

LEET TOWNSHIP BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
September 11, 2023
Minutes of the Board of Commissioner's Regular Meeting

President Martin C. McDaniel brought the Regular Meeting of the Leet Township Board of Commissioners to order at 7:00 p.m. at the Leet Township Municipal Building, 194 Ambridge Ave., Fair Oaks, PA 15003. Roll Call: Commissioners present were Martin C. McDaniel, Carolyn Verszyla (via phone), Dan Peluso, John Stephansky, and Rody Nash. The meeting started with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Also present:

Betsy Rengers, Manager	Chuck Soman, Resident
Brian Jameson, Interim Police Chief	Peggy Adams, Resident
Steve Chesney (via phone), Solicitor	James Charlesworth, Resident
John Valinsky, LSSE Engineer	Marty Zimmel, Resident
Donna Adipietro, Resident	Joe Bellissimo, District Judge Candidate
Kris Shelton, Residents	Josh Crow, Resident
Joe Ferrang, Planning Commission Chairperson	Susan Barness, Resident

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

District Magistrate candidate Joseph Bellissimo introduced himself to the Board. He informed the Board of his work experience and why he was running for the position. The Board thanked him for his comments.

Resident Josh Crow was concerned about the enforcement of Leet Township Ordinance Chapter 15: Motor Vehicles and Traffic Regulations. He explained that a resident on Orchard Street continually parked on the sidewalk in front of her house and in the crosswalk. He showed the Board photos of the car parked on the sidewalk. He complained to the Manager about the car parked on the sidewalk. Ms. Rengers told him she would forward the complaint to the police department, and he has yet to hear back from them. Mr. Crow continued to explain the problems with blocked sidewalks. Interim Chief Jameson said that the Township does not have a parking ticket system. He would investigate establishing a parking ticket ordinance. Mr. McDaniel asked Interim Chief Jameson to notify the residents when they violated the parking regulations.

Josh Crow was concerned about Plum Street Park and a fight that took place over the summer there. He claimed there was an incident where attendees of the park beat up a neighbor. The police were called and responded. Interim Chief Jameson explained that the residents needed to call the police department and complain when problems at the park were occurring. Interim Chief Jameson was researching live stream cameras for installation at the park.

Resident Sue Barness said they have complained about the park over the years, but the issues were never resolved. Mrs. Verszyla stated that that was the first time the current board had been made aware of problems at Plum Street Park. Mrs. Barness claimed that there were many issues, such as drug usage, going on there. Mrs. Barness asked to have the park fenced like it was many years ago, or she asked to have the park taken out. She has children with disabilities

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who cannot walk on the sidewalk on Orchard because of the car parked on the sidewalk. The Board referred the above matters to Interim Chief Jameson to resolve them.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

MOTION: Mr. Peluso made a motion to approve the minutes of the August 14, 2023, Board of Commissioners Regular Meeting, as submitted, seconded by Mrs. Verszyla. A roll call vote was taken with the vote as follows: Mrs. Verszyla, yes; Mr. McDaniel, yes; Mr. Nash, yes; and Mr. Peluso, yes. Mr. Stephansky abstained from the vote because he did not attend the meeting. The motion carried.

MOTION: Mrs. Verszyla made a motion to approve the minutes of the August 28, 2023, Board of Commissioners Workshop Meeting, as submitted, seconded by Mr. Peluso. A roll call vote was taken with the vote as follows: Mrs. Verszyla, yes; Mr. McDaniel, yes; Mr. Stephansky, yes; and Mr. Peluso, yes. Mr. Nash abstained from the vote because he did not attend the meeting. The motion carried.

FINANCE REPORT

MOTION: Mr. Stephansky made a motion to approve payment of the bill list and invoices presented in the amount of \$133,053.41, seconded by Mr. Nash. A roll call vote was taken with the vote as follows: Mrs. Verszyla, yes; Mr. McDaniel, yes; Mr. Peluso, yes; Mr. Stephansky, yes; and Mr. Nash, yes. The motion carried.

Circulate Department Reports

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

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Public Works

Installation of Beech Street Speed Tables

Mr. Valinsky was investigating several options for speed tables for the Township to purchase. Scott Township and Pleasant Hills have used temporary speed tables that have since been replaced with permanent ones. They are considering selling the speed tables and are waiting for Board approval to sell them. There are no suppliers that rent speed tables. Mr. Valinsky suggested to Foreman Andy Wanto to remove the speed tables in winter or lift the snow blade during snow removal so as not to damage them. We will discuss this at the next meeting and hopefully have the prices for the used speed tables by then.

Relist Salt Spreaders on Muncibid

Ms. Rengers listed the salt spreaders on Muncibid for two weeks. The Monroe Auger was listed for a minimum of \$ 3,500.00, and the Super P Spreader was listed for \$2,000.00. There were no bids. Foreman Andy Wanto suggested relisting the Monroe Auger for \$2,000.00 and the Super P Spreader for \$800.00 because it had a broken chain. Mr. Stephansky stated that the broken chain was stainless steel and expensive to fix.

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MOTION: Mr. Nash made a motion to relist the Monroe Auger for \$2,000.00 and the Super P Spreader for \$800.00 on Municibid, seconded by Mr. Peluso. A roll call vote was taken with the vote as follows: Mrs. Verszyla, yes; Mr. McDaniel, yes; Mr. Peluso, yes; Mr. Stephansky, yes; and Mr. Nash, yes. The motion carried.

Acceptance of CD 48-7.4d Swede Construction Bid Withdrawal

Mr. McDaniel explained that Swede Construction was the lowest bidder for the ADA Sidewalk Replacement Project (CD 48-7.4d) bid out by the Quaker Valley Council of Governments for Leet Township. However, the bid amount was due to a mathematical error. Swede Construction Corporation sent the Quaker Valley Council of Governments a letter explaining the mistake and withdrawing their bid. The Engineer recommended the Board formally accept the withdrawal of the bid.

MOTION: Mr. Peluso made a motion to accept Swede's withdrawal of their bid of \$28,850.00 for CD 48-7.4d ADA Sidewalk Replacement Project, seconded by Mr. Nash. A roll call vote was taken with the vote as follows: Mrs. Verszyla, yes; Mr. McDaniel, yes; Mr. Peluso, yes; Mr. Stephansky, yes; and Mr. Nash, yes. The motion carried.

Approval of CD 48.7.4d Excaliber Construction LLC Bid

The next lowest bid for the project was from Excaliber Construction, LLC, for \$35,850.00. Excaliber will start the project immediately. Mr. Valinsky stated that LSSE had not worked with Excaliber before.

MOTION: Mrs. Verszyla made a motion to accept the bid from Excaliber Construction, LLC for \$35,850.00 for the CD 48-7.4d ADA Sidewalk Replacement Project, seconded by Mr. Nash. A roll call vote was taken with the vote as follows: Mrs. Verszyla, yes; Mr. McDaniel, yes; Mr. Peluso, yes; Mr. Stephansky, yes; and Mr. Nash, yes. The motion carried.

Approval of Resolution 2023-18 (RAAC Grant: Salt Storage Improvements)

The grant application was for improvements to the salt storage shed at 198 Ambridge Ave.

MOTION: Mrs. Verszyla made a motion to approve Resolution 2023-18 to have on record that the Township was formally applying for a grant from the Redevelopment Authority of Allegheny County for salt storage improvements for \$202,350.00, seconded by Mr. Nash. A roll call vote was taken with the vote as follows: Mrs. Verszyla, yes; Mr. McDaniel, yes; Mr. Stephansky, yes; and Mr. Nash, yes. Mr. Peluso voted no. The motion carried.

Approval of Resolution 2023-19 (RAAC Grant: Leet Township Stormwater Improvements)

The grant application was to improve and contain stormwater flows in Quaker Heights open space and to add inlets on Watson Street.

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MOTION: Mr. Stephansky made a motion to approve Resolution 2023-19 to have on record that the Township was formally applying for a grant from the Redevelopment Authority of Allegheny County for township-wide stormwater improvements for \$345,180.00, seconded by Mr. Peluso. A roll call vote was taken with the vote as follows: Mrs. Verszyla, yes; Mr. McDaniel, yes; Mr. Stephansky, yes; Mr. Peluso, yes; and Mr. Nash, yes. The motion carried.

Approval of Resolution 2023-20 (RAAC Grant: Municipal Complex Improvements)

The grant application was for improvements to the public works building at 198 Ambridge Ave, including a new roof, garage, and man doors.

MOTION: Mrs. Verszyla made a motion to approve Resolution 2023-20 to have on record that the Township was formally applying for a grant from the Redevelopment Authority of Allegheny County for municipal complex improvements for \$220,800.00, seconded by Mr. Nash. A roll call vote was taken with the vote as follows: Mrs. Verszyla, yes; Mr. McDaniel, yes; Mr. Stephansky, yes; Mr. Peluso, yes; and Mr. Nash, yes. The motion carried.

Approval of Insurance Renewals

Since the last meeting, we have received updated numbers for the insurance quotes.

MOTION: Mr. Stephansky made a motion to approve the following MRM insurance quotes and payments:

- Liability Policy: \$7,095.00
- Cyber Policy: CFC \$2,470.00
- Police Policy: \$5,804.00
- Public Officials Policy: 7,309.00
- Abuse and Molestation Policy: \$601.00.

Mr. Peluso seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken with the vote as follows: Mrs. Verszyla, yes; Mr. McDaniel, yes; Mr. Stephansky, yes; Mr. Peluso, yes; and Mr. Nash, yes. The motion carried.

Camp Meeting Road Stormwater Issues

Mr. Peluso stated the property at 506 Camp Meeting Road belongs to a friend of his. The property had a stormwater drainage issue, and he asked Mr. Valinsky to investigate it. Mr. Valinsky found that the property had a hillside in the back that created a runoff problem, and stormwater from Camp Meeting Road was draining into the property. Mr. Valinsky stated that tying into the inlet on the Clements property may solve the Camp Meeting Road drainage issue. The problem was the drainage pipe on the Clements property was privately owned and was not working. Mr. McDaniel was going to speak with Allegheny County Representatives about fixing the collapsed pipe.

Public Safety Committee

Rave Alert Reverse 911 Call System Renewal

Rave Alert recently purchased the Swift 911 Reverse Call System software that the Township uses. Mr. Peluso explained that Rave Alert gave a presentation at a COG meeting on the software. The technology was much improved, and the new software would give the Township more options for sending emergency notices to the residents. Rave would comport the phone

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numbers registered in the Swift 911 system to the new Rave system. There are currently 800 phone numbers registered in the Swift 911 system.

MOTION: Mrs. Verszyla made a motion to purchase a one-year license for RAVE Mobile Safety Reverse 911 Call software for \$1,250.00, seconded by Mr. Peluso. A roll call vote was taken with the vote as follows: Mrs. Verszyla, yes; Mr. McDaniel, yes; Mr. Stephansky, yes; Mr. Peluso, yes; and Mr. Nash, yes. The motion carried.

Approval to Pay up to \$600.00 per year for Connecteam Scheduling Software

Interim Chief Jameson had been using the free version of Connecteam for police officer scheduling. The software was free to use for a police department with ten or fewer officers. He asked the Board for permission to purchase the Connecteam Scheduling Software for up to \$600.00 in the event there were over ten officers.

MOTION: Mr. Nash made a motion to purchase Connecteam Scheduling Software for \$600.00 in the event there were over ten officers, seconded by Mr. Peluso. A roll call vote was taken with the vote as follows: Mrs. Verszyla, yes; Mr. McDaniel, yes; Mr. Stephansky, yes; Mr. Peluso, yes; and Mr. Nash, yes. The motion carried.

Approval to Issue a Disabled Use Parking Space

Mrs. Verszyla asked Mr. Chesney if a resident had applied for a disabled-use parking space, and the designation was granted if anyone with a disabled-use placard could use the space. Mr. Chesney said he would investigate the question and get back to the Board with the answer. He explained that any resident could apply for a disabled-use space if they met the requirements of the ordinance. Mr. Chesney suggested that the Board table the approval of the designated disabled-use parking space until later in the meeting after the ordinance was adopted.

Personnel Committee

Appointment of Tax Collector

No one applied for the position of Tax Collector, so the appointment was tabled.

Solicitor

Consideration to Adopt Ordinance 2023-01 (Street Opening Waiver)

Edgeworth Municipal Authority was previously charged for street opening permits on Plum Street. Since then, they have been refunded the money. They sent a letter to the Township stating that they would let us know when they were going to do a street opening in the future.

MOTION: Mrs. Verszyla made a motion to approve Resolution 2023-01 to waive street opening permit fees for any applicant that is a PA municipal agency or authority, seconded by Mr. Nash. A roll call vote was taken with the vote as follows: Mrs. Verszyla, yes; Mr. McDaniel, yes; Mr. Stephansky, yes; Mr. Peluso, yes; and Mr. Nash, yes. The motion carried.

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Consideration to Adopt Ordinance 2023-02 (Disabled -Use Parking Space Regulations)

MOTION: Mr. Peluso made a motion to approve Resolution 2023-02 for the regulation and issuance of disabled-use parking spaces in the township, seconded by Mr. Stephansky. A roll call vote was taken with the vote as follows: Mrs. Verszyla, yes; Mr. McDaniel, yes; Mr. Stephansky, yes; Mr. Peluso, yes; and Mr. Nash, yes. The motion carried.

Approval to Issue a Disabled Use Parking Space

MOTION: Mr. Peluso made a motion to approve the application for a disabled-use parking space on Mound Street, seconded by Mr. Nash. A roll call vote was taken with the vote as follows: Mrs. Verszyla, yes; Mr. McDaniel, yes; Mr. Stephansky, yes; Mr. Peluso, yes; and Mr. Nash, yes. The motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

Finance Committee

Budget Calendar

Ms. Rengers asked the Board to approve the proposed schedule to work on the 2024 Budget. Mrs. Verszyla asked Ms. Rengers to ask all the employees to attend a health insurance benefits meeting. Ms. Rengers understood that the first meeting regarding health insurance should be with the Leet Township Police Collective Bargaining Unit. Mrs. Verszyla will call Ms. Rengers to discuss the issue.

MOTION: Mr. Stephansky made a motion to approve the 2024 Budget Calendar. Mr. Peluso seconded the motion, with all in favor. The motion carried.

Review of Pension Plan Actuarial Reports for Uniformed and Non-Uniformed Plans

Mr. Stephansky explained the Leet Township Pension Plan Actuarial Valuation Reports to the Board. The reports showed the cost determinations for the Uniformed and Non-Uniformed Pension plans. It also showed the cost of each employee enrolled in the plan. Mr. Stephansky explained that the plans may have shortfalls in the coming years. The Township received state aid every year. The 2024 Minimum Obligation amounts were similar to the 2023 amounts.

Approval of 2024 Uniformed Pension Minimum Municipal Obligation (\$77,463.00)

MOTION: Mr. Nash made a motion to approve the 2024 Minimum Municipal Obligation (MMO) for the Police Pension Plan for \$77,463.00, seconded by Mr. Peluso. A roll call vote was taken with the vote as follows: Mrs. Verszyla, yes; Mr. McDaniel, yes; Mr. Stephansky, yes; Mr. Peluso, yes; and Mr. Nash, yes. The motion carried.

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Approval of 2024 Non-Uniformed Pension Minimum Municipal Obligation (\$55,419.00)

MOTION: Mr. Stephansky made a motion to approve the 2024 Minimum Municipal Obligation (MMO) for the Non-uniformed Pension Plan for \$55,419.00, seconded by Mr. Peluso. A roll call vote was taken with the vote as follows: Mrs. Verszyla, yes; Mr. McDaniel, yes; Mr. Stephansky, yes; Mr. Peluso, yes; and Mr. Nash, yes. The motion carried.

Public Works Committee

Review of MS4 Outfall Report

Mr. Valinsky reported that the MS4 Permit required testing of dry weather stormwater outfalls every five years. LSSE conducted the testing, and most of the outfalls were within acceptable limits. There were issues with outfalls located around Frank and Willow Street in Fair Oaks and areas in Leet Acres. There was no sewage in the outfalls, but they found traces of chlorine and detergents. Ms. Rengers will notify the residents in those areas about the chemicals found and ask them to be careful about letting chemicals go into a storm drain.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Department Reports

Code Enforcement

Ms. Rengers sent two letters to residents in Quaker Heights regarding the height of their grass.

Mr. Nash asked the Interim Chief about when the new part-time officer would start work. The part-time officer had just returned from his honeymoon, and they were waiting for his psych, drug, and physical test results to come back. There was a short discussion about the Secure X camera system. Interim Chief Jameson had a meeting with other police chiefs, and some of them had issues with the system. The technology is new to PA, and they were waiting to see if the problems with the system were worked out before proceeding with the system.

Fall Newsletter

Ms. Rengers will work on the fall newsletter and send it to the Commissioners for approval before mailing it out.

MOTION: Mr. Nash made a motion to accept the Department Reports, seconded by Mrs. Verszyla, with all in favor of the motion.

CORRESPONDENCE

The Commissioner's packet contained correspondence from Valerie Gaydos regarding a town hall meeting she was holding on landslides in the area. Sewickley Library sent a letter from the new Executive Director regarding capital improvements to the library. The packet also contained a copy of the Fair Oaks Fire Department Relief Association Compliance Audit.

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PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Resident Kris Shelton asked about where the speed tables would be located on Beech Street. The proposed location was in front of her house. Temporary tables should be installed first to see if there were any complaints about them. Ms. Shelton said that there was a sign near her house near the creek that said, "No dumping." She asked to have another no-dumping sign installed because there was some debris dumped there. She asked about the resident parking on the sidewalk. Interim Chief Jameson sent the officer on duty to have the resident move their car off the sidewalk.

Resident Josh Crow read a statement about the failure of a municipality to install and maintain ADA sidewalks and curbs. Many municipalities are involved in lawsuits over the issue.

Resident Chuck Soman asked why the municipalities were removing their temporary speed tables. Mr. Valinsky stated that they were installing permanent speed tables.

Mr. McDaniel called for a moment of silence for the victims of the September 11, 2021, terrorist attacks.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Mr. Nash made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:32 p.m., seconded by Mr. Peluso, with all in favor of the motion.

TOWNSHIP OF LEET

/s/Betsy Rengers

/s/Martin C. McDaniel

BETSY RENGERS, MANAGER

MARTIN C. MCDANIEL, PRESIDENT

Date: October 9, 2023