

**TOWNSHIP COMMISSIONERS MEETING MINUTES**

**FEBRUARY 15th, 2023**

**6:00 PM**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS.** The meeting this evening is a regularly scheduled Public Meeting and is accessible in person subject to the occupancy limits of the Township facility.

- 1) The Board of Commissioners held a Workshop Session on Wednesday, FEBRUARY 1, 2023.**
- 2) The Board of Commissioners held a Workshop Session on Wednesday, FEBRUARY 15, 2023.**

**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**

**Ms. Barlamas, Commissioner**

**Ms. Shannon Steele, Solicitor**

**Mr. Vilella, Manager**

**Mrs. Winne, Tax Collector/Treasurer**

**Mr. Nordquist, Township Engineer**

**Residents in Attendance**

**Craig Winnie- Lenzman Court**

**Dave Gorecin- Wilson Avenue**

**Karen Benson-Ridge Road**

**Robbie Rossich-25th Street**

**Derek Hiller-Woodland Road**

**Fabiola Gergerich-Woodland Road**

**Rosemary Shrum-Woodland Road**

**Sharon Speicher-Beaver Road**

**Becky Homich-Beaver Road**

**Jack Bedalota-Sylvan Road**

**Public Comment**

**Fabiola Gergerich questioned why Harmony Township opened a new Money Market Account. Commissioner Barlamas explained this was the Tax Anticipation Note account.**

Due to the change in the law the Township needed to make the Tax Anticipation Note account separate if the account were to be paid early.

Fabiola Gergerich questioned the Key Lock Ordinance. Is the Ordinance mandatory and have all the Businesses been notified. Mr. Villella, Township Manager, explained that the Ordinances publicized and within the Ordinance there is an exception clause.

Fabiola Gergerich questioned the Valley Waste Agreement. The Valley Waster agreement can be extended or terminated.

Fabiola Gergerich questioned the amending of 909 Non-Conforming Lot of Harmony Township Code of Ordinances. She feels that this Ordinance infringes on the rights of the Homeowner. This Ordinance is in the hands of the Planning Commission.

Rosemary Schrum is still concerned with the Police Chief vacancy. The Board reiterated that this is an Employment issue and is confidential.

Rosemary Schrum is concerned with the prices of Valley Waste. Commissioner DeBona, Board President, explained that Valley Waste has a 10% senior citizen discount. You just need to send them a copy of your driver's license.

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

- I) Approval of the JANUARY 18<sup>th</sup>, 2023, Meeting Minutes.  
Voice Vote – Motion Carried  
Motion Angus Second Mylan

\*Commissioner Angus brought to the attention of Manager Villella that the Minutes need to be amended to include Executive Session meetings held on January 11<sup>th</sup>, January 13<sup>th</sup> and February 1<sup>st</sup> 2023.

Then Craig Winnie, member of the public forum, said that a motion must be taken to Amend the minutes.

A motion was called to amend the Minutes to include the Executive Sessions that were held on January 14<sup>th</sup>, January 23<sup>rd</sup> and February 1<sup>st</sup>.

- Voice Vote – Motion Carried  
Motion Molchen Second Barlomas

Approval of the following reports: The Township Manager is recommending the acceptance of the following Department Reports for the month of JANUARY 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 JANUARY 2023.

Voice Vote – Motion Carried

- Motion Barlomas Second Molchen

**Approval of the Accounts Payable for the month of FEBUARY 2023**

**A.) It is the recommendation of the Finance Committee to approve the FEBRUARY 2023 Accounts Payable in the total amount of \$295,477.85.**

<b>General Fund</b>	<b>\$ 35,680.10</b>
<b>2018 GO Bond Interest U.S. Bank</b>	<b>\$ 24,181.26</b>
<b>Health Insurance</b>	<b>\$ 30,142.33</b>
<b>Developers Escrow Fund</b>	<b>\$ N/A</b>
<b>Liquid Fuels</b>	<b>\$ 12,512.15</b>
<b>Sewer Fund</b>	<b>\$ 92,539.38</b>
<b>Police Pension Fund</b>	<b>\$100,422.63</b>
<b>2018 Capital Program Fund</b>	<b>\$ 0.00</b>
<b>Transfer to Gen Fnd Jeffrey Assoc Playground Grant</b>	<b>\$ 0.00</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 295,477.85</b>

**Roll Call Vote-Motion Carried**

**Motion Barlamas Second Mylan**

**Molchen Yes Mylan Yes Angus Yes Barlamas 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) Authorizing the opening of a Money Market account at the First National Bank , Northern Lights, Baden PA for the deposit of the 2023 TAX ANTICIPATION NOTE.
- 2) Authorize the payment of interest in the amount of \$24,181.26 to US Bank due March 1, 2023.
- 3) Authorize Township Manager and Finance Committee Chair to explore available interest rates and to deposit proceeds from the TAN or other available resources in permitted investment vehicles for a period not to exceed six (6) months

**Motion Molchen Second Mylan**

**Voice Vote- Motion Carried**

**V. NEW BUSINESS**

**Personnel Committee**

- 1) A Motion authorizing the acceptance of the renewal rates for Life Insurance and Short Term Disability Rates for the period beginning April 2023 and ending April 2025. Life Insurance will increase \$19.00 per month and Short-Term Disability \$35.00 per month or a total of \$54.00 per month.

Roll Call Vote-Motion Carried

Motion Barlomas Second Mylan

Molchen Yes Angus Yes Barlomas Yes Mylan Yes DeBona Yes

### Public Safety

- 1) A motion authorizing the adoption of Ordinance No 446 of 2023 requiring the installation and regulation of key lock boxes within the Township.

Roll Call Vote

Motion Molchen Second Angus

Barlomas Yes Molchen Yes Mylan Yes Angus Yes DeBona Yes

*Manager Note: This Ordinance was advertised in the Beaver County Times on February 07, 2023.*

- 1) A Motion accepting an Agreement with Valley Waste Services for the removal of garbage and rubbish from dwellings within the Township and the following rates will apply for the period beginning January 1, 2022 through December 2024:

For the year 2022-\$15.93 per month or \$47.79 per quarter, and

For the year 2023- \$16.75 per month or \$50.25 per quarter, and

For the year 2024=\$17.24. per month or \$51.72 per quarter.

*Manager Note: The rates have been effective since first quarter 2022 and it is necessary to formalize the rate structure as well as provisions of the past Agreement.*

Roll Call Vote

Motion Barlomas Second Molchen

Mylan Yes Angus Yes Barlomas Yes Molchen Yes DeBona Yes

### Zoning

- 1) A Motion authorizing amending § 909. Non-Conforming Lot of the Harmony Township Code Ordinances to read as follows: “A non-Conforming lot as defined within §900 may be used for the erection of a structure or building even though its area and width are less than the minimum required by this Chapter provided the following conditions are met:

1. The front yard setback for the principal and accessory structure in Zoning District R-1 and R-2 must be equidistant from the street and conform with neighboring and adjacent structures.
2. The minimum side yard shall be two (2’) feet.
3. The required off street parking shall be met for the proposed use.
4. The sign requirements shall be met by the proposed use.
5. Only those uses permitted by this Chapter within the zoning districts within which the lot occurs, shall be permitted.”

The Township will provide copies of the proposed amendment to the Harmony Township Planning Commission and the Beaver County Planning Commission and thereafter schedule a public meeting for public comment.

Roll Call Vote

Motion Angus Second Barlomas

Angus Yes Barlomas Yes Molchen Yes Mylan Yes DeBona Yes

## **VI. Reports**

**A. Township Manager's Report.** The Manager has submitted updates to the Board of Commissioners on a regular basis from the last meeting.

**B. Consulting Engineer's Report.** An Engineers Report for the month of January/ February 2023 has been submitted.

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

## **VII. Elected Officials' Report**

**VIII. 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.*

**Dave Gorecin** was questioning the letter he received from the Municipal Authority regarding hydrant fees. The hydrant in front of his house was out of order. Since he has to pay for the hydrant he would like for it to be in working condition. Commissioner De Bona, Board President, explained that Ambridge Water had worked on that line and the Board was told that the problem was repaired. He also wanted to know if the quarterly fee of \$3.00 could be changed to a yearly fee of \$12.00. That is an issue for the Municipal Authority and not the Board of Commissioners.

**Dave Gorecin** addressed the Board regarding the merger of the Police and Fire Departments with surrounding municipalities. He was told that someone of the Board stopped the study needed for the merger. Commissioner DeBona and Commissioner Barlamas met with the District Attorney and other Officials to discuss the merger. They both came to the conclusion that the merger was not good for Harmony township. However, no one on the Board stopped the study.

**Karen Benson** wanted to know who receives the \$3.00 hydrant fee? The \$3.00 hydrant fee is paid to the Harmony Township Municipal Authority not the Ambridge Water Authority. She also commented that she works for a Fire Security Company in Cranberry Township and they use Key Lock Boxes and they are vital to the Fire Department. The Key Lock Boxes are a good thing.

**Rosemary Schrum** once again reiterated her disappointment with the lack of transparency regarding the hiring of a Police Chief. The Solicitor explained that the hiring of a Police Chief is a employment matter which is confidential.

**Rosemary Schrum** also inquired about the status of Building renovations. Commissioner DeBona, Board President, explained that at the last Workshop Meeting the Building renovation plans need to be re-drawn. She will be meeting with the Architect on Monday February 20<sup>th</sup> to discuss the revisions.

**Craig Winnie** questioned the Solicitor on the matter of the hiring of the Police Chief really was not a confidential matter. The Solicitor hiring of employees in Harmony Township are all personnel matters and confidential.

**Paula Winnie**, Harmony Township Tax Collector, brought up that there are issues regarding Act 172 The Credit to the Volunteer Firemen and Emergency Service Workers. The Township failed to advertise the Act 30 days prior to adoption and failed to hold a public hearing. There was a question as to the equity of the 20% Real Estate Rebate Amounts. Therefore, all of the points given maybe looked at by the Board in the future.

**Fabiola Gergerich** mentioned her disappointment in the new website. The new web page still has inaccurate information which was listed on the old web page.

**Commissioner Barlamas indicated that the website is still in transition and that issues are being addressed.**

**Fabiola Gergerich asked again about the progress regarding the hiring of the new Police Chief. She indicated her concern for safety if a terrorist group like Antifa would attack Harmony Township and would be vulnerable without a Police Chief. The Board and Solicitor explained, once again, that the matter of hiring an employee falls under an Employment matter which is confidential and no comment will be made.**

#### **IX. ANNOUNCEMENTS.**

**The next Workshop Session of the Board of Commissioners will be held at 6:00Pm on March1<sup>st</sup>, 2023**

**The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Harmony Township Commissioners will be March15, 2023, at 6:00Pm.**

**The Harmony Township VFD Ladies Auxiliary will be holding a Soup Sale, Feb. 19<sup>th</sup> from 3:00 to 6:00Pm. Soups offered are Chicken Noodle, Stuffed Pepper and Potato Soup. To Order, Call the Soup Ladies: Sharon at 412-215-8656 or Judy at 724-385-0587.**

#### **X. ADJOURNMENT**

**Voice Vote.**

**Motion Mylan Second Angus Time of Adjournment: 7:02 PM**