

LEET TOWNSHIP BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
August 12, 2024
Minutes of the Board of Commissioner's Regular Meeting

President Martin C. McDaniel called 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, Donna Adipietro, Dan Peluso, Rody Nash, and Martin P. Zimmer. The meeting started with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Also present:

Betsy Rengers, Manager

Steve Chesney, Solicitor

John Valinsky, LSSE Engineer

Chuck Soman, Resident

Tom Weber, Civil Service Commission Chair

Chief Brian Jameson

Wayne Hyjek, Resident

Scott Zahner, Quaker Valley Rotary Club

Gwen Clements, Resident

Butch Morris, Resident

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Civil Service Chairman Tom Weber informed the Board that the Commission had tested candidates for the full-time eligibility list. One candidate passed the test and was added to the list. Mr. Weber recommended that the Board hire him because of the lack of candidates and the laborious nature of the testing process.

Mr. McDaniel thanked Mr. Weber and the Civil Service Commissioners for their work.

Quaker Valley Rotary President Scott Zahner spoke to the Board about their interest in doing more work in Leet Township. The Rotary Club is considering various projects, such as installing a new roof on the gazebo and adding a playground for young children to Quaker Heights Park or adding a similar playground to Plum Street Park. He thanked the Board of Commissioners for hanging the Rotary sign at Plum Street Park. Mr. McDaniel and the Board thanked Mr. Zahner and Mr. Hyjek for the wonderful work they had done in the community.

Resident Gwen Clements has lived on Watson Street for 30 years. She asked the board to help her resolve a ponding issue in her yard due to stormwater that runs off of Camp Meeting Road. The storm pipe located in her yard is not draining the water fast enough, causing it to flood. She shared photos of the water ponding in her yard with the Board. She is aware that a grant may be available to help resolve the issue. The Township applied for a grant last year, but it was not awarded. Another grant opportunity is opening up for the Township to apply for. Public Works Foreman Andy Wanto had the clogged pipe jetted, but it didn't solve the water flow issue. Mr. Valinsky thought that the pipe was too deteriorated to be repaired. Mr. McDaniel suggested that the Township use a portion of the American Rescue Plan Act grant to put storm sewers on Watson Street in front of her house. Mr. Peluso asked where the majority of the stormwater came from. Mr. Valinsky explained that her driveway sits below the road, and there was a curb in her driveway that had washed away. Putting another curb there may make the issue worse. The last grant application was for \$100,000.00 to add catch basins on Watson and included repaving the street. Mr. McDaniel asked that the topic be added to the Workshop agenda in two weeks, and he invited Mrs. Clements to attend that meeting.

LEET TOWNSHIP BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
August 12, 2024
Minutes of the Board of Commissioner's Regular Meeting

Mr. Zimmel asked if the work to be done would be on the roadway or her property. Mr. Valinsky said that there are several options, one of which is to redirect the Camp Meeting Road inlet storm sewer pipe to bypass the current one to prevent it from discharging into her yard. The other option is to install storm sewers on Watson Street and connect the existing pipe in her yard to it. Mr. Valinsky will propose both options at the Workshop meeting.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

Approval of the July 8, 2024, Board of Commissioners Regular Meeting Minutes

MOTION: Mr. Zimmel made a motion to approve the minutes of the July 8, 2024, Board of Commissioners Regular Meeting as submitted, seconded by Mr. Peluso. A formal roll call vote was conducted, and the following votes were recorded: Mrs. Adipietro, yes; Mr. Zimmel, yes; Mr. Nash, yes; Mr. McDaniel, yes; and Mr. Peluso, yes. The motion carried.

FINANCE REPORT

MOTION: Mr. Zimmel made a motion to pay the bills and invoices as presented for \$135,189.99. Mrs. Adipietro seconded the motion. A formal roll call vote was taken, with the following votes: Mrs. Adipietro, yes; Mr. Zimmel, yes; Mr. McDaniel, yes; Mr. Peluso, yes; and Mr. Nash, yes. The motion carried.

Circulate Department Reports

The Department Reports were circulating in the meeting room. Later in the meeting, a vote will be held to accept the reports.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Memorial Tree/Plaque Policy

Mr. Chesney provided the Board with the proposed wording for the memorial tree and plaque policy. There was a brief discussion about the issue. Since there were no changes to the proposed wording, Mr. Chesney will put the wording in resolution form to be voted on at the Workshop Meeting.

Encompass Health Project Bond Reduction

The Board has received a letter from LSSE regarding Encompass Health Rehabilitation Hospital's bond reduction request of \$4,584.80 after completing the hospital addition. LSSE concluded that the project complied with the Township's ordinances and recommended that the Township reduce the bond in its entirety.

MOTION: Mr. Peluso made a motion to reduce the Encompass Health Bond by \$4,584.80 to zero. Mr. Zimmel seconded the motion. A formal roll call vote was taken, with the following votes: Mrs. Adipietro, yes; Mr. Zimmel, yes; Mr. McDaniel, yes; Mr. Peluso, yes; and Mr. Nash, yes. The motion carried.

LEET TOWNSHIP BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
August 12, 2024
Minutes of the Board of Commissioner's Regular Meeting

2019-2023 Uniformed and Non-Uniformed Pension Audit

Ms. Rengers completed a five-year audit on the Uniformed and Non-Uniformed Pension Plans with the Auditor General's office. The auditor did not have findings or comments to report.

2022-2023 Liquid Fuels Audit

Ms. Rengers completed the two-year Liquid Fuels Audit with the Auditor General's Office. There were no findings. However, one comment was made regarding the over-expenditure of the equipment purchase tally in 2022. The comment was resolved in 2022.

Amendment of the Parking Ordinance

Chief Jameson worked with Solicitor Steve Chesney to update and amend the parking ordinance.

MOTION: Mr. Zimmel made a motion to have Mr. Chesney prepare an amendment to the parking ordinance. Mr. Nash seconded the motion. A formal roll call vote was taken, with the following votes: Mrs. Adipietro, yes; Mr. Zimmel, yes; Mr. McDaniel, yes; Mr. Peluso, yes; and Mr. Nash, yes. The motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

Partial Payment #1 to Boney Construction, LLC for Olde Sewickley Highlands Stormwater Basin Repair

Mr. Valinsky informed the Board that the Olde Sewickley Highlands Stormwater Basin Repair project was funded through a grant from the Gaming Economic Development Tourism Fund, which the Quaker Valley Council of Governments administers. Boney Construction completed the repair, and LSSE inspected the work. They had a punch list of items to be finished and withheld 10% of the payment until it was completed.

MOTION: Mrs. Adipietro made a motion to approve the Quaker Valley Council of Governments to pay Partial Payment #1 for \$72,675.00 to Boney Construction, LLC for the Olde Sewickley Highlands Stormwater Basin Repair project. Mr. Zimmel seconded the motion. A formal roll call vote was taken, with the following votes: Mrs. Adipietro, yes; Mr. Zimmel, yes; Mr. McDaniel, yes; Mr. Peluso, yes; and Mr. Nash, yes. The motion carried.

Police Professional Liability Insurance Renewal

Mr. McDaniel, Mr. Zimmel, and Ms. Rengers met with Insurance Agent Jack Onodi about the insurance renewals. The Police Professional Policy renewal will increase by 5.74% from \$5,804.00 to \$6,137.00, which is \$1M for each occurrence and \$3M annual aggregate. The insurance company is a non-profit, and they shop for the best price.

MOTION: Mr. Zimmel made a motion to approve the renewal of the Police Professional Liability Policy for one year with Greenwich Insurance Company for \$6,137.00. Mr. Peluso seconded the motion. A formal roll call vote was taken, with the following votes: Mrs. Adipietro, yes; Mr. Zimmel, yes; Mr. McDaniel, yes; Mr. Peluso, yes; and Mr. Nash, yes. The motion carried.

LEET TOWNSHIP BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
August 12, 2024
Minutes of the Board of Commissioner's Regular Meeting

Public Officials and Employment Practices Insurance Renewal

The Public Officials and Employment Practices Insurance Policy renewal will increase by 8.92% from \$7,309.00 to \$7,961.00, with \$1M for each occurrence and \$3M aggregate.

MOTION: Mr. Zimmer made a motion to renew the Public Officials and Employment Practices Insurance Policy for one year with Greenwich Insurance Company for \$7,961.00. Mrs. Adipietro seconded the motion. A formal roll call vote was taken, with the following votes: Mrs. Adipietro, yes; Mr. Zimmer, yes; Mr. McDaniel, yes; Mr. Peluso, yes; and Mr. Nash, yes. The motion carried.

Property and Liability Trust Insurance

The Property and Liability Trust Insurance Policy renewal for Leet and Leet Township Municipal Authority will increase by 16% from \$7,554.00 to \$8,774.00 due to the purchase of new equipment.

MOTION: Mr. Zimmer made a motion to approve the annual renewal of the Property and Liability Trust Insurance Policy for \$8,774.00. Mr. Peluso seconded the motion. A formal roll call vote was taken, with the following votes: Mrs. Adipietro, yes; Mr. Zimmer, yes; Mr. McDaniel, yes; Mr. Peluso, yes; and Mr. Nash, yes. The motion carried.

AT&T Cell Phone Service

Ms. Rengers reported that when the Township moved to Verizon cell service, they gave the Township old equipment. Now, two years later, some of the cell phones were not working correctly, and the batteries were not holding a charge. She contacted Verizon for new equipment, and they wanted a new two-year contract to be signed. The Township had AT&T FirstNet service previously and always had good-quality equipment and services. AT&T FirstNet is for first responders and works on a different frequency during an emergency. AT&T provided a quote, and Verizon did not respond to the request for a quote.

MOTION: Mr. Peluso made a motion to approve moving cell phone service to AT&T as long as the Solicitor approved the contract. Mr. Nash seconded the motion. A formal roll call vote was taken, with the following votes: Mrs. Adipietro, yes; Mr. Zimmer, yes; Mr. McDaniel, yes; Mr. Peluso, yes; and Mr. Nash, yes. The motion carried.

Plum Street Speed Table

Mr. Nash reported that Youngblood Paving gave a quote for installing a permanent speed table on Plum Street. He spoke with Public Works Foreman Andy Wanto about the temporary speed table installed on Beech Street and found out that it was expensive to install. The table's placement and installation costs were discussed. There is \$5,000.00 in the budget for street paving that can be used for the speed table. The residents of Plum Street were notified about the speed table.

MOTION: Mr. Zimmer made a motion to approve Youngblood Paving's installation of a permanent speed table on Plum Street for \$4,500.00. Mr. Nash seconded the motion. A formal roll call vote was taken, with the following votes: Mrs. Adipietro, yes; Mr. Zimmer, yes; Mr. McDaniel, yes; Mr. Peluso, yes; and Mr. Nash, yes. The motion carried.

LEET TOWNSHIP BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
August 12, 2024
Minutes of the Board of Commissioner's Regular Meeting

Conditional Hire of Police Officer

The Board discussed whether to hire a Civil Service Commission-certified candidate for the position of a part-time or full-time police officer. Mr. McDaniel met with Mr. Zimmel and Chief Jameson about it and felt the candidate should be hired full-time since it is virtually impossible to find and vet part-time officers anymore. Chief Jameson presented the Board with a cost analysis for a full-time officer. He explained that he reduced sick time by 62% this year. The issue is that there are limited personnel to handle call-offs. Priorities have changed, and officers want to have time off. A sixth officer would work a floating shift to cover vacations and call-offs. There will be more work to do with the high school coming in. Chief Jameson spoke to the candidate, and he expressed interest in working the full-time position. The discussion continued about family insurance coverage and budgeting. There is a possibility of a tax increase in 2025 to cover the costs. The overtime budget will be reduced. There is a 6-month probationary period for the officer.

MOTION: Mr. Zimmel moved to hire Kaden Cvitkovic as a full-time police officer. Mr. Nash seconded the motion. A formal roll call vote was taken, with the following votes: Mrs. Adipietro, yes; Mr. Zimmel, yes; Mr. McDaniel, yes; Mr. Peluso, yes; and Mr. Nash, yes. The motion carried.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Mr. McDaniel noted that the Earned Income Tax Report reflected a decrease in revenues from the same time last year. Ms. Rengers will investigate the issue and report back to the Board.

Mr. Valinsky reported that the Planning Commission will meet on August 22nd to discuss the high school site plan. Mr. McDaniel suggested that when the Planning Commission sends the plan to the Board, the Board should hold a Special Public Meeting on the matter and invite Legal Counsel Harland Stone to attend.

Chief Jameson completed the PCCD Grant after receiving an award of \$25K. He purchased police pc tablets for the police cars with built-in scanners; the scanner scans the driver's license and registration and sends the citation information directly to the magistrate's office. Access to the mobile report systems in the cars is free for two years. The new tablets are compatible with the new reporting system. The electronic e-file system should be up and running by September. We may establish a parking fine by ordinance and will discuss it at a subsequent meeting. We received free access to the License Plate Reader System through the COG for one year. The cameras will be located on Route 65. This is a valuable tool for identifying drivers. Chief Jameson spoke with Mr. Zimmel about the issues at Plum Street Park. The officers are logging in when they patrol the park with the date and time.

Under Correspondence, we received notification of a Sewickley Valley Community Fund grant award of \$3,300.00 for the purchase of AED machines. Each police car will have its own AED machine.

LEET TOWNSHIP BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
August 12, 2024
Minutes of the Board of Commissioner's Regular Meeting

In response to a question about the building permit report, it was noted that the installation of solar panels requires a zoning permit and a building permit. The building inspector is responsible for inspecting the work.

Emergency Management Coordinator Dave Volk would like to address the Board at the September meeting.

The poor condition of the planting beds around the Municipal building was discussed. Mrs. Adipietro and Mr. Peluso will investigate the issue and make recommendations for the 2025 Budget.

The Fire Department did not send in a report for this meeting.

Civil Service and Planning Commission meeting minutes were provided in the meeting packet.

A rather large accessory structure is being built in Quaker Heights, and the neighbors are not happy about it. The Planning Commission has been asked to review the accessory structure ordinance for amendments such as no plumbing for bathrooms or kitchens and a limit on the maximum size of the structure.

MOTION: Mr. Zimmel made a motion to accept the Department Reports as presented. Mr. Peluso seconded the motion with all in favor of it. The motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE

The Leet Township Municipal Authority (LTMA) sent a letter to the Board stating that they had reviewed and approved the drawings for the sewer line placement on the school district site plan. The district will enter into a Developer's Agreement with LTMA.

The school district will do more core boring on Camp Meeting Road. They are waiting for third-party approvals for the site plan, such as a Highway Occupancy Permit, DEP approval, and Edgeworth Water approval. Leetsdale's approvals will be in a separate agreement.

Mr. McDaniel will attend the upcoming Quaker Valley Council of Governments Annual Social Gathering.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was no public participation.

LEET TOWNSHIP BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
August 12, 2024
Minutes of the Board of Commissioner's Regular Meeting

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Mr. Zimmel moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:43 p.m., seconded by Mr. Peluso, with all in favor of the motion. The motion carried.

/s/Betsy Rengers

BETSY RENGERS, MANAGER

TOWNSHIP OF LEET

/s/Martin C. McDaniel

MARTIN C. MCDANIEL, PRESIDENT

Date: September 9, 2024