energy - \$ 610.89 (7/6/22)  
First Energy - \$ 384.30 (7/6/22)

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

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

**Employees Payroll:** 6/17/22 - \$ 11,968.84 (twp) , \$ 2,318.82 (pool)  
 6/24/22 - \$ 7,346.01 (twp) , \$ 3,379.17 (pool)  
 7/1/22 - \$ 9,576.13 (twp) , \$ 4,235.86 (pool)  
 7/8/22 - \$ 11,883.09 (twp) , \$ 3,989.64 (pool)  
 7/15/22 - \$ 12,422.66 (twp) , \$ 3,479.16 (pool)

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

### General Public Comment

Bob MacPherson of 3 Circle Drive asked if Supervisor Harvey currently an employee of the Township. Mr. Petros answered yes. Was there a public vote made to advertise the position prior to Supervisor Harvey obtaining that role? Was it discussed in Executive Session or a public meeting? Mr. Petros stated that after she was put in the position, we advertised for a Manager/Administrative Assistant. Was the pay level set for her while she's working in the office? Mr. Petros stated that a working Supervisor's rate is set by the elected Auditors during their public meeting. It is not set by the Township Supervisors. Mr. MacPherson feels that the Township did not meet all the requirements under the Sunshine Act. He then stated that the minutes are behind and not viewable on the website. Regarding the website, he asked that it gets fixed as soon as possible as it is currently advertising inappropriate products. It is good to see on the agenda the development of a new website.

James C. Phillips quoted Ordinance 6-2021 passed in April, 2021 establishing operations criteria for the volunteer fire companies in Sewickley Township. On May 6, 2021, there was a special meeting to approve Resolution 17-2021 sanctioning the Rillton Volunteer Fire Company for a fire call that occurred on March 21, 2021. This happened before the Ordinance establishing operations was set. The timing doesn't make sense for the sanction. Regarding the incident itself, you can not have all the trucks on the narrow streets of Rillton. Some companies had to be staged at the firehall to allow specific types of equipment to be on scene.

Rillton Chief Paul Rupnik explained in detail the call that happened on March 21, 2021. It was a car fire that threatened to start a house fire. Rillton had twelve (12) guys on the call with Lowber arriving next and stay at the plug. Herminie and Hutchinson were assigned to stage at Station 14. The road was blocked, but he needed to get one more aerial in case there was a house fire. The problem with this is that Herminie and Hutchinson left staging without being released and went back to their stations. Chief Rupnik then read an appreciation letter from the homeowner. Mr. Petros added that County 911 is who brought the call to the attention of the Supervisors and requested a meeting. Mr. Phillips then read a statement in the April, 2021 minutes from then Supervisor Brian Merdian that action should be taken suspending Rillton Volunteer Fire Company for sixty (60) days. Mr. Petros stated that it was not acted on. Mr. Phillips then stated that he believes Supervisor Dull has a conflict of interest on any and all fire department related items due to his son being the Chief of Hutchinson Volunteer Fire Company. This is under the Pennsylvania General Assembly, Title 65.

John Seanor asked if the Township is looking for a different garbage contract. There are many residents not paying for garbage.

Linda Coffey of 136 Daisy Street stated that she has reported this many times that the road is sinking, and needs fixed as soon as possible. The towns need to be taken care of. Mr. Methven stated that he just found out about the issue and drove the street looking for it. Mr. Petros asked for her to email or text photos of the issue.

Norma ??? asked who takes care of the overgrown area at the Lowber canoe and kayak launch. Mr. Methven stated that PennDOT would take care of the state road right of way. Their contracted mower is making its way around the area. She then asked if there are funds available to get rid of the deteriorated structures in the Township. Mr. Petros stated that they have attended classes regarding blight properties. It is a process. Mr. MacPherson added that, from the County standpoint, they have gone through the first round of ARPA grants. The priority areas for the grants are crime stricken and harder hit areas. She then asked if residents will be able to submit questions on the new website. Mr. Petros stated we're not sure what the capabilities are yet.

**Announcements**

The Board of Supervisors are looking for any persons interested in serving as a Township Auditor or 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, August 17, 2022 at 7:00pm.

With no further business to come before the Board, Mark Petros made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Linda Harvey. Voting: Mr. Petros, Mrs. Harvey, Mr. Dull; yes. Meeting adjourned at 8:05pm.

Susan D. Leukhardt  
Secretary-Treasurer