

LEET TOWNSHIP BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
July 10, 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 Vice President Carolyn Verszyla at the Leet Township Municipal Building, 194 Ambridge Ave., Fair Oaks, PA 15003. Roll Call: Commissioners present were Carolyn Verszyla, Dan Peluso, Rody Nash, and John Stephansky. The meeting started with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Absent: President Martin C. McDaniel

Also present:

Betsy Rengers, Manager	Chuck Soman, Resident
Brian Jameson, Interim Police Chief	Peggy Adams, Resident
Steve Chesney, Solicitor	Pat Murphy, Beech Street Resident
John Valinsky, LSSE Engineer	John Macurak, Beech Street Resident
Donna Adipietro, Resident	Salina Everette, Resident
John Griffiths, Beech Street Resident	Marty Zimmel, Resident
Jeff Besong, Resident	David Kovacs, Resident
Bryauna Dalten, Beech Street Resident	Cody Dalten, Beech Street Resident
Andrew Novak, on behalf of State Rep. Gaydos	

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Beech Street Traffic Study Meeting with Residents: Mrs. Verszyla invited the resident from Beech Street to come to the front of the room to individually speak to the Board regarding their concerns about speeding on Beech Street and if they agreed to the installation of speed tables. Interim Chief Jameson explained that the Township had conducted a traffic study on Beech Street after receiving many complaints about speeding on the street. The study revealed that there was an issue with speeding when traffic was coming from Orchard Street. The Township met with Leetsdale Representative Jeff Weatherby about the issue because part of Beech Street is in Leetsdale. Leetsdale agreed that installing speed tables to slow traffic would be the best option. Interim Chief Jameson received correspondence from the manufacturing business on Beech known as Markaloy. They expressed their concerns about the location of the speed tables and asked that they be placed beyond their entrance because their forklift would not be able to get over a speed table. Another option was to make the street a one-way, however, Leetsdale was not in favor of this plan.

Mr. Nash articulated to the residents that the Township wanted to hear their comments about the speeding issues and if they were in favor of the installation of speed tables. Resident John Griffiths, 8 Beech Street, asked why the police department was not enforcing the speed limit on the street. Interim Chief Jameson explained the process and reasons why the speed limit was hard to enforce in that area. Most of the speeding was determined to be after 9 pm and late into the night.

Cody and Bryauna Dalten, 8 Beech Street, explained their experiences with people speeding on the street and why they were in favor of the installation of speed tables.

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Mr. Peluso requested that Leetsdale paint the traffic lines that have worn off on Beaver Street at Beech. Interim Chief Jameson asked Leetsdale to paint the traffic lines, but they haven't yet.

The discussion continued about the options to slow down speeders on the street.

Business Owner John Macurak, 42 Beech Street, explained that residents are not stopping for the stop signs on Plum Street. There is speeding there, also. People are going to Plum Street Park at night. Interim Chief Jameson stated that patrols of the park at night have been increased. Mr. Macurak informed the Board of a fight that broke out on Plum Street recently.

Patrick Murphy, 41 Beech, talked about the speed tables at Beaver Valley Mall regarding their height and width. Engineer Valinsky was familiar with them because LSSE installed them.

The discussion continued about speeding on Beech Street and the installation of speed tables.

The consensus of the Beech Street residents was in favor of the installation of speed tables. Interim Chief Jameson is in favor of installing permanent digital speed signs on the street. There was a grant available for the digital speed signs, but the grant had closed for the year. Engineer Valinsky stated that he could revise the scope of the multi-model grant to include a digital speed sign.

Resident Cody Dalten requested that the vegetation on the bend be trimmed back. The Public Works Department will work on trimming the vegetation before, on, and after the bend.

Engineer Valinsky spoke about the different types of speed tables. There are permanent and temporary options with varying widths and heights.

MOTION: Mr. Nash made a motion to work with Beech Street Residents and Leetsdale Council to install speed tables on Beech Street, based on the engineer's recommendations, seconded by Mr. Peluso, with all in favor of the motion.

State Representative Valerie Gaydos' Legislative Aid Andrew Novak introduced himself to the Board. He was excited to work with the Commissioners and attended the meeting to gather information for Ms. Gaydos, including any wish list items. Mrs. Verszyla stated that the Public Safety Committee had met with PennDOT and Ms. Gaydos about the Ambridge Ave truck traffic issues but there was no resolution to the issues, yet. Mr. Nash said that PennDOT would add signage and paint traffic lines on Ambridge, but this had not been done yet, either. Mrs. Verszyla asked the PennDOT Reps to let her know if Ambridge Ave. was a part of the Beaver County budget. Mr. Nash explained the truck issues to Mr. Novak. Ms. Gaydos is holding an open mic event at the Sewickley YMCA on August 1st.

Resident Salina Everette said that Neely Street had not been swept the last time the sweeper was out. Ms. Rengers will notify the Foreman.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

Board of Commissioners June 12, 2023, Regular Meeting Minutes

Mrs. Verszyla had the following corrections:

Page 3: under Unfinished Business: Add the weight of the truck. (250). Page 2, second sentence: add: Mrs. Verszyla agreed with Mr. Nash. Page 6: Mrs. Verszyla asked if the Township used rubber mulch. Page 7: add donation and amount to the sentence about Watson donating the AED machines.

MOTION: Mr. Nash made a motion to approve the minutes of the June 12, 2023, Board of Commissioners Regular Meeting, with corrections, seconded by Mr. Peluso. Roll call was taken with a vote as follows: Mrs. Verszyla; yes, Mr. Stephansky; yes, Mr. Nash; yes, and Mr. Peluso; yes. The motion carried.

FINANCE REPORT

Mrs. Verszyla asked for the total amount of the bill and invoice list in the motion.

Mr. Peluso said that the bill for playground sand seemed expensive and to ask the Public Works Department to be cognizant of prices before purchasing. Mrs. Verszyla asked about a bill for a uniform. Interim Chief Jameson explained that the officer received a purchase order before making the purchase.

MOTION: Mr. Stephansky made a motion to approve payment of the bill list and invoices presented, in the amount of \$100,486.95, seconded by Mr. Peluso. Roll call was taken with a vote as follows: Mrs. Verszyla; yes, Mr. Stephansky; yes, Mr. Peluso; yes, and Mr. Nash: yes. The motion carried.

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.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Public Works Committee

Approval of Resolution 2023-14 (Multimodal Grant Application)

Engineer Valinsky explained that he would amend the scope of the grant to include digital speed signs.

MOTION: Mr. Nash made a motion to approve Resolution 2023-14 for the application of a Multimodal Transportation Fund Grant in the amount of \$127,400.00 from the Commonwealth Financing Authority to be used for the Township-wide ADA improvements project with a revision to the scope of the grant to include the digital speed sign, seconded by Mr. Peluso. Roll call was taken with a vote as follows: Mrs. Verszyla; yes, Mr. Stephansky; yes, Mr. Peluso; yes, and Mr. Nash: yes. The motion carried.

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Public Safety Committee
Handicapped Ordinance Update

Mr. Chesney gave the Commissioners two handouts and explained them: one was Ordinance 2023-01 to amend Chapter 21, Part 1, Section 21-103 to exempt all municipal agencies or authorities from paying street opening permit fees and the other handout was for Ordinance 2023-02 to regulate handicapped parking spaces in the Township for qualified residents.

Interim Chief Jameson stated that the new body-worn cameras will be up and running by the end of the week. The Township received a generous donation of \$3,100.00 from Watson Institute for the purchase of two new AED machines. The Township canceled the lease contract with Cintas for two AED machines saving \$2,400.00 per year.

Interim Chief Jameson finalized the Grant with the PCCD for a new report management system of \$54,728.00 from InSync of Butler County. This will allow other agencies to see Leet Township reports. He will do a project modification report to divert some of the grant funds to a mobile data system for the cars. This will allow data to be instantly accessed by the police officers.

The Commissioners will vote to advertise the proposed ordinances at the next meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Public Works Report

Mrs. Verszyla gave the Public Works Report:

The Public Works Department has been cutting grass and watering the new trees at Olde Sewickley Highlands. They picked up the new Ford F-250 pickup truck, mulched Pilgrim Drive Island, patched Leet Acres potholes, and did boom mowing around town.

Approval of Resolution 2023-15 (Allegheny County Vacant Property Recovery Program)

The resolution is specific to the lot/block number. Ms. Rengers explained that the owner of the property passed away and the relatives refused to claim the property. Mr. Besong was able to acquire several of the lots from the county recovery program and is asking to obtain more lots. The lots are contiguous to each other. He will maintain the lots and they will go back on the tax rolls.

MOTION: Mr. Nash made a motion to approve Resolution 2023-15 for the acquisition and subsequent deposition of vacant property known as lot and block 934-G-00184 through the Allegheny County Vacant Property Recovery Program, seconded by Mr. Stephansky, with all in favor of the motion.

Personnel Committee

Resignation of Kristine Shelton from the Position of Tax Collector

Ms. Shelton resigned from the position of Leet Township Tax Collector due to her employer's workplace policy. She requested to be paid out the stipend monies owed to her for the 6 months as the tax collector.

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MOTION: Mr. Peluso made a motion to accept the resignation of Kristine Shelton from the position of Leet Township Tax Collector and to pay the prorated stipend, seconded by Mr. Nash. Roll call was taken with a vote as follows: Mrs. Verszyla; yes, Mr. Stephansky; yes, Mr. Peluso; yes, and Mr. Nash: yes. The motion carried.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Manager's Report

July 2023

- The Civil Service Board is working hard to schedule additional hearing dates for the Molinaro Hearing. I understand they are waiting to hear from the lawyers regarding their availability and then the new dates will be advertised.
- We closed on the truck loan on Monday, June 26th. Andy Wanto and I picked up the truck on Friday, June 30th. Andy Wanto is in the process of scheduling the truck to be outfitted with lights and lettering.
- The Planning Commission canceled the July meeting. They are working on the short-term rental ordinance.
- I met with QVCOG Executive Director Patrick Connors and LSSE Engineer Josh Callendar via Zoom, on July 6th to discuss the bidding process for the sidewalk replacement on Orchard and Beech. We received a grant (CD **48-7.4d** Leet Township - Orchard & Beech ADA Sidewalk Replacement Project) when Dan Slagle was here, and it is finally ready to be bid out. This is a small project (\$31,000.00), but it will help with the continuing effort to replace all the sidewalks in Fair Oaks. The project should be bid out within three weeks and started in September. Sidewalks to be replaced are located on the left side of Orchard intersecting with Beech Street and then at the beginning of Beech.
- We have been trying to get the War Memorial Committee together to discuss the plan for the Memorial. Committee members have not decided on a meeting date.
- I sent out six code enforcement notices in June about high grass, tall hedges impeding the view of oncoming traffic, and garbage in the alleyway. I have had a positive response to most of the issues.

MOTION: Mr. Peluso made a motion to approve the Department Reports as submitted, seconded by Mr. Stephansky, with all in favor.

Engineer Report

Engineer Valinsky was working on the paving bid for Watson Street and will have the bids for the August meeting. He is working with the QVCOG on the sidewalk grant as reported in the Manager's report.

Camp Meeting Road Retaining Wall Issue

The Township notified Reverend Guest about the poor condition of his retaining wall located on Camp Meeting Road. Allegheny County owns the road, and the wall is not in their right of way. Engineer Valinsky researched the wall, and it belongs to Reverend Guest. He did not do a structural assessment of the wall. Reverend Guest contacted the Quaker Valley School District to see if they had plans for lane improvements in his area. The school district sent a letter to

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Ms. Rengers stating that they have no plans for lane improvements in front of Mr. Guest's retaining wall.

Mr. Chesney stated the Township can send a letter if the engineer determines that the wall posed a danger to the community. Engineer Valinsky will contact the Geotech engineer for an assessment of it.

MOTION: Mr. Peluso made a motion to have the engineer do a geotechnical report on the retaining wall on Camp Meeting Road owned by John Guest, seconded by Mr. Nash. Roll call was taken with a vote as follows: Mrs. Verszyla; yes, Mr. Stephansky; yes, Mr. Peluso; yes, and Mr. Nash: yes. The motion carried.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was no public participation at that time.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION: Mr. Peluso made a motion to go into Executive Session at 8:20 pm to discuss personnel issues, seconded by Mr. Nash, with all in favor of the motion

MOTION: Mr. Peluso made a motion come out of Executive Session at 8:37 pm after discussing personnel issues, seconded by Mr. Nash, with all in favor of the motion

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Mr. Stephansky made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:37 p.m. seconded by Mr. Peluso, with all in favor of the motion.

TOWNSHIP OF LEET

BETSY RENGERS, MANAGER

CAROLYN VERSZYLA, VICE- PRESIDENT

Date: August 14, 2023