

TOWNSHIP COMMISSIONERS MEETING MINUTES

August 16th, 2023

6:00 PM

- 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 Wednesday, JULY 5TH, 2023 to accept public comment on amending Sec 909 of the Harmony Township Zoning Ordinance.**
- 3) The Board of Commissioners held an Executive Session after the Workshop Meeting of July 5th, 2023, for personnel matters related to contract.**
- 4) The Board of Commissioners held a Special Meeting on August 2, 2023, to consider the Land development Application of Skyline Metals, Inc. for the erection of a 20,000 sq.ft warehouse with attached office space. The Board of Commissioners voted in favor of the land development.**
- 5) The Board of Commissioners held an Executive Session on August 16th, 2023, at 5:00Pm to discuss matters pertaining to potential legal action relating to real estate.**

CALL TO ORDER

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL:

Commissioners and Other Officials

Mrs. DeBona, President

Mrs. Mylan, Vice President

Mr. Angus, Commissioner

Mr. Molchen, Commissioner – Absent

Ms. Barlamas, Commissioner

Ms. Shannon Steele, Solicitor

Mr. Villella, Manager

Mrs. Winne, Tax Collector/Treasurer

Mr. Nordquist, Township Engineer

Residents in Attendance

Craig Winnie- Lenzman Court

Fabiola Gergerich-Woodland Road

Rosemary Shrum-Woodland Road

Denise Campbell-Sylvan Road

Greg Szuchy-25th Street

Tim Webb-Sylvan Road

Kaylie Szuchy-Manning Street

Jack Bedalota-Sylvan Road
Mary Christine Whipple-Virginia Avenue
Mark Montagna-Sylvan Road

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 questioned the following agenda items:

- 1. Item #3 – The Executive Session. The discussion was regarding the Police Contract.**
 - 2. Item #5 – The Executive Session. Could the Board divulge who the discussion was about. The Solicitor answered her that it involved certain real estate, but a lawsuit has not been filed.**
- I. Approval of the Minutes of the regular Meeting of June 21st, 2023 , and Approval of JULY 5TH, 2023, Special Meeting Minutes as amended, and Approval of the AUGUST 2nd, 2023, Special Meeting Minutes as submitted.
Voice Vote - Motion Carried
Motion Barlamas Second Mylan**
- II. Approval of the following reports: The Township Manager is recommending the acceptance of the following Department Reports for the month of July and August 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 June and July 2023.
Voice Vote – Motion Carried
Motion Angus Second Mylan**
- III. Ratification and Approval of the Accounts Payable for the month of July and August 2023.**
- A.) It is the recommendation of the Finance Committee to ratify and approve the July and August 2023 Accounts Payable in the total amount of \$ 163,876.06 (JULY) and \$301,960.60 (AUGUST).**

	JULY	AUGUST
General Fund	\$ 42,858.01	\$ 42,643.97
2018 GO Bond Interest /Principal U.S. Bank	\$ N/A	\$ 174,181.25
Health Insurance	\$ 30294.62	\$ 29,917.05
Developers Escrow Fund	\$ N/A	
Liquid Fuels	\$ 4790.01	\$ 13,942.06
Sewer Fund	\$ 23,900.79	
Police Pension Fund	\$ 422.63	\$ 422.63
2018 Capital Program Fund	\$ 148.00	\$ 222.00
1 st Install M O' Herron		\$ 76,631.64
2 nd Install Jeffrey Assoc	\$ 61,462.00	
TOTAL	\$ 163,876.06	\$ 301,960.60

Roll Call Vote. Motion Carried.

Motion Barlomas Second Angus

Mylan Yes Angus Yes Barlomas Yes Molchen Absent DeBona Yes

IV. Consent Agenda. NO 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.

V. NEW BUSINESS

Finance

- 1) A Motion authorizing the transfer of funds in an amount equal to \$76,631.64 from the Harmony Township Capital Improvement Fund to the Harmony Township General Fund for the 1st installment of the payment to M O Herron- Beaver County ARPA Grant Award.

Roll Call Vote – Motion Carried

Motion Barlomas Second Mylan

Mylan Absent Angus Yes Barlomas Yes Molchen Absent DeBona Yes

Public Safety

- 1) A Motion authorizing the President of the Board of Commissioners to execute the Police Mutual Aid Agreement with the Beaver County Regional Police Department.

Roll Call Vote

Motion Angus Second Barlomas

Angus Yes Barlomas Yes Molchen Absent Mylan Yes DeBona Yes

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. Update on Forest Road – Waiting for the Final.
 2. Planning Commission approved the 20,000 sq. ft. office space for Skyline Metals.
 3. Planning Commission is set to vote on an additional proposal from Wright Automotive for a 15,000 sq. ft. office space.
 4. Storm Sewer work is moving forward with MO Herron.
- B. Consulting Engineer's Report.** An Engineers Report for the month of July and August 2023 have been submitted.
1. Skyline Metals stormwater and site plan stills needs tweaking.
 2. Storm Sewer work is completed. The paving has started.
 3. Columbia Gas is responsible for the paving of Virginia Avenue.
 4. The decision for the approval of the Small Water Program Grant has been delayed.
 5. New Grant opportunities are available; applications will be submitted.
- C. Solicitor's Report.** The Solicitor has entered her invoice for services and set forth the work performed for the month of July/August 2023.
1. Negotiations are still continuing regarding the Police Department and the Public works Department.

VI. Elected Officials' Report

- A. Tax Collector Report.** The Tax Collector has submitted her reports for July and August 2023.
1. The Tax Collector, Paula Winnie, spoke regarding the new assessments for 2024. The deadline for appealing the 2024 assessment is July 1, 2023. However, residents are permitted to file appeals every year.
- B. Commissioner, Terry Mylan,** commented on school has started and be careful driving.
- C. Board President, Grace Debona,** mentioned that in October Harmony Ridge is having an event. Also, please be careful driving now that school has started.

VII. 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.

Craig Winnie Asked about the Fire Hydrants. Ambridge Water Authority flushes the hydrants. Could the Township acquire a hydrant flushing schedule from the Ambridge Water Authority. Commissioner Barlamas said that AWA

would be contacted for a schedule.

Denise Campbell had a complaint regarding a residence on Woodland Road has an inground swimming pool but it took 13 months for them to install a fence around the pool. Also, there are two abandoned cars on Woodland Road that has smashed windows. She has called the Code Officer on several occasions regarding these matters but her calls were never returned. She is very upset with the Codes Department. She feels if the Codes Officer is not doing his job then the Department should be eliminated. She would also like to have Township Employees park in the bottom parking lot leaving parking in front of the office for residents.

Mary Christine Whipple inquired about the new tax assessments.

On the Beaver County website is an explanation regarding the assessments. The new assessments will be announced in November 2023. The county can increase assessment rate by 5%. The Harmony Township Board of Commissioners need to wait until after November to discuss the new assessments. Mrs. Whipple lives on Virginia Avenue, and she has a complaint regarding a rental property on Virginia Avenue. The tenant moved out and left a lot of garbage in the alley behind the house. She wants to know what action the Township can take to have this garbage removed. The Township needs to give the owner 10 days to remove the garbage. After 10 days and the garbage is not removed then the Owner has to be taken to the Magistrate and that process can last between 90 to 100 days. Certified Letters need to be sent and then the case finally is sent to the District Attorney and a Court date will be set but it can take up to 90 days.

Greg Szuchy wanted to know if it is possible for Harmony Township to have a permanent Codes Enforcement Officer instead of a subcontractor. Is it possible for the current Codes Enforcement Officer to submit a monthly report so the residents can be kept up to date on his work. The Township will have the Codes Officer submit monthly reports moving forward.

Tim Webb mentioned that on Sylvan Road there are two abandoned cars. If the cars have current inspection stickers they can legally park on the street. The Township Manager will look into this situation. Also, the Police Department can be called regarding abandoned vehicles.

Mark Montagna thanked the Board for the speeding signs on Woodland Road.

Fabiola Gergerich inquired about the following:

1. LSA Grant- The Board will discuss the Grant at their next workshop meeting.
2. Police Exam – Interviews will be conducted soon.

3. The new Fire Truck - waiting for Jimmy Essex
4. Jack Lively issue – Glen Angus visited the site. The Municipal Authority came up with a plan and now they are just waiting on Jack Lively.

VIII . ANNOUNCEMENTS.

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Commissioners will be as follows:

Workshop: September 6th, 2023 @6:00Pm

Regular Meeting: September 20th, 2023 @ 6:00Pm

The Township Offices will be closed on Monday, September 4th, 2023, in recognition of the Labor Day Holiday.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

Voice Vote. Motion Passed.

Motion Angus Second Barlomas Time of Adjournment: 7:01PM