

LEET TOWNSHIP BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
May 8, 2023
Minutes of the Board of Commissioner's Regular Meeting

The Regular Meeting of the Leet Township Board of Commissioners was brought to order at 7:00 p.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, Carolyn Verszyla, Dan Peluso, and John Stephansky. The meeting started with the Pledge of Allegiance. Commissioner Nash joined the meeting at 7:04 p.m.

Also present:

Betsy Rengers, Manager	Chuck Soman, Resident
Brian Jameson, Interim Police Chief	Peggy Adams, Resident
Steve Chesney, Solicitor	Paul Goerman, Resident
Joe Ferrang, Planning Commission Chairman	Patrick Murphey, Resident
John Valinsky, LSSE Engineer	
Donna Adipietro, Resident	
Dave Kovacs, Resident	

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Mr. McDaniel called for public participation. There was none at that time.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

Board of Commissioners April 10, 2023, Regular Meeting Minutes

MOTION: Mrs. Verszyla made a motion to approve the minutes of the April 10, 2023, Board of Commissioners Regular Meeting, as submitted, seconded by Mr. Peluso. Roll call was taken with a vote as follows: Mr. McDaniel; yes, Mrs. Verszyla; yes, Mr. Stephansky; yes, and Mr. Peluso; yes. The motion carried.

April 24, 2023, Board of Commissioners Workshop Meeting Minutes

MOTION: Mr. Stephansky made a motion to approve the April 24, 2023, Board of Commissioners Workshop Meeting Minutes, as submitted, seconded by Mrs. Verszyla. Roll call was taken with a vote as follows: Mr. McDaniel; yes, Mrs. Verszyla; yes, Mr. Stephansky; yes, Mr. Peluso; yes, and Mr. Nash: yes. The motion carried.

Mr. Nash arrived at the meeting at 7:04 p.m.

FINANCE REPORT

Interim Chief Jameson explained that the Verizon Plan has three phones for the Police Department, and they only need two. He will investigate turning in one of the phones.

Watson Institute has agreed to purchase two AEDs for the Township. Cintas will be given notice that the Township is terminating the contract for the AED machines.

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Mrs. Verszyla questioned if a purchase order was submitted for check 10903 written to Incom Supply in the amount of \$752.91. Mr. McDaniel explained that there were small purchases made throughout the month that added up to that amount and only one check was written for the entire payment. Mr. McDaniel asked about the expense of Zoom software. Ms. Rengers uses the software to attend meetings and webinars. Mr. McDaniel asked about the bill from Share Corporation for a product called After Effect. Ms. Rengers noticed the name and will ask Mr. Wanto what the product is used for.

MOTION: Ms. Verszyla made a motion to approve payment of the bill list and invoices presented in the amount of \$93,441.19, seconded by Mr. Stephansky. Roll call was taken with a vote as follows: Mr. McDaniel; yes, Mrs. Verszyla; yes, Mr. Stephansky; yes, Mr. Peluso; yes, and Mr. Nash; yes. The motion carried.

Liquid Fuels Reimbursement

Ms. Rengers explained the Township received a vehicle and parts allowance each year from Liquid Fuels in the amount of approximately \$10,000.00. The Township would use the allowance to make truck payments for up to 10 months, depending on the allowance amount. The Treasurer would divide the amount by the monthly truck payments to see how many payments could be made in the year. This was not done in 2021, and the former Treasurer decided to pay for truck parts from the allowance. Ms. Rengers did not remember that the former Treasurer spent the money in that way and accidentally made too many truck payments from the Liquid Fuels Account which resulted in an overage in spending from the truck and equipment allotment of \$3,498.83. The Township is required to repay the Liquid Fuels account the amount of the overage.

MOTION: Mrs. Verszyla made a motion to repay the Liquid Fuels Account \$3,498.83 from the General Fund, seconded by Mr. Peluso. Roll call was taken with a vote as follows: Mr. McDaniel; yes, Mrs. Verszyla; yes, Mr. Stephansky; yes, Mr. Peluso; yes, and Mr. Nash: yes. The motion carried.

Mr. Stephansky commented on a recent Facebook post regarding TAN loans. He was asked by a resident why the Township needed to take a TAN loan. He researched the subject and found that the Township took TAN loans in 2018, 2019, 2020, and 2021. The TAN loan was not taken in 2022. He did not appreciate the Facebook post and felt that the person who wrote it was misleading the taxpayers. Mrs. Adipietro recalled how proud the Board was when they did not have to take a TAN Loan. Mr. McDaniel stated that there was money that wasn't spent that should have been and that was accomplished by putting off projects. The discussion continued.

Circulate Department Reports

The Department Reports were circulating in the meeting room. A vote to approve the reports will be taken later in the meeting.

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UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Property Committee

Approval to Repair the Sign Lights at 194 Ambridge Ave

Exact Electric Solutions and Parme Electric gave bids to repair the lights for the signs at 194 Ambridge Ave. Exact Electric had a lower bid.

MOTION: Mr. Peluso made a motion to accept the Exact Electric Bid to replace the wiring for the sign lights at 194 Ambridge Ave, in the amount of \$1150.00, seconded by Mr. Stephansky. Roll call was taken with a vote as follows: Mr. McDaniel; yes, Mrs. Verszyla; yes, Mr. Stephansky; yes, Mr. Peluso; yes, and Mr. Nash: yes. The motion carried.

Renovation of 194 Ambridge Ave Discussion

Mr. Peluso reported that the Township purchased a Jehovah's Witness Hall in 2019. There were no plans at that time for security, evidence storage, or a Chief's office. The Board has been working on plans for better use of the existing space and will implement grants and loans to finance the renovations. He was not in disagreement with the purchase of the building, but the space needs to be used better. Mr. Valinsky explained that it is best to have a conceptual design for the grant process. The cost can be assessed by square footage. The Local Share Account Grant will open this fall and grant funds will be applied for at that time.

Public Works Committee

PennDOT Ambridge Avenue Weight Study Meeting Update

The Ambridge Ave Weight Study meeting is set for Thursday, May 11, 2023. Mrs. Verszyla does not want to meet with PennDOT if they do not have a person in attendance who can make decisions. Ms. Rengers understood that PennDOT Representative Lori Musto is the decision maker. Interim Chief Jameson, Mr. Nash, Mrs. Verszyla, and Ms. Rengers will attend the meeting.

Mound Street Traffic Mirror

There was a brief discussion about installing a traffic mirror on Mound Street.

MOTION: Mrs. Verszyla made a motion to install a traffic mirror on Mound Street, seconded by Mr. Nash. Roll call was taken with a vote as follows: Mr. McDaniel; yes, Mrs. Verszyla; yes, Mr. Stephansky; yes, Mr. Peluso; yes, and Mr. Nash: yes. The motion carried.

Olde Sewickley Highlands ADA Ramp Discussion

The Township received a complaint from a resident about mud and water pooling at the corner of Spencer and Chaucer. Mr. Valinsky inspected the area and suggested that ADA-compliant ramps are installed. The Township may qualify for grants to pay for this project. The recent paving project raised the curb slightly and caused the issue. Mr. Peluso suggested notching the pavement there to help remedy the issue. Mr. Peluso will speak with Mr. Wanto about the issue.

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Permission to Sell Highway Super P and Munroe Salt Spreaders on Municibid

Mrs. Verszyla spoke to Mr. Wanto about selling the salt spreaders because they are no longer used.

MOTION: Mrs. Verszyla made a motion to sell the Highway Super P and Munroe Salt Spreaders on Municibid, seconded by Mr. Peluso. Roll call was taken with a vote as follows: Mr. McDaniel; yes, Mrs. Verszyla; yes, Mr. Stephansky; yes, Mr. Peluso; yes, and Mr. Nash: yes. The motion carried.

Update on Guest/Camp Meeting Retaining Wall

Ms. Rengers reported that Reverend Guest was trying to get in touch with the school district about lane improvements before he repaired the wall, and he was going to have a tree company remove trees that were leaning on the retaining wall. On the way to tonight's meeting, Mr. Peluso saw a resident cutting trees at Reverend Guest's property and the resident's wife was directing traffic. Interim Chief Jameson will send an officer to the property to make sure they are safe. We will keep an eye on the issue.

Public Safety Committee

Beech Street Traffic Study Meeting Update

Mr. McDaniel reported that he spoke with Mr. Weatherby about the speed tables and stop signs for Beech Street. Leetsdale Council will meet on Thursday, May 11 to discuss the matter and then they will follow up with Mr. McDaniel.

Approval of Training Classes for the Police Department

Interim Chief Jameson asked the Board for approval to attend Supervisor Leadership Training classes. There are three sessions in 2024 at \$795.00 for each class. We should pay for the first class now and then pay for the next two classes next year. Mrs. Verszyla asked if the classes were reimbursable since they were for next year. Interim Chief Jameson felt they were. This is a premiere training course.

MOTION: Mrs. Verszyla made a motion to register Interim Chief Jameson for the Supervisor Leadership Institute Training Course on January 15-19, 2024, for \$795.00, seconded by Mr. Nash. Roll call was taken with a vote as follows: Mr. McDaniel; yes, Mrs. Verszyla; yes, Mr. Stephansky; yes, Mr. Peluso; yes, and Mr. Nash: yes. The motion carried.

Solicitor

Handicapped Parking Ordinance Update

Mr. Chesney sent the draft of the handicapped parking ordinance to the Interim Chief for review and comments. He has been working with the Planning Commission on the short-term rental ordinance. The Township's definition of family is not in compliance with the law and should be changed. Mr. Chesney asked the Board for permission to attend a few Planning Commission meetings to work with them on the short-term rental ordinance. Short-term rentals are under 30 days. Mr. McDaniel explained that a resident requested that the Board raise the rental registration fees. Residents are allowed to rent their properties. The Board agreed that

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Mr. Chesney can work with the Planning Commission on the short-term rental ordinance.

NEW BUSINESS

Public Works Committee

Approval to Amend Cargill Salt Contract

The Township needed to enter into an extension agreement with Cargill to store the salt that was not purchased because the minimum salt order of 175 tons was not met. The salt contracts run for one year starting on July 1st. Today Ms. Rengers found two slips that they have not invoiced us for, and we are very close to the minimum that we agreed to order.

MOTION: Mrs. Verszyla made a motion to extend the Cargill Salt Contract Agreement for salt storage, if needed, seconded by Mr. Nash. Roll call was taken with a vote as follows: Mr. McDaniel; yes, Mrs. Verszyla; yes, Mr. Stephansky; yes, Mr. Peluso; yes, and Mr. Nash: yes. The motion carried.

Department Reports

Acceptance of Department Reports

Interim Chief Jameson had Chief Sedlacek from the Municipal Police Officers Education and Training Commission speak with the Civil Service Commission.

There were no questions about the financial reports. Interim Chief Jameson is working with Cintas to break the AED lease.

The Public Works Department helped fold newsletters on a rainy day. They are working on staining the pavilion at Plum Street Park. The trees have been ordered for Olde Sewickley Highlands. There was a new house built on Colonial Drive and it has opened the area to the cliff. Mr. McDaniel would like to install a section of guard rail there to prevent cars from going over the edge. Mr. Nash reported that the owner is considering putting up a fence there. Mr. Ferrang reported that the water was running over the curb there. Ms. Rengers notified Mr. Wanto that the curb should be fixed.

Mr. Ferrang reported on his air monitor from Purple Air. Purple Air tried to create a baseline of air quality in the area before the cracker plant went in. The cracker plant has been having issues with flares.

QVCOG Report: PRC will not host the 2023 Hard to Recycle Event in Quaker Valley. They cited a lack of volunteers and funding as the primary reasons. Mr. Peluso is the Alternate Board Member for the COG.

Ms. Rengers went to the magistrate for the second time regarding a property on Ambridge Ave. Judge Ford granted the owner an extension to have the building painted and order the owner to

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pay the Township for a Saturday Public Works call out to fix the front door that fell out of the frame. The building has been plagued with maintenance issues.

Mr. Peluso reported on the tree planting at Olde Sewickley Highlands. A resident was upset about the trees being planted because of the leaves and she spoke with Mr. Peluso and Mr. McDaniel about it. Mr. McDaniel suggested taking a collection to purchase a plaque in remembrance of a resident who recently passed away.

CORRESPONDENCE

The Commissioners were invited to the Leetsdale 4th of July Parade. Mr. McDaniel will attend.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Amendment to the Agenda for an Executive Session for Employee Matters

MOTION: Mrs. Verszyla made a motion to amend the agenda to hold an Executive Session regarding employee matters, seconded by Mr. Peluso. Roll call was taken with a vote as follows: Mr. McDaniel; yes, Mrs. Verszyla; yes, Mr. Stephansky; yes, Mr. Peluso; yes, and Mr. Nash: yes. The motion carried.

MOTION: Mrs. Verszyla made a motion to go into Executive Session at 8:15 p.m. seconded by Mr. Peluso, with all in favor of the motion.

MOTION: Mrs. Verszyla made a motion to go into Regular Session at 8:47 p.m. seconded by Mr. Peluso, with all in favor of the motion.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Mrs. Verszyla made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:48 pm seconded by Mr. Nash, with all in favor of the motion.

TOWNSHIP OF LEET

BETSY RENGERS, MANAGER

MARTIN C. MCDANIEL, PRESIDENT

Date: June 12, 2023