

LEET TOWNSHIP BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
April 15, 2022
Minutes of the Board of Commissioner's Special Meeting

The Special Meeting of the Leet Township Board of Commissioners was called to order at 9 a.m. by President Martin C. McDaniel at the Leet Township Municipal Building, 194 Ambridge Ave., Fair Oaks, PA 15003. Roll Call: Commissioners present were Martin C. McDaniel, Rody Nash, Dan Peluso, Carolyn Verszyla, and John Stephansky.

The meeting started with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Absent: Manager Betsy Rengers

Also present:

Stephen Chesney, Solicitor

Chief Michael Molinaro

Resident Justin Miller

Resident Chuck Soman

Stephen Panormios, Police Officer

Mr. McDaniel explained the purpose of the meeting and asked the residents in attendance to wait in the lobby while the Board was in Executive Session. He called for Public Participation and there was none at that time.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION: Mr. Stephansky made a motion to into Executive Session at 9:03 am to discuss police personnel issues and potential litigation, seconded by Mrs. Verszyla, with all in favor.

MOTION: Mr. Stephansky made a motion to go into regular session at 10:25 am after discussing police personnel issues and potential litigation, seconded by Mr. Peluso, with all in favor.

AGENDA AMENDMENT

MOTION: Mr. Nash made a motion to amend the agenda to add the placement of Chief Molinaro on paid administrative leave, as advised by the independent investigator, in order to preserve the integrity of the Internal Investigation authorized at the March 14, 2022, meeting, seconded by Mr. Peluso. Roll call was taken with all in favor of the motion.

MOTION: Mr. Nash made a motion to place Chief Michael Molinaro on paid administrative leave. As a part of the paid leave, Chief Michael Molinaro is to follow all the conditions in the letter dated April 15, 2022 (*See attached letter*), that the Board hereby authorizes Board President Martin C. McDaniel to sign on this date on behalf of the Leet Township Board of Commissioners, seconded by Mrs. Verszyla. Roll call was taken with all in favor.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Resident Chuck Soman commented on the motions. Mr. McDaniel stated that the Board is investigating serious allegations. Mr. Chesney stated that this is not a disciplinary measure. It is a temporary basis and is a fact-finding procedure. The Board will take action when the findings are revealed. This is to protect the integrity of the investigation. The discussion continued.

Resident Justin Miller asked about the staffing of the police department. Mr. Chesney asked that this is not discussed and should not be posted on social media.

Resident Donna Adipietro asked if the Board of Commissioners had followed the Sunshine Act. The appointment of the interim chief was discussed here today. Mr. Chesney stated that there have been no violations of the Sunshine Act.

LEET TOWNSHIP BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
April 15, 2022
Minutes of the Board of Commissioner's Special Meeting
AGENDA AMENDMENT

MOTION: Mrs. Verszyla made a motion to amend the agenda to appoint an interim chief, seconded by Mr. Peluso, with all in favor.

MOTION: Mrs. Verszyla made a motion to appoint Stephen Panormios as interim Chief of Leet Township Police Department with full arresting powers subject to being sworn in by the district magistrate and proper notification to the Municipal Officer's Education and Training Commission for the length of time needed as determined by the Board of Commissioners effective immediately, seconded by Mr. Nash. Roll call was taken with all in favor of the motion.

Mr. Panormios was introduced to the Board. He will help us through the investigation. He has been an officer for 21 years. Mr. Panormios will address staffing.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Mr. Peluso made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:35 am, seconded by Mr. Stephansky, with all in favor.

TOWNSHIP OF LEET

/s/Carolyn Verszyla
CAROLYN VERSZYLA, VICE-PRESIDENT

/s/Martin C. McDaniel
MARTIN C. MCDANIEL, PRESIDENT

LEET TOWNSHIP BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

April 15, 2022

VIA HAND DELIVERY

Letter of Conditions of Paid Administrative Leave of Michael Molinaro

Chief Michael Molinaro,

On behalf of the Leet Township Board of Commissioners, I write this letter to outline the conditions of your paid administrative leave. It is important to note that this is not a disciplinary action. However, strict compliance to the conditions set forth below is expected. If you fail to comply with any of the conditions under any circumstance, it will be considered an act of insubordination potentially subject to disciplinary action or termination following the proper procedures.

You are hereby directed to follow these conditions:

- You are to turn over all township property, including your badge, duty weapons, or any other police department equipment, immediately!! If any Township Property is in your home, the officer on duty, or other designated agent or agents of the Board of Commissioners, shall escort you to retrieve said property.
- You are to turn over all usernames and passwords to all computer systems, police databases, any software used by the Law Enforcement, any social media accounts, or other electronic media or devices owned by the Township immediately.
- You are to turn over your MPOETC ID card immediately.
- You shall not have any contact with any current Leet Township Employees or Officials or any former Leet Township Employees or Officials. This is essential to maintain the integrity of the investigation because these individuals may be part of the investigation. As such, "any contact" includes any type of communication through any third parties,

through social media, through any written communication on any media, electronic or otherwise, or by any other means not listed in this letter.

- You shall not hold yourself out as, or act in the capacity of, a Leet Township Police Officer until reinstated.
- You shall cooperate with the investigation by attending any interviews and answering any and all questions truthfully and completely.
- You shall produce any documents requested relevant to the investigation in your possession including any communication between yourself and any other person by any electronic means or otherwise.
- You shall attempt to obtain continuances for any court appearances for which you are scheduled to attend. If another officer can attend in your place because they were present with you during any arrest, then that officer shall attend in your place. If a continuance is not granted by the authority issuing the subpoena and no officer is able to attend in your place, then you will be permitted to attend upon notifying the individuals listed below.
- You shall not act in manner that will compromise the investigation.

If you have any questions or need to contact anyone regarding this investigation or for any other reason related to the Township, then you shall contact the President of the Leet Township Board of Commissioners, Martin C. McDaniel or Vice President Carolyn Verszyla. The Investigator or Solicitor will be contacting you very shortly about the investigation. Again, any failure to follow the conditions of this letter, will be considered an act of insubordination potentially subject to disciplinary action or termination following the proper procedures.

Yours Respectfully,

Martin C. McDaniel, President
Leet Township Board of Commissioners

Date