

## **TOWNSHIP COMMISSIONERS MEETING MINUTES**

**OCTOBER 21, 2020**

The October 21<sup>st</sup>, 2020 meeting of the Harmony Township Commissioners began at 6:00 Pm. Township Manager Bob Vilella began the meeting by welcoming all in attendance and then made the following announcements. Manager Bob Vilella will chair the first part of the meeting until the vote to elect a new President.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS.**

- 1) The Board of Commissioners held an Executive Session at 5:00 PM on October 21<sup>st</sup>, 2020 to discuss personnel and legal matters.
- 2) The Board of Commissioners held an Executive Session at 5:00 PM on September 24<sup>th</sup>, 2020 to discuss personnel and legal matters.
- 3) The Board of Commissioners held a Budget Meeting on October 12<sup>th</sup>, 2020. This meeting was an advertised meeting in the Beaver County Times.
- 4) The Board of Commissioners held an Executive Session at 5:00 PM on October 21<sup>st</sup>, 2020 to discuss personnel and legal matters.
- 5) The meeting this evening is a public venue meeting held at the Municipal Building 2501 Woodland Rd., Ambridge, PA 15003. This meeting was properly advertised in the Beaver County Times on June 15, 2020. The Township Assembly Room can be occupied at 50% capacity, all parties in attendance are expected to practice social distancing and wearing a face mask is required. If any person feels sick or ill, we ask that you consider the well-being of others in the Assembly Room and to go home.

### **CALL TO ORDER**

### **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

### **ROLL CALL:**

#### Commissioners and Other Officials

Mr. Kokoski, Vice President

Mrs. DeBona, Commissioner – was available by telephone for the entire evening

Mr. Mosura, Commissioner – was available by telephone for the entire evening

Mr. Gunther, Commissioner

Ms. Shannon Steele, Solicitor

Mr. Vilella, Manager

Mrs. Winne, Tax Collector/Treasurer

Mr. Suehr, Township Engineer

The following Township residents and Township representatives were in attendance as follows:

Craig Winne – 16 Lenzman Court

Fabiola Gergerich – 2623 Woodland Rd.

Rosemary Shrum – 2001 Woodland Rd.

Joe Kotula – 40 Forest Rd.

Vicki DeBona – 841 Ridge Rd.  
Terry Mylan – 817 Ridge Rd.  
Jack Bedalota – 3088 Sylvan Rd.  
Christine Whipple – 507 Virginia Ave.  
Frank Presto – Road Foreman  
John Biteler – Code Enforcement  
Jim Ivancik – Zoning and Code Enforcement Officer  
Mary Romeo – Administrative Assistant

**Public Comment.**

***Manager Note: This Comment period is limited to Agenda Items only. All individual comments and dialogue are limited to 5 minutes.***

Vicki DeBona – 841 Ridge Road -asked if the Board will be voting on the vacant Commissioner’s seat and for President and Vice-President this evening.

Manager Vilella stated that there will be a motion tonight to elect a President and Vice-President this evening. Also, on the agenda will be the authorization of the Township Manager to advertise to receive letters of interest from Township residents interested in serving a one-year term as Township Commissioner.

Joe Kotula – 40 Forest Road - wanted to know why the open commissioner’s position is being advertised. Why is the Board not taking the next person on the list from the last election?

Manager Vilella asked the Solicitor, Ms. Steele to clarify. Under the Township code, whenever there is a vacancy the Board of Commissioners are permitted to decide how they will handle replacing the vacancy. In this case the Commissioners have discussed and agreed to advertise to receive letters of interest from Township residents who may be interested.

Terry Mylan – 817 Ridge Road - asked about the criteria when accepting applications/letters of interest for the open commissioner position. Wanted to know if the board will consider an individual who was second in line as far as votes.

Fabiola Gergerich – 2623 Woodland Road - believes people who were on the ballot in the last election should be given first consideration for the open commissioner seat. Also talked about the previous president/commissioner and why things were brought up after all this time.

The Board of Commissioners took the following actions:

- I) Acceptance of the resignation of Bradley Payne as Harmony Township Commissioner and as President of the Board of Commissioners.  
**Voice Vote**  
**Motion DeBona Second Mosura**  
**All in Favor – Motion Carried**

- II) Acceptance of nominee for the position of President of the Board of Commissioners. Motion made by Mr. Gunther to nominate Mr. Kokoski.

**Voice Vote**

**Motion Gunther Second Mosura**

**All in Favor – Motion Carried**

- III) Acceptance of nominee for the position of Vice President of the Board of Commissioners. Motion made by Mr. Gunther to nominate Mr. Mosura.

**Voice Vote**

**Motion Gunther Second DeBona**

**All in Favor – Motion Carried**

- IV) Authorize the Township Manager to advertise to receive letters of interest from Township residents who may be interested in serving a one (1) year term as Township Commissioner or until December 31, 2021. To serve as a Township Commissioner, you must be at least 18 years of age and must be a registered voter in the Township. The individual must also be able to establish that continual residence has been maintained for at least one (1) year prior to the appointment or the election. Further you must be able to establish that you are eligible for the office through a criminal background check. Please submit to the Township Manager on or before November 9, 2020.

**Voice Vote**

**Motion DeBona Second Mosura**

**All in Favor – Motion Carried**

- V) Approval of the **September 17<sup>th</sup>, 2020** Meeting Minutes.

**Voice Vote**

**Motion Mosura Second DeBona**

**All in Favor – Motion Carried**

- VI) **Approval of the following reports:** The Township Manager is recommending the acceptance of the following Department Reports for the month of **SEPTEMBER 2020.**

1. Code Enforcement Department Report
2. Road Department Report
3. Police Department Report
4. Sewage Department Report
5. Tax Collector/Treasurer's Report as submitted for **SEPTEMBER 2020.**

**Voice Vote**

**Motion DeBona Second Mosura**

**All in Favor – Motion Carried**

**VII) Approval of the Accounts Payable for the month of OCTOBER 2020.**

- A. It is the recommendation of the Finance Committee to approve the **OCTOBER 2020** Accounts Payable in the total amount of **\$274,414.22**.

General Fund	<b>\$ 162,661.85</b>
Wire Transfer Bond Principal And Interest	
Wire Transfer Health Insurance	<b>\$ 24,485.85</b>
Liquid Fuels	<b>\$ 14,307.56</b>
Sewer Fund	<b>\$ 20,097.40</b>
Police Pension Fund	<b>\$ 422.63</b>
2018 Capital Program Fund	<b>\$ 52,438.93</b>
	<b>\$ 274,414.22</b>

*Manager's Note: For the General Fund the amount of \$78,781.33 is attributed to State Aid and directed to Police Pension and the amount of \$15,777.56 is directed to the Volunteer Firemen Protective Association.*

**Roll Call Vote.**

**Motion DeBona Second Gunther**

**Kokoski Yes Mosura Yes DeBona Yes Gunther Yes**

**VIII) Consent Agenda**

*Those matters under the consent agenda are self-explanatory and are not expected to require further review or discussion. Items will be enacted by one motion. If discussion is desired by any member of the Board of Commissioners, that item must be removed from the consent agenda and considered separately.*

Motion to approve Items 1 through 2 listed on the Consent Agenda

- 1) Approval of Sewage Account adjustments as presented.
- 2) Approval of a Resolution of the Board of Commissioners honoring and recognizing William R. Lloyd (1949-2019), a Township resident, a Vietnam War era combat veteran, the recipient of the Bronze Star and Chairman of Legislative Affairs for the Disabled American Veterans.

**Voice Vote**  
**Motion Gunther Second DeBona**  
**All in Favor – Motion Carried**

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Personnel Committee**

- 1) A Motion would be in order to ratify the appointment and hiring of Mary Romeo in the capacity of Administrative Assistant to the Manager at the rate of compensation equal to \$15.00 per hour, and subject to a probationary period of six (6) months. This is in at will position.

*Managers Note: The Board of Commissioners at the meeting of September 16, 2020 authorized the Township Manager to fill the position subject to the requirements expressed in the advertisement. This appointment complies with that directive.*

**Roll Call Vote**

**Motion Mosura Second DeBona**  
**Debona Yes Gunther Yes Mosura Yes Kokoski Yes**  
**All in Favor – Motion Carried**

- 2) A Motion would be in order to authorize the Township Manager to establish the employee enrollment consistent with current collective bargaining agreements and procedure once an employee reaches eligibility. The cost of benefits for health care will increase 4.5%, Vision a Zero Percent increase and dental an increase of 10%.  
Roll Call Vote

**Roll Call Vote**

**Motion Mosura Second DeBona**  
**Debona Yes Gunther Yes Mosura Yes Kokoski Yes**  
**All in Favor – Motion Carried**

**Finance Committee**

- 1) A Motion would be in order to ratify the acceptance of the 2021 Minimum Municipal Obligation (MMO) as prepared by Mockenhaupt Benefit Group as of September 25<sup>th</sup>, 2020 as follows:
  - a) Approval of the Minimum Municipal Obligation for the 2021 year for the Harmony Township in the amount of \$114,599.
  - b) Approval of the Minimum Municipal Obligation for the 2021 year for the Harmony Township Union Employees Pension Plan in the amount of \$24,468.00.
  - c) Approval of the Minimum Municipal Obligation for the 2020 year for the Harmony Township Service Employees Pension Plan in the amount of \$18,491.00.

- d) Authorize the Municipal Manager and the appropriate ranking representative of the Board of Commissioners to direct the MMO and Municipal Contribution to the appropriate Pension Fund.

**Roll Call Vote**

**Motion DeBona Second Mosura**

**Mosura Yes DeBona Yes Gunther Yes Kokoski Yes**

**All in Favor – Motion Carried**

**Public Safety Committee**

- 1) Authorize the payment of \$7910.00 to the Harmony Township Volunteer Fire Department for their share of the costs associated with the successful application for the FEMA Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program.

**Roll Call Vote**

**Motion DeBona Second Gunther**

**Gunther Yes Mosura Yes DeBona Yes Kokoski Yes**

**All in Favor – Motion Carried**

*Managers Note: This action was previously discussed and approved by the Board of Commissioners. This action is just a formality.*

- 2) Authorize the extension of the garbage hauling agreement with Valley Waste for the period beginning January 01, 2021 up through and including December 31, 2021. Said extension will maintain current price structures and all other contract requirements.

**Roll Call Vote**

**Motion Gunther Second Mosura**

**Mosura Yes DeBona Yes Gunther Yes Kokoski Yes**

**All in Favor – Motion Carried**

- A. Township Manager’s Report.** The Manager has submitted updates to the Board of Commissioners on a periodic basis from the last meeting. Those reports are attached for the review and reference of the Commissioners.
- B. Consulting Engineer’s Report.** An Engineers Report for the month of June has been submitted (see attached).
- C. Solicitor’s Report.** The Solicitor has entered her invoice for services and setting forth the work performed for the month of June/July 2020.

**IX)** Elected Official’s Report

**X)** Public Comment on any other item of interest to the public.

**Manager Note: All individual comments and dialogue are limited to 5 minutes.**

Chris Whipple – 507 Virginia Ave. -Asked if budget meetings could be posted on the website for residents who do not receive the Beaver County Times. Thanked the Board for paving and filling in potholes on Ridge Road. Asked about the Harmony Ridge Development timeline and if a final project voting has taken place. Are the current zoning laws being met with this development?

Per Bob Vilella, Township Manager,

1<sup>st</sup> project - Harmony Ridge Golf Course -Commissioners entered into an agreement with the developer to build a shell. Occupancy permits for the Tiki Bar and maintenance shed across the street-both items fulfilled.

2<sup>nd</sup> project – Developer installation of sewer lines/plans – deposit requirement of \$5,000-no response. Villas at Harmony Ridge – conditional use was requested and granted. Zoning ordinance was approved. Need to make sure all of the township representatives are on the same page. Solicitor has been kept apprised. Township wants to make sure the position of the Township and residents are heard and met.

Rosemary Shrum – 2601 Woodland Rd. – asked if the vacant position on the Board will be filled by the November Meeting. Also addressed speeding on Woodland Road. Mr. Vilella will speak to the police. Mr. Mosura spoke to the police about this, they have made several traffic stops since the road was paved and re-opened.

Jack Bedalota – 3088 Sylvan Road – Asked about the Baden Borough consolidating police departments and if Harmony Township responded. Ambridge wanted to consolidate with HTWP. HTWP said yes, Ambridge has not responded back.

Vicki DeBona – 841 Ridge Road – She stated appointing the new commissioner is a big decision. Stated that the Board works for the residents and the township. The person with next highest votes should get the position. This should be the residents’ decision since they voted the commissioners in.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS.**

- 1) The Beaver County Chiefs Association has set the time and date for Halloween. Halloween is scheduled for Thursday, October 29, 2020 from the hours of 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM. The Township Police and the Volunteer Fire Department will be patrolling as usual. Participation in this event, especially during this time is a decision of parents and guardians, and others who wish to participate. The CDC has suggested guidelines to follow and the Township Commissioners suggest that safety be a priority and that people be especially aware of children on the street.**
- 2) Food Bank Drive is scheduled for November 7<sup>th</sup>, 2020 from 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM. There will be drop offs at the Shop ‘n Save and the VFD.**

## **ADJOURNMENT**

**Voice Vote**

**Motion Gunther Second Mosura**

**All in Favor – Motion Carried**

**Time of Adjournment: 6:50 PM**

## **CONSULTING ENGINEER'S REPORT**

- **2019 Road Program is completed**
- **Harmony Ridge would like to meet with the Township and the Engineer**
- **Skyline Metals Development Plan – no movement to date**
- **8<sup>th</sup> Street Extension Sanitary/Sewer Replacement is ready to bid**
- **Solar Drive – Mrs. DeBona asked is this was completed, Mr. Presto stated they are done, the blacktop is finished**
- **MS4 Reporting – reports submitted by 9/30 (simple survey form)**
- **Received additional information for grading for Pazzanita Properties/Hazel Avenue**