

TOWNSHIP COMMISSIONERS MEETING MINUTES

DECEMBER 20, 2023

6:05 PM

WELCOME TO DECEMBER 20, 2023, MEETING OF THE HARMONY TOWNSHIP COMMISSIONERS.

- 1) The meeting this evening is a regularly scheduled Public Meeting and is accessible in person subject to the occupancy limits of the Township facility.**
- 2) The Board of Commissioners held a Special Meeting on December 6th, 2023, to adopt the 2024 Budget and to establish a revenue neutral tax rate for the 2024 year.**
- 3) The Board of Commissioners held an Executive Session on December 6th, 2023, to discuss contract negotiations and related statuses.**
- 4) The Harmony Township Contract Negotiations Committee held a negotiation session with the Teamsters on December 11th, 2023.**
- 5) The Board of Commissioners held an Executive Session on December 20th, 2023, at 5:00Pm to discuss collective bargaining unit contract negotiations and real estate.**

CALL TO ORDER

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL:

Commissioners and Other Officials:

Mrs. DeBona, President - Present
Mrs. Mylan, Vice President - Present
Mr. Angus, Commissioner - Present
Mr. Molchen, Commissioner - Present
Ms. Barlamas, Commissioner - Present
Ms. Shannon Steele, Solicitor - Present
Mr. Villella, Manager - Present
Mrs. Winne, Tax Collector/Treasurer - Present
Mr. Nordquist, Township Engineer – Present

Residents in Attendance:

Fabiola Gergerich – Woodland Road
Rose Mary Shrum – Woodland Road
Lauren DeBona – Laurel Drive
Craig Winnie – Lenzman Court
Elaine Warfield – Beaver Road
John Krepps – Woodland Road
Elenor Smith – Virginia Avenue

Public Comment.

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

Fabiola Gergerich commented on the following:

- 1 Number 2 & 3 regarding the Special Meeting and Executive Session on December 6th, 2023. Why both of these items are listed as special. The Solicitor, Shannon Steele, explained that the Budget was discussed, and motions were taken the meetings were more formal.**
- 2 Number 3 under Consent Agenda, Mrs. Gergerich questioned the yearly cost of the agreement that the Township has with the Humane Society. Does the Township use the Humane Society enough to cover the \$4,950.00 contract price. The Board President, Grace DeBona, stated that the Humane Society is used more often than citizens are aware. It is vital to have this contract with the Humane Society.**
- 3 Under Public Safety, Mrs. Gergerich is happy that the agreement between the Harmony Township and the Harmony Township Police Association has finalized and will be accepted this evening. Mrs. Gergerich asked that if the agreement mentioned a Sergeant to be appointed. The Solicitor, Shannon Steele, explained that the agreement was personnel issue and had no comment.**
- 4 Under Personnel, Mrs. Gergerich asked that was a replacement picked for the position of Harmony Township Treasurer since the current Treasurer, Paula Winnie has resigned. The Board President, Grace DeBona, said that the vacancy is recent, and the Board has not discussed her replacement.**

I APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Approval of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting November 18th, 2023, as submitted.

Voice Vote-Motion Carried

Motion Barlamas Second Mylan

Approval of the Minutes of the Special Meeting of December 6th, 2023, as submitted.

Voice Vote-Motion Carried

Motion Molchen Second Angus

II APPROVAL OF THE FOLLOWING REPORTS: The Township Manager is recommending the approval and the acceptance of the following Department Reports for the month of November/ December 2023.

- 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 November 2023.**

Voice Vote-Motion Carried

Motion Barlamas Second Mylan

III APPROVAL OF ACCOUNTS PAYABLE for the month of December 2023

A.) It is the recommendation of the Finance Committee to approve the DECEMBER 2023 Accounts Payable in the total amount of \$240,395.01

General Fund	\$ 165,993.61
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2018 GO Bond Principal and Interest U.S. Bank	N/A
Health Insurance	\$ 31,082.83
Developers Escrow Fund	\$ N/A
Liquid Fuels	\$ 14,854.24
Sewer Fund	\$ 28,041.70
Police Pension Fund	\$ 422.63
2018 Capital Program Fund	\$ 0.00
TOTAL	\$ 240,395.01

Roll Call Vote-Motion Carried

Motion Angus Second Barlomas

Molchen Yes Mylan Yes Angus Yes Barlomas Yes DeBona Yes

IV. CONSENT AGENDA

The matters included 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.

- 1) Authorize the Township Manager to publish in the Beaver County Times the dates and times of the Township Commissioners Re-organization meeting, Regular Meetings, and Workshops, except for July 2024 which shall be cancelled, and the Regular Scheduled Meetings for the harmony Township Municipal Authority and the Planning Commission.
- 2) Authorizing an Agreement with the Beaver County Humane Society for the 2024 year at the rate of \$4,950.00 per year.
- 3) Authorize the contribution in the amount of \$250.00 from the Grant Fund Money Market to the 2023 Shop with Cops program.
- 4) Authorize the Township Manager and Finance Committee Chair to negotiate a lease with Toshiba for copy services.
- 5) Authorize Township Manager to obtain pricing for upgrades to Township internet connections to accommodate the Beaver County CODY system and server and firewall installations.

Voice Vote-Motion Carried.

Motion Barlomas Second Mylan

V. NEW BUSINESS

Finance Committee

- 1) A Motion to adopt the 2024 Budgets, to include the General Fund, Liquid Fuels Fund, and the Sewer Fund Budgets in the following amounts:

	2024	2023
GENERAL FUND	\$ 2,667,868.00	\$ 2,612,326.00.
LIQUID FUELS FUND	\$ 136,846.00	\$ 119,029.00
SEWER FUND	\$ 973,272.00	\$ 1,001,672.00
TOTAL	*\$ 3,77,986.00	\$ 3,733,027.00

*The difference between 2023 and 2024 is an increase of less than 1.25%.

- 2) A Motion to authorize an Ordinance No. 449, establishing the rate of real estate tax for the 2024 year and levied on all real property within the Township subject to taxation for the year 2024 and any years as follows until otherwise amended by the Board of Commissioners.

The total rate of tax shall be the sum of 4.836 mills on each dollar of assessed valuation, or the sum of 4.836 dollars on each one thousand dollars of assessed valuation.

For general purposes, the sum of 4.030 mills on each dollar of assessed valuation, and for debt purposes the sum of .806 mills on each dollar of assessed valuation.

All other taxes and fees imposed pursuant to the Local Tax Enabling Act and other applicable codes by Ordinance and Resolution will remain in full force and effect.

Roll Call Vote-Motion Carried

Motion Barlomas Second Mylan

Molchen Yes Mylan Yes Angus Yes Barlomas Yes DeBona Yes

B) FINANCE

- 1) A Motion to authorize the transfer of funds in an amount equal to \$25,479.85 from the Harmony Township Capital Improvement Plan Fund to the Harmony Township General Fund for the final installment of the payment to M O Herron for the Harmony Township Storm Sewer Project.

Roll Call Vote-Motion Carried

Motion Barlomas Second Angus

Molchen Yes Mylan Yes Angus Yes Barlomas Yes DeBona Yes

- 2) A Motion authorizing the transfer of funds in an amount equal to \$4,948.81 from the American Rescue Plan Fund (ARPA) to the General Fund for the final Payment to Shields Asphalt Paving Company for the resurfacing of the Forest Road Paving Project.

Roll Call Vote-Motion Carried

Motion Molchen Second Mylan

Angus Yes Barlomas Yes Molchen No Mylan Yes DeBona Yes

C) PUBLIC SAFETY

- 1) A Motion authorizing the acceptance of the Agreement between the Harmony Township Commissioners and the Harmony Township Police Association for the period beginning January 1, 2024, through December 31, 2027.

Roll Call Vote-Motion Carried

Motion Mylan Second Molchen

Angus Yes Barlomas Yes Molchen No Mylan Yes DeBona Yes

D) PERSONNEL

- 1) A Motion to accept the resignation of Paula Winnie as Treasurer of Harmony Township effective January 1, 2024.

Roll Call Vote-Motion accepted

Motion Mylan Second Molchen

Mylan Yes Angus Yes Barlomas Yes Molchen Yes DeBona Yes

- 2) Consistent with past practice, a Motion authorizing paid Holiday time off for all workdays for the Township Manager, Executive assistant and Part Time Cleaner for the period of Tuesday, December 26th through Friday, December 29th, 2023.

Roll Call Vote-Motion Carried

Motion Molchen Second Barlomas

Angus Yes Barlomas Yes Molchen No Mylan Yes DeBona Yes

E) COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

- 1) A Motion authorizing a submission to the House Democratic Caucus requesting appropriations in the amount as follows:
- \$175,000 for the acquisition of three (3) fully outfitted Police Vehicles to be acquired through CoStars vendor and
 - \$250,000 for funding to replace and repair sanitary sewer lines which have been identified as being in need of repair, replacement and rehabilitation based upon the results of televising the line.

Roll Call Vote-Motion Carried

Motion Barlomas Second Angus

Barlomas Yes Molchen Yes Mylan Yes Angus Yes DeBona Yes

- 2) A Motion authorizing the acceptance of the building plan submitted by Wright Auto for the erection of a 15,000 sq. ft. warehouse facility to be located at 2516 Duss Avenue, Ambridge, PA 15003 being Parcel No. 64-009-0610-.000. The building plan has been accepted by the Harmony Township Planning Commission and contingent upon the following: The issuance of a Building Permit by United Code Consultants and that all permits and authorizations be obtained prior to the start of any development, the installation of a proper fire wall barrier, and that the recommendations of the Harmony Township and Beaver County Planning Commission be accepted and incorporated where applicable, and all such information and materials as required by Township agents and Fire Marshall, as necessary be obtained.

Roll Call Vote-Motion Carried

Motion Molchen Second Mylan

Barlomas Yes Molchen Yes Mylan Yes Angus Yes DeBona Yes

F) REPORTS

- A. Township Manager's Report. The Manager has submitted updates to the Board of Commissioners on a regular basis from the last meeting.
1. Manager will be having a meeting with Columbia Gas to discuss incomplete projects. Projects such as 25th Street were to start in 2024 however, other projects such as Rice Avenue and 24th Street up to Beaver have begun in 2023 and other projects are in a state of incompleteness.
 2. The Winter Day Event was a was a success and the weather cooperated.
 3. There is a new Grant Program, and the Township Manger will be meeting with KLH Engineering to discuss the COVID-19 ARPA Capital Projects Fund Multi-Purpose Community Facility Projects. This Grant is being administered by the people who handle cable programming.

4. **Manager wished everyone a Happy Holiday and a Merry Christmas.**

B. Consulting Engineer's Report. An Engineers Report for the month of November/ December 2023 has been submitted.

1. **On the Engineer's report the COVID-19 ARPA PA Water and Sewer program failed Harmony Township was failed to be added to the list; However, an email was sent stating that Harmony Township has received a little over \$200,000 for that grant.**
2. **The Paving Program has been completed and final payment application has been submitted.**
3. **No change in status regarding Skyline Metals.**
4. **Regarding Wright Automotive, NIRA is waiting for the final Highway Occupancy Permit from PennDot.**
5. **The Local Share Grant is complete, and NIRA is waiting to hear the outcome.**

C. Solicitor's Report. The Solicitor has entered her invoice for services and setting forth the work performed for the month of November/ December 2023.

1. **The contract with The Harmony Township Police Department has been finalized.**
2. **The Solicitor will be working with the Township Manager regarding the new tax rate.**
3. **The Solicitor wished everyone a Happy Holiday.**

VII. ELECTED OFFICIALS REPORT

- A. **Commissioner, Connie Barlamas, thank everyone who helped and attended Winter Community Day. Thanks to the Harmony Township Police Department and the Harmony Township VFD for participating in this event. Thanks to the Economy Borough VFD for bringing the ladder truck which was a big hit with the kids especially when Santa was up in the ladder. It was a great day. She also wished happy Holidays to everyone.**
- B. **Commissioner Glen Angus wished everyone a Merry Christmas.**
- C. **Commissioner, Terry Mylan, thanked everyone who helped and attended Winter Community Day. Eight Gallons of Hot Chocolate and 350 bags of popcorn was distributed to the attendees during the event. The event was a real success and she hope next year will be bigger and better. She also wished everyone Happy Holidays.**
- D. **Commissioner Matt Molchen thanked Paula Winne for her service as**
- E. **Treasurer. He also thanked everyone who helped and attended Winter Community Day. He wished everyone Happy Holidays.**
- F. **Board President, Grace DeBona, thanked Representative Matzie for his assistance in the PA Small Water Grant which was awarded to Harmony Township in the amount of \$203,000.00. She also congratulated Commissioner Barlamas and everyone who helped with the Winter Community Day in making the event a great success. She thanked Paula Winnie for her service as Treasurer. She asked the Police Chief, Juan Vilagomez, to come up to the table to personally**

thank him for taking the initiative to partner with Safran Shop-N-Save regarding the “Shop with Cops” Program. As a former teacher she knows that there are families in the community who will really benefit from this program. She asked Chief Vilagomez to speak about the program. Chief Vilagomez was approached by Brittany Safran from Shop N Save and asked him if the Harmony Township Police Department would participate in the “Shop with Cops” program which usually consists of getting toys for Children, but Ms. Safran wanted to involve Shop N Save and donate food. Initially the number of families were around 4 to 5 families. However, as of today December 20th that number has grown to 25 families that will be helped due to generous donations from the community. Any donations that are received Shop N Save will match that donation. Now because of all the generous donations which as of today is \$5,000.00 and the money collected at the registers is \$1,000.00 as of the 20th. Commissioner Barlamas and Kathy Fisher have been able to buy 50 gifts for the 50 children who belong to these 25 families. Donations are still being accepted and checks for this year only should be made out to Shop N Save. Commissioner Barlamas then read a list of current contributors who donated to the “Shop with Cops” program (any contributors not mentioned will be acknowledged at a later date): **Harmony Township Police Department, The Hyatt Family, The DeBona Family, Brandon Robinson Landscaping, Harmony Storage, Fernando Bevilacqua-Bevilacqua Remodeling, Fitzpatrick Construction, Harmony Township Volunteer Fire Department, Skyline Metals, Brian Mikush-Mikush Maytag, Constance Barlamas, Economy Electric Supply, Beth Floor, Terry Rosinsky, Parks Place, Tim Cassidy Construction& Remodeling, Jules Brown, Jules Lawncare & Tree Removal, Ambridge Lumber, Duss Avenue Café, Harmony Township Road Crew, Baruni Grill & The Barlamas Family, Glen Angus-Glat Auto Detailing, Bob Villella-Harmony Township Manager, Ambridge Wholesale Tire – The Gradek Family, Franks Pizzeria-The Aloe Family, The Polish Falcons, Tom Contrition, Bee Mac Trucking, Monark Student Transportation, Ambridge Do It Best Home Center and Lawsons Sunoco.**

VIII. ANNOUNCEMENTS.

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Commissioners is as follows: **Re-organization Meeting – January 2nd, 2024 @ 6:00Pm**
Workshop Meeting – January 2nd, 2024 @ 6:00Pm

The Township Building will be closed on Monday, December 25th thru December 29th, 2023, in recognition of the Christmas Holiday. The Township Building will be open to the public on Tuesday, January 2nd, 2024.

The Harmony Township Winter Community Day as a great success. A BIG thank you for your contribution, service, and time to all who participated and donated to this community event: **Mr. and Mrs. Claus, Tenaris, Ron Kosarik-Skyline Metals, Chuck Menzock-3 Rivers Recycling, Ambridge Value Properties, Penn Dreams Hospitality, Stephen Paxton- Achitect, Barunis, Joseph Brunner, Jay and Cynthia Schofield, Rosemary Shrum, Robert Mikush, Fernando Bevilacqua, NIRA Engineers, Boron Specialties, TREK of Robinson, Angela**

Meyers, Fabiola Gergerich, First National Bank, Dave Granati-School of Rock and Rock Academy, Beaver County SWAT ESU (Emergency Services Unit), Harmony township Volunteer Fire Department, Economy Borough Volunteer Fire Department, Harmony Township VFD Ladies Auxiliary, Sue Palombo, Harmony Township Commissioners, Manager, Executive Assistant and Police Department, Harmony Township Public Works Department, Ambridge Do it Best Home Center, Shannon Steele, and Safran's Shop N Save Market.

IX. PUBLIC COMMENT. The Public is invited to comment on any item of interest. *Manager Note: All individual comments and dialogue are limited to 5 minutes.*

Fabiola Gergerich mentioned that since this year the Children were unable to fill out cards for Servicemen and Women overseas perhaps next year this project could be conducted earlier and also included the elderly in Nursing Homes. Commissioner Barlamas thinks that is a great idea. She would like to implement next year during the October Meetings to have cards out during the meeting and the weeks before so the community can have a chance to fill out cards for the troops and include Nursing Homes. President DeBona, said that she would contact Teacher's in the Highland Schools to have the Children make cards as well.

X. ADJOURNMENT

Voice Vote – Motion Carried.

Motion Molchen Second Barlamas Time of Adjournment: 6:40PM