

TOWNSHIP OF LEET
WORKSHOP MEETING MINUTES
AUGUST 26, 2024

The Workshop Meeting of the Leet Township Board of Commissioners was called to order at 5:00 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, Donna Adipietro, Dan Peluso, and Martin P. Zimmel. The meeting started with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Absent: Commissioner Rody Nash

Also present:

Betsy Rengers, Manager	Civil Service Member Curt Bubb
Chief Brian Jameson	Civil Service Chairman Tom Weber
Engineer John Valinsky	Resident Gwen Clements
Resident Peggy Adams	Resident Butch Morris
Resident Cheryl Ash-Smith	Resident Terry Zinsmaster

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Civil Service Chairman Tom Weber addressed the Board about a police officer who was recently hired but then decided not to take the position. Mr. Weber suggested that the Board should act faster when hiring a candidate, as it took three months to hire him after the initial interview. Chief Jameson informed Mr. Weber that the candidate could not be hired until August after he graduated from the police academy and became eligible.

Resident Cheryl Ash-Smith complained to the Board about residents parking in Cherry Alley and on Orchard Street, which blocked the view of oncoming traffic. There was a blue car parked in Cherry Alley that made it hard to get out of the alley. She was concerned on a 90-degree night when she saw a group of people dressed in black hoodies walking through Maple Alley one evening, but at that time, she did not call the police. She requested that the police patrol Cherry and Maple Alley more frequently. Mrs. Ash-Smith complained about a neighbor whose yard was filled with garbage, and the neighbor was constantly screaming at her children. Ms. Rengers has a pending code enforcement court hearing scheduled for the resident with the magistrate. She asked Mrs. Ash-Smith to attend the hearing as a witness for the Township. Chief Jameson had addressed the screaming issue with the resident.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

The Township received a \$168,000.00 American Rescue Plan Act grant four years ago. The money must be obligated by December 31, 2024. The board discussed the possibility of using funds to purchase a newer backhoe to replace the existing 20-year-old one, or they may invest in a stormwater project. The Township previously applied for a Local Share Account equipment grant to replace the backhoe and leaf machine. That grant award will be announced in mid-September 2024. Another issue is the stormwater on Watson Street. There is a storm drain on Camp Meeting Road that connects to a pipe in Mrs. Clements's yard. The headwall is disconnected, and the drainpipe may be clogged, which caused the drainage not to work correctly and led to flooding in her yard. Mr. McDaniel contacted Allegheny County Representative Susan Filiaggi, and she will try to set up a meeting with the county and township

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officials. Hopefully, the county will manage the issue, but water is also draining into Mrs. Clements' yard from Watson Street. Mr. Valinsky presented the Board with a drainage plan to resolve this issue. Mr. Valinsky suggested bidding out the Quaker Heights Park Stormwater Project with the Watson Street Project to see if the Township could get a better price.

Mr. McDaniel explained that there were four months left to encumber the American Rescue Plan Act funds. Depending on the costs of the backhoe, we may have to bid it out if it is not a CoStars price. We may be able to put a coating or covering on the roof at 198 Ambridge instead of replacing the entire roof. Both of these projects need to be done. The Local Share Account Grant included pole cameras for Plum Street Park and a police vehicle.

Mr. Valinsky will contact the PA Small Water Grant project manager to see if the approved application can be amended to include Watson Street.

MOTION: Mr. Peluso moved to explore the purchase of a backhoe and have Mr. Valinsky include the Watson Street Stormwater Project in the bid with the Quaker Heights Stormwater Project. Mr. Valinsky will contact the PA Small Water Grant project manager to see if the scope of the project could be expanded to include the Watson Street Stormwater Project. Mr. Zimmel seconded the motion, and all were in favor of it.

Resolution 2024-28 (Municipal Complex Improvements)

MOTION: Mrs. Adipietro made a motion to approve Resolution 2024-28 to apply for a Redevelopment Authority of Allegheny County grant for \$220,800.00 for improvements to the Public Works building at 198 Ambridge Ave. Mr. Peluso seconded the motion. A formal roll call vote was taken as follows: Mrs. Adipietro, yes; Mr. Zimmel, yes; Mr. McDaniel, yes; and Mr. Peluso, yes. The motion carried.

Resolution 2024-29 (Watson Street Stormwater Improvements)

MOTION: Mr. Zimmel made a motion to approve Resolution 2024-29 to apply for a Redevelopment Authority of Allegheny County grant for \$171,480.00 for improvements to the stormwater conveyance on Watson Street. Mr. Peluso seconded the motion. A formal roll call vote was taken as follows: Mrs. Adipietro, yes; Mr. Zimmel, yes; Mr. McDaniel, yes; and Mr. Peluso, yes. The motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

Ms. Rengers introduced the proposed schedule for the 2025 budgeting season.

MOTION: Mr. Peluso made a motion to accept the 2025 budgeting schedule. Mr. Zimmel seconded the motion, and everyone was in favor of it.

The Hiring of a Substitute Crossing Guard

The substitute Crossing Guard in Ambridge is willing to substitute in Leet when the regular guard is not available. No training will be necessary. He will be paid the same rate as the current

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crossing guard, \$15.00 per hour.

MOTION: Mr. Zimmel made a motion to hire Thomas Maksimchuk for the position of Alternate Crossing Guard for \$15.00 per hour. Mrs. Adipietro seconded the motion. A formal roll call vote was taken as follows: Mrs. Adipietro, yes; Mr. Zimmel, yes; Mr. McDaniel, yes; and Mr. Peluso, yes. The motion carried.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. McDaniel explained that the Planning Commission, which is a recommending body, recently made a recommendation to the Board of Commissioner regarding the Quaker Valley Preliminary and Final Site Plan. The Planning Commission's solicitor, Harland Stone, recommended that the Board of Commissioners hold a public meeting to review, discuss, and vote on the plan.

MOTION: Mr. Peluso moved to go into Executive Session at 6:08 p.m. to discuss police personnel matters and the Planning Commission's recommendation regarding the preliminary and final site plan. Mr. Zimmel seconded the motion, and all were in favor of it.

MOTION: Mr. Peluso moved to go into Regular Session at 7:17 p.m. after discussing police personnel matters and the Planning Commission's recommendation regarding the preliminary and final site plan. Mr. Zimmel seconded the motion, and all were in favor of it.

MOTION: Mrs. Adipietro made a motion to hold a public meeting to review the QVSD Preliminary and Final Plan at a date to be announced. Mr. Zimmel seconded the motion, and all were in favor of it.

MOTION: Mr. Zimmel made a motion to accept Kaden Cvitkovic's resignation from the position of full-time police officer. Mr. Peluso seconded the motion. A formal roll call vote was taken as follows: Mrs. Adipietro, yes; Mr. Zimmel, yes; Mr. McDaniel, yes; and Mr. Peluso, yes. The motion carried.

MOTION: Mr. Zimmel made a motion to reinstate part-time Officer James Lema to the position of full-time police officer, in accordance with 1st Class Township Code, at \$25.66 per hour with a probationary period per the Collective Bargaining Agreement. A formal roll call vote was taken as follows: Mrs. Adipietro, yes; Mr. Zimmel, yes; Mr. McDaniel, yes; and Mr. Peluso, yes. The motion carried.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Mr. Weber asked if the Civil Service Commission needed to take any action, and there was none.

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ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Mrs. Adipietro moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:22 p.m., seconded by Mr. Peluso, with all in favor of the motion.

/s/Betsy Rengers

Betsy Rengers, Manager

September 9, 2024
Date

TOWNSHIP OF LEET
/s/Martin C. McDaniel

Martin C. McDaniel, President