

LEET TOWNSHIP BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
January 10, 2022  
Minutes of the Board of Commissioner's Regular Meeting

The Regular Meeting of the Leet Township Board of Commissioners was brought to order at 6:35 p.m. by President, McDaniel, in the Leet Township Municipal Building, 194 Ambridge Ave., Fair Oaks, PA 15003. Mr. McDaniel stated that the Board will be going into Executive Session to discuss personnel matters, specifically the Township Manager's objectives for the upcoming year.

**MOTION:** Mr. Peluso made a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss personnel matters regarding the Township Manger's objectives for the upcoming year at 6:35 p.m. Mr. Nash seconded the motion, with all in favor.

**MOTION:** Mrs. Verszyla made a motion to go into Regular Session after discussing personnel matters regarding the Township Manger's objectives for the upcoming year at 7:06 pm. Mr. Nash seconded the motion, with all in favor.

Mr. McDaniel stated the Executive Session was to discuss personnel matters to review a performance evaluation for the Township Manager. The Board is implementing this for all Township Employees and will be completed every 3 months.

The meeting was called to order and started with the Pledge of Allegiance. Roll call: Commissioners present were Dan Peluso, Carolyn Verszyla, Martin McDaniel, and Rody Nash.

Also present:

Betsy Rengers, Manager	Stephen Chesney, Solicitor
Wayne Hyjek, Resident	Tom Jones, Resident
John Stephansky, Resident	Justin Miller, Resident
Bob Gulish, Resident	Sarah Miller, Resident
William Bubb, Resident	Charlie Frederick, Resident
Chuck Soman, Resident	David Goerman, Resident
Joanne McDaniel, Resident	Katie Cheddar, Resident
Donna Adipietro, Resident	Deb Cheddar, Resident
Jessica Leety, Administrative Assistant	

### PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Mr. McDaniel stated that we will try to conduct the meetings slightly differently than before by streamlining the information and reports. There will be a time limit for each resident, instead of reading each report, they will be handed out for the residents to review and ask questions during public participation at the end of the meeting.

Tom Jones, a resident, has attended meetings for 10 years and it has been a learning experience. He heard that Commissioners govern in the best interest of the Township and its people. He stated that he feels there is a disconnect between the residents and the Commissioners. Discussion about the broken relationship between the residents and Commissioners and areas that could use improvements. Mrs. Verszyla agreed with everything Mr. Jones stated.

Wayne Hyjek, a resident, attended representing the Rotary Club of Quaker Valley. They will be giving Leet Township a \$3,500 service grant to make some modifications to Plum Street Park. He spoke with Mr. Wanto in Public Works, and they will be replacing vent fans in the restrooms, new fans in the pavilion, a lean-to structure over the grills, and adding a picnic area near the fishing spot on the trail. Mr. McDaniel thanked Mr. Hyjek and the Rotary Club. Mr. Peluso oversees the Property Committee and will be working with them on this them and Public Works. Mr. McDaniel asked the Manager to send a thank you letter to the Rotary Club.

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Deb Cheddar, resident, regarding the Wernicki Zoning Hearing: she appreciated that things are moving along, and contact has been made. She appreciated the calls from the Board. The Zoning Hearing Board solicitor assured the next survey will be done by an independent engineer and there will be evidence provided.

William Bubb, a Resident, is on the War Memorial Committee. He stated the next meeting is on January 24, 2022. He thanked the Public Works Department for their ability to clear snow promptly.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Mr. McDaniel asked for any corrections on the November 8, 2021, meeting minutes. Mrs. Verszyla stated that the Commissioners who attended that meeting are not present so she doesn't know if we can approve them, and she wanted to verify if Mr. McDaniel can sign them. This would be for the December 13, 2021 meeting minutes as well. Mr. Chesney stated he would investigate the questions and report back to the Board.

**MOTION:** Mrs. Verszyla made a motion to table the meeting minutes for November 8, 2021, and December 13, 2021. Mr. Nash seconded the motion with all in favor.

Mrs. Verszyla stated she felt that there were grammar and punctuation errors on the January 3, 2022 minutes and they needed improvement. Mr. McDaniel stated we will hold the minutes for corrections.

**MOTION:** Mr. Peluso made a motion to table the meeting minutes for January 3, 2022. Mrs. Verszyla seconded the motion with all in favor.

**APPROVAL OF BILLS PAYABLE**

**Treasurer's Report:**

Approval of Depositories: Mr. McDaniel stated that all of the Commissioners signed the signatory sheets to be added to the First National Bank accounts.

Approval of Check Detail 12-2021 and Current Invoices: Mr. McDaniel stated all Commissioners have a binder with the information and Mr. McDaniel and Mr. Nash reviewed the documents before the meeting.

Mr. McDaniel stated all the reports: 2021 Budget to Actual Report Year-End, balance sheet, reconciled bank balances, tax collectors report, public safety report, public works report fire department auxiliary report and engineer report. Handouts are available to the residents during the meeting of the listed reports.

**MOTION:** Mrs. Verszyla made a motion to approve Check Detail 12-2021, Current Invoices, and 2021 Budget to Actual Report Year-End. Mr. Nash seconded the motion with all in favor.

Approval to Transfer \$25,000 to PLGIT Tax Refund Account: Mr. McDaniel gave background information regarding Encompass Health and their reassessment tax appeal, and a multi-year tax reduction that cost the Township approximately \$93,000 a few years ago. Therefore, the Township would like to put funds in an account in case this would happen again. There is currently \$25,000 in the account and the Township would like to transfer another \$25,000 into the tax refund account.

**MOTION:** Mrs. Verszyla made a motion to approve the transfer of \$25,000 to the PLGIT Tax Refund Account from the General Fund. Mr. Peluso seconded the motion. Roll call was taken with Mr. Peluso, Mrs. Verszyla, Mr. McDaniel, and Mr. Nash all in favor of the motion.

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**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**MS4 Report:** nothing to report

**Health & Sanitation Report:** nothing to report

**QV School District Report:** nothing to report

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**Stop Sign at Hill/Oak:** Mr. McDaniel stated a traffic study was done by Trans Associates. They stated the downhill stop sign should remain there. There was a discrepancy in the ordinance regarding sign direction.

**MOTION:** Mr. Nash made a motion to amend the ordinance to comply with the traffic study. Mr. Peluso seconded the motion, with all in favor.

Mr. Bubb, a resident, stated he found the engineering study to be faulty and he gave examples of incorrect speed, no speed survey done, and equipment used. Mr. McDaniel gave some background information regarding the issue being discussed. Mr. Bubb stated he had sent the Commissioners two letters. One was given to Mr. McDaniel and one to Mrs. Verszyla, assuming they were the same, and they are not. Both letters will be given to each Commissioner. Mr. Wanto, a resident, stated that he would like to know what the Township is doing to address the children who come down Hill Street with sleds, scooters, bikes, etc. He feels the children are more at risk of danger. Further discussion from multiple residents regarding the stop sign to be there or removed.

**MOTION:** Mr. Peluso made a motion to table the stop sign ordinance at Hill/Oak Street until further information is presented. Mrs. Verszyla seconded the motion with all in favor.

**Appointment of a Vacancy Board Member:** Mr. McDaniel stated the position was posted online and the Township received one applicant, Mr. Tom Jones.

**MOTION:** Mrs. Verszyla made a motion to appoint Mr. Tom Jones as Vacancy Board Member. Mr. Peluso seconded the motion with all in favor.

**Appointment of Board of Commissioners Open Seat:** Mr. McDaniel stated there were 8 applicants for the open seat. The Board of Commissioners set up a meet and greet with the applicants for this evening from 5-6:30 p.m. Mr. Nash, Mr. Peluso, and Mr. McDaniel attended. One applicant withdrew, one applicant was unable to attend, and six applicants were able to meet with the Commissioner Committees before the meeting tonight. Mrs. Verszyla would like to hear if there were any nominations. Mr. Nash asked to postpone until the next meeting so the Board would be able to meet with the absent applicant and review the applicants. Mr. Peluso agreed. Mrs. Verszyla would like to nominate someone and does not want to continue to table.

**MOTION:** Mr. Peluso made a motion to have a Special Meeting to appoint the Board of Commissioners seat. Mr. Nash seconded the motion, with Mr. Peluso, Mr. Nash, and Mr. McDaniel in favor. Mrs. Verszyla did not agree.

**MOTION:** Mr. Nash made a motion to have a Special Meeting on January 17, 2022, at 5:00 p.m. Mr. Peluso seconded the motion with Mr. Peluso, Mr. Nash, and Mr. McDaniel in favor. Mrs. Verszyla did not agree.

**Appointment of Planning Commission Member:** Mr. McDaniel stated the Township has received one applicant for this position and they applied to the open Commissioner seat as well. He suggested the Board table this until the special meeting as well so there won't be any conflict.

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**MOTION:** Mr. Peluso made a motion to table the appointment of a Planning Commission Member until the Special Meeting on January 17, 2022, at 5:00 pm. Mr. Nash seconded with Mr. Peluso, Mr. Nash, and Mr. McDaniel in favor. Mrs. Verszyla did not agree.

**Resolution 2022-03 (Appointment of Deputy Tax Collector: Jordan Tax Service):** Mr. McDaniel stated that last Monday Jessica Leety was appointed to the Tax Collector for the remainder of the two-year term. A Deputy Tax Collector will be appointed for Leet Township and QVSD.

**MOTION:** Mrs. Verszyla made a motion to approve Resolution 2022-03 to appoint Jordan Tax Service as Deputy Tax Collector. Mr. Nash seconded the motion. Roll call was taken with Mr. Peluso, Mrs. Verszyla, Mr. McDaniel, and Mr. Nash with all in favor of the motion.

There was further discussion regarding the cost savings to the Township and minimal bonding of Jessica Leety.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Resolution 2022-01 Police Pension**

**MOTION:** Mr. Nash made a motion to approve Resolution 2022-01, eliminating employee contributions to the Police Pension Plan, seconded Mrs. Verszyla. Roll call was taken with Mr. Peluso, Mrs. Verszyla, Mr. McDaniel, and Mr. Nash all in favor of the motion.

**Resolution 2022-02 Non-Uniformed Pension**

**MOTION:** Mrs. Verszyla made a motion to approve Resolution 2022-02, eliminating employee contributions to the Non-Uniformed Pension Plan, seconded by Mr. Nash. Roll call was taken with Mr. Peluso, Mrs. Verszyla, Mr. McDaniel, and Mr. Nash all in favor of the motion.

**Approve Township Managers 2022 Objectives**

**MOTION:** Mr. Peluso made a motion to approve Township Manager 2022 Objectives. Mr. Nash seconded the motion, with all in favor.

**Appointment of Auditor:** Mr. McDaniel stated the Township currently has O'Connor and Pagano as Auditor. The Township received 2 proposals from Maher Duessel and Mark Turnley. Maher Duessel's bid was the highest at \$9,800 per year and Mark Turnley's bid was in the budget price range of \$5,750.

**MOTION:** Mrs. Verszyla made a motion to appoint Mark Turnley as Township Auditor for the next two years. Mr. Nash seconded the motion, with all in favor.

**Appointment of Bank Depository:** Mr. McDaniel stated the Township currently banks with First National Bank. The Board is getting proposals from other banking institutions, as well. There has been a proposal from Dollar Bank and PNC Bank. However, PNC Bank does not do Tax Anticipation Note loans. He suggested we hold this appointment until next month, to ensure the Board has been given a second proposal for review.

**MOTION:** Mr. Peluso made a motion to table the appointment of the Bank Depository. Mrs. Verszyla seconded the motion, with all in favor.

**Approve Engagement Letter for Special Counsel for Employment Matters:** Mr. McDaniel stated the Board would like to hire Campbell Durrant for employment matters at this time. The Township would continue with our Solicitor for other matters.

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**MOTION:** Mrs. Verszyla made a motion to approve the engagement letter with Campbell Durrant for the special counsel and employment matters. Mr. Peluso seconded the motion, with all in favor.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

**QVCOG Glass Recycling Center Discussion:** Mr. McDaniel stated that QVCOG would like a permanent glass recycling site. Mr. McDaniel would like to refer this to the Property Committee Chair, Mr. Peluso. They will review the proposal and come back to a later meeting with pros/cons and recommendations for the Board.

**Chapter 16 of the Municipal Code: Parks and Recreation:** Mr. McDaniel stated Mr. Bubb submitted a letter and correctly cited that the Ordinance regarding regulating firearms and hunting is not up to date. This is being referred to the Township Solicitor to research and bring to the next meeting.

**Redistricting of Leet Township for Pennsylvania State Legislature:** Bell Acres Borough sent the Township a letter stating Leet, Bell Acres, and Leetsdale are in the 16<sup>th</sup> District, which is currently Representative Robert Matzie. The letter stated they would like the three municipalities listed to join the remaining eight municipalities which make up QVSD to be under the same Legislative District. The other municipalities are in the 44<sup>th</sup> District, which is currently Representative Valerie Gaydos. The discussion continued.

**MOTION:** Mr. Nash made a motion to write a response letter to Bell Acres stating we would like the QVSD to stay together and we think highly of Representative Matzie. Mr. Peluso seconded the motion with all in favor.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Property Committee:** Mr. Peluso reported that the next meeting will be Monday, January 24, 2022, regarding the War Memorial. Some signage needs to be addressed at the Municipal Building. Mr. McDaniel asked if funds are still needed, and Mr. Bubb said yes. Mr. McDaniel has two contacts that might be able to help. He asked for a Budget Sheet on the memorial plans to show the potential contacts.

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

John Stephansky, a resident, stated he has noticed many semi-trucks have been driving down Ambridge Ave. He stated he believed this was an ordinance, article 15 paragraph 3, and enforcement and signs need to be back in place. Mr. Chesney and Ms. Rengers will investigate this. The discussion continued.

Chuck Soman, a resident, stated he knows there are some extra funds in the Township now and he was wondering about replacing the Leet Township Municipal Building sign.

**COMMENTS FROM THE PRESIDENT**

Mr. McDaniel stated that there are a few more things to add to unfinished business for the next meeting.

- The Watson Institute is the polling location, and the Township would like to see if lights can be turned on when voting as it is dark outside and a safety concern
- We are waiting on the formalization of the fence ordinance.
- Act 537 Sewage Proposal. Mr. McDaniel received one proposal from HRG Engineering. We need to verify the proposal report for accuracy and reach out to other municipalities for cost-sharing.
- Mrs. Verszyla stated she has someone else coming next week to give a proposal on IT services.

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Mr. Jones suggested that when Mr. McDaniel is talking to the other municipalities to ask about cost-sharing regarding the QV Zoning Hearings. Mr. McDaniel stated we have paid \$40,000 last year. Paid \$3,000 for court reporting and owe the attorneys \$20,000. The next Zoning Hearing Board Meeting is February 9, 2022. A decision should be made at that meeting. Either way, there will probably be court action. Mr. Jones asked if any other Township would be responsible for the cost. Mr. McDaniel stated no, unfortunately legally Leet is responsible for all money.

Further discussion regarding the weight limit on Ambridge Avenue again. Mr. Stephansky made the Board aware of a previous Supreme Court ruling. Mr. Chesney will get the Supreme Court decision and give it to the Commissioners.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION:** Mrs. Verszyla made a motion to adjourn at 8:49 p.m., seconded by Mr. Peluso with all in favor of adjournment.

/s/Betsy Rengers  
Betsy Rengers, Manager

/s/Martin C. McDaniel  
Martin C. McDaniel, President

2/14/2022  
Date