

LEET TOWNSHIP BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

August 2, 2021

Minutes of the Board of Commissioner's Special Meeting

The Special Meeting of the Leet Township Board of Commissioners was brought to order at 7:00 p.m. by President Donna Adipietro in the Leet Township Municipal Building, 194 Ambridge Ave., Fair Oaks, PA 15003. Commissioners present were Jim Janaszek, Donna Adipietro, Erika Oslick and Marty McDaniel. The meeting started with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Commissioner Carolyn Verszyla was absent.

Also present:

Betsy Rengers, Manager	Tom Jones, Resident
Stephen Chesney, Solicitor	Bonnie Hitchens, Resident
Maureen Daily, Resident	Larry Kroner, Resident
Steve Schollaert, Resident	Bob Gulish, Resident
Diane Gulish, Resident	Kacey Jordan, Resident

Mrs. Adipietro welcomed everyone to the meeting and gave the rules of public participation.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was no public participation at that time.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

MOTION: Mr. McDaniel made a motion to approve the minutes of June 2, 2021 Special Meeting, as submitted, seconded by Mr. Janaszek, with all in favor.

MOTION: Mr. McDaniel made a motion to approve the minutes of June 14, 2021 Regular Meeting, as submitted, seconded by Mr. Janaszek, with all in favor.

APPROVAL OF CHECK DETAIL 6-2021

Ms. Rengers will contact Staples to have a \$7.00 service charge removed from the bill. The Police Department purchased cameras for surveillance of drug activity in the area.

MOTION: Mr. McDaniel made a motion to approve check detail 6-2021, seconded by Mr. Janaszek, with all in favor.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business.

NEW BUSINESS

Approval of QVAA Agreement

MOTION: Mr. Janaszek made a motion to approve Resolution 2021-08, to extend the Authority's term of existence, seconded by Ms. Oslick, with all in favor.

Approval of COG Grant Agreement

MOTION: Mr. Janaszek made a motion to approve the Quaker Valley COG Grant Agreement for CD47-7-4b Eckert, Willow and Neely ADA Sidewalk Project, in the amount of \$61,000.00, seconded by Ms. Oslick, with all in favor.

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Approval to order New Police Car for 2022

A discussion was had regarding the police cars, how much they are used, and selling the old cars. The unmarked car was supposed to be used for code enforcement, but it has not. It is used by the officers. The discussion continued.

MOTION: Mr. Janaszek made a motion to order a new Dodge Durango Police Car for 2022, with the understanding that the current Dodge Durango is used more, seconded by Mr. McDaniel, with all in favor.

The car will be financed. The Township has saved \$20,000.00 towards the purchase but may use \$10,000.00 for a down payment. We will finance the rest.

Sergeants/Full time officer Position Discussion

A discussion was had about the former officers in the Police Department in 2009 when the staffing was at 5 full time officers. The Department went to four full time officers and the staffing levels were put back to 5 full time officers in 2017. Since then, three officers have retired or quit. Mr. McDaniel stated that Robert Simmons and Bill Wanto are being paid not to work. A discussion was had about paying officers overtime versus hiring another officer. The purpose of this topic is to discuss it. Mr. Janaszek reported that Allegheny County would conduct the test. Mr. McDaniel stated that the Civil Service bylaws are out of date and need to be updated before any testing is done. We may need to hire a consultant to help with the process. A discussion was had around the issue. The Civil Service Board has been working on their bylaws.

MOTION: Mr. McDaniel made a motion to requests that the Civil Service Commission submits updated bylaws to the Board of Commissioners in 90 days or earlier. The Board may use a consultant as needed and then present the updates to the Board of Commissioners for approval.

Chief Molinaro is having a staffing issue and would like to have the physical agility test done on August 24th by Allegheny County.

MOTION: Mr. Janaszek made a motion to approve the physical agility test on August 24th as long as the Civil Service rules are updated.

Mr. Janaszek seconded the first motion. Roll call was taken with all in favor.

The Civil Service Board will have 90 days to update their bylaws. A discussion was had about hiring in the Police Department and that the hiring of part-time officers should be approved by the Board of Commissioners. The discussion continued.

A discussion was had about the stop sign at Mound and Orchard. We will talk more during public participation.

Approval to Advertise Part-time Administrative Assistant

A discussion was had around hiring a part time administrative assistant and the job duties for this position. We are transitioning from a person in the office to a bookkeeping service. This will be a new position. Ms. Rengers will present a worksheet detailing the Budget to Actual expenses to date and what we have left in the budget to hire for this position at the August 9th Regular Meeting. Book Minders will have their kickoff meeting this week. Ms. Rengers will be taking over some of the responsibilities, such as deposits. The Township does have ability to deposit electronically. A short discussion was had around the issue.

CORRESPONDENCE

There was not correspondence.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Bob Gulish, resident, spoke to the Board about the payments for Mr. Simmons and Mr. Wanto. Mr. Janaszek stated that Mr. Simmons and Mr. Wanto were bought out of their contracts to save money. A discussion was had about

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whether the Township saved money with the retirement packages. The discussion continued about cost of the new officers versus Mr. Simmons.

Mr. Gulish spoke about the stop signs at Mound and Orchard. He appreciated that the signs were put up. A short discussion was had around the issue. The ordinance states the signs are to be up in both directions.

Diane Gulish, resident, thanked the Board for putting the stop signs on Mound and Orchard. A discussion was had about signs in the neighborhoods and making the Mound and Orchard signs permanent. Mr. Chesney stated that certain conditions had to be met to have permanent stop signs. Ms. Rengers suggested that a public hearing should be had before the signs are made permanent.

Steve Schollaert, resident, liked the stop signs and talked about the number of children in the neighborhood. There are residents that speed down the hill and would like for the signs to be permanent. Mr. Schollaert brought up the Police Budget and is in favor of the department. He felt that the quality of the department is more important than the costs.

Tom Jones, resident, stated that he does not know the current police officers. Years ago, he knew who they were. It is important for the children to know the officers and respect them. The police department will hold a First Responders Day on Saturday, August 14th. The officers have been handing out stickers to the children.

Larry Kroner, resident, was upset about tree branches blocking the view of oncoming traffic on Camp Meeting Road and the condition of the berms with trees and weeds and a retaining wall on Camp Meeting Road. The Township had contacted Allegheny County and the homeowner about the condition of the retaining wall previously.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mrs. Adipietro announced that the Board would go into Executive Session to discuss employee issues. The audience may stick around if they wish. No voting will take place after the Session.

Mr. Janaszek checked with the Police Department and a new officer starts at 21.07 per hour. The discussion continued about the cost of a new officer.

MOTION: Mr. Janaszek made a motion to go into Executive Session at 8:24 p.m. to discuss a personnel issue, seconded by Ms. Oslick, with all in favor.

MOTION: Mr. Janaszek made a motion to come out of Executive Session at 8:48 p.m. to discuss a personnel issue, seconded by Ms. Oslick, with all in favor.

MOTION: Mr. Janaszek made a motion to adjourn at 8:49 p.m., seconded by Ms. Oslick, with all in favor.