

TOWNSHIP COMMISSIONERS MEETING MINUTES

MARCH 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 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 Workshop Session on Wednesday, MARCH 1st, 2023.
- 3) A Conditional Use Hearing was held at 5:00Pm on Wednesday, March 15th, 2023, on the Conditional Use application of Joseph J. Brunner, Inc. for its property located at 2973 Duss Avenue, Ambridge, PA 15003 for vehicle storage. (This was advertised in The Beaver County Times on February 28th and March 7, 2023).

CALL TO ORDER

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL:

Commissioners and Other Officials

Mrs. DeBona, President - Absent

Mrs. Mylan, Vice President

Mr. Angus, Commissioner

Mr. Molchen, Commissioner

Ms. Barlamas, Commissioner- On the Phone

Ms. Shannon Steele, Solicitor- Absent / Mr. Garen Fidelas, Solicitor - Present

Mr. Vilella, Manager

Mrs. Winne, Tax Collector/Treasurer

Mr. Nordquist, Township Engineer

Residents in Attendance

Craig Winnie- Lenzman Court

Sue Palombo- Woodland Road

Fernando Bevilacqua-Highland Road

Robbie Rossich-25th Street

Derek Hiller-Woodland Road

Fabiola Gergerich-Woodland Road

Rosemary Shrum-Woodland Road

Sharon Speicher-Beaver Road

Greg Szuchy-25th Street

Jack Bedalota-Sylvan Road

Mark McAdams-Woodside Drive

Residents in Attendance(Cont.)

Joseph Kotula-Forest Road

Lori Leap-Pioneer Drive

Greg Kurash-Forest Road

MS4 Presentation

Clint Reily of NIRA Engineers provided a brief presentation on the Six Minimum Control Measures for Small MS4 Communities. Harmony Township like many other communities is required to comply with MS4 requirements. The presentation is a requirement by the DEP and the Township MS4 Permit requirements. The Township Public Works and Managers Office works with NIRA Engineers and their professional staff to administer and fulfill these requirements.

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

Public Comment

Fabiola Gergerich questioned which Businesses were inspected in regards to the MS4 presentation. Businesses with retention ponds are checked on an annual basis .

Jack Bedalota wanted validation from the Engineer that the Township is in compliance. The Engineer assured the Mr. Bedalota that Harmony Township is in compliance.

Rosemary Schrum complimented Clint Riley, NIRA Consulting Engineers on his MS4 presentation.

Craig Winnie commented that the January 11th, 2023 Executive Session should be on the January Agenda and Meeting Minutes. The January 23rd, 2023 Executive Session should be on the February Agenda and Meeting Minutes.

Paula Winnie commented on the Act 172 Credit to the Volunteer Firemen and Emergency Service workers. Mrs. Winnie feels that she is being unjustly accused of stopping the Ordinance from being in effect. She inquired is the ACT going to be executed at a later date. The Board has no timeline on this issue.

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 FEBRUARY 15TH, 2023, Meeting Minutes amended to reflect the Executive Session held on JANUARY 23RD, 2023 for Collective Bargaining and Contract Reviews.
Voice Vote – Motion Carried
Motion Angus Second Molchen**

II) Approval of the following reports: The Township Manager is recommending the acceptance of the following Department Reports for the month of MARCH 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 FEBRUARY 2023.

Voice Vote-Motion Carried

Motion Angus Second Molchen – Motion Carried

III) Approval of the Accounts Payable for the month of MARCH 2023

- A.) It is the recommendation of the Finance Committee to approve the MARCH 2023 Accounts Payable in the total amount of \$161,922.89

General Fund	\$ 36,917.38
2018 GO Bond Interest U.S. Bank	\$ 0.00
Health Insurance	\$ 30,142.33
Developers Escrow Fund	\$ N/A
Liquid Fuels	\$ 6,764.07
Sewer Fund	\$ 87,676.48
Police Pension Fund	\$ 422.63
2018 Capital Program Fund	\$ 0.00
TOTAL	\$ 161,922.89

Roll Call Vote-Motion Carried

Motion Molchen Second Angus

Molchen Yes Mylan Yes Angus Yes Barlamas Yes DeBona _____

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 Township Manager to participate in the Dept of General Services (DGS) statewide contract for sodium chloride for the 2023-2024 Season, beginning AUGUST 2023-JULY 2024 and to submit a new salt Contract participation Agreement to DGS CoStars.

Voice Vote-Motion Carried

Motion Molchen Second Angus- Motion Carried

V. OLD BUSINESS

- 1) A Motion to amend the Minutes of the January 18th, 2023 regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners to accurately reflect the vote of the Board of Commissioners authorizing Ordinance No. 445, the Volunteer Service Credit Program.

Roll Call Vote-Motion Carried

Motion Angus Second Molchen

Molchen Yes Angus Yes Barlamas Yes Mylan Yes DeBona ____

- 2) A Motion to amend the Minutes of January 18th, 2023, Regular Meeting of the Board of Commissioners to state that Executive Sessions were held on the 11th of JANUARY 2023 for collective bargaining unit contract reviews.

Roll Call Vote-Motion Carried

Motion Angus Second Molchen

Mylan Yes Angus Yes Barlamas Yes Molchen Yes DeBona ____

- 3) A Motion to repeal Resolution No. 2022-1-12-21-22, adopted by the Board of Commissioners at the Regular Meeting of December 21, 2022 authorizing the Township's submission of a Grant to the DCED to replace, upgrade and extend storm sewers in five (5) designated project area of the Township to alleviate and eliminate storm water flooding that occurs during heavy rainfall events.

Roll Call Vote-Motion Carried

Motion Molchen Second Angus

Molchen Yes Mylan Yes Angus Yes Barlamas Yes DeBona ____

VI. NEW BUSINESS

Finance

- 1) A Motion authorizing the deposit of funds in an amount equal to \$67,500 transferred from the Harmony Township Municipal Authority Fund to the Harmony Township General Fund Money Market, and to further authorize this transfer of the amount of \$67,500 from the General Fund Money Market to the Harmony Township Capital Improvement Fund.

Roll Call Vote-Motion Carried

Motion Molchen Second Angus

Molchen Yes Angus Yes Barlamas Yes Mylan Yes DeBona ____

Public Safety

- 1) The Board decided to table this item until APRIL 19th, 2023 Regular Meeting. A motion accepting the bid of _____ for the storm sewer projects pursuant to the Beaver County Covid 19 Grant subject to a satisfactory Agreement, bonding and all other criteria required by the Engineers and Solicitor being met.
- 2) A Motion adopting Resolution 1-03-15-2023 requesting a PA Small Water and Sewer Program Grant in the amount of \$340,000 from the Commonwealth Finance Authority to be used to repair and rehabilitate sanitary sewer pipelines in the Harmony Township Municipal Authority system and to designate Grace DeBona, President Board of Commissioners and Robert Villella, Township Manager as the officials to execute all documents between the Township and the Commonwealth Finance Authority.

Roll Call Vote-Motion Carried

Motion Molchen Second Angus

Mylan Yes Angus Yes Barlamas Yes Molchen Yes DeBona

- 3) A motion authorizing the adoption of Resolution 2-03-15-2023 requesting the PA Small Water and Sewer Program Grant of \$479,348.00 from the Commonwealth Finance Authority to be used to repair, replace, upgrade and extend storm sewers in five (5) designated project locations to alleviate and eliminate storm water flooding that occurs during heavy rainfall events, and to designate Grace DeBona, President Board of Commissioners and Robert Villella, Township Manager as the officials to execute all documents between the Township and the Commonwealth Finance Authority.

Roll Call Vote-Motion Carried

Motion Molchen Second Angus

Barlamas Yes Molchen Yes Mylan Yes Angus Yes DeBona

VII. Community Development

- 1) The Board decided to table this item until APRIL 19th, 2023 Regular Meeting. A Motion acknowledging the determination of the Board of Commissioners to approve or not to approve a Conditional Use request submitted by Joseph J. Bruner, Inc. for the purposes of storing vehicles at the property located at 2973 Duss Avenue, Ambridge, PA 15003. The Planning Commission on February 23, 2023 approved the Conditional Use application and the Board of Commissioners held a Conditional Use Hearing at 5:00Pm, March 15th 2023 for the purposes of considering the Conditional Use request.

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 February/March 2023 has been submitted. Jim Nordquist, NIRA Consulting Engineers commented that due to storm sewer issues the bid has been delayed for Forest Road Paving Project.
- C. **Solicitor's Report.** The Solicitor has entered her invoice for services and setting forth the work performed for the month of February/March 2023. The Solicitor, Garen Fidelas, explained that Beaver County residents will receive assessment letters from Tyler Technologies in the next couple weeks. These letters will contain the tentative assessment value that was compiled from the data that the company received from the residents. Residents will be able to discuss the assessed value with a representative of Tyler Technologies if you feel that the tentative assessed value is incorrect.

VII. Elected Officials' Report

III. 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 asked a question regarding the MS4 presentation that was presented that evening. She wanted to know which five (5) project areas were viewed regarding the storm water issue. The Engineer explained that the five (5) designated project areas are May Street, Valley Bridge, Lower Virginia Avenue, Dearborn Street, and an area on Shadyside.

Fabiola Gergerich questioned why there was a transfer of \$67,500 from the Harmony Township Municipal Authority Fund to the Harmony Township General Fund Money Market. The Township Manager, Bob Vilella, stated the transfer was for the Capital Improvement Project.

Officer Doug Edgell clarified he was speaking as a private citizen and not a police officer. He wanted to know if there were any progress on hiring a police chief. He feels that Brian Brooks deserves the position. Commissioner Mylan stated that the hiring of a police chief was tabled last year. Collectively the Board will be discussing this issue soon. He also mentioned that the street markings on 24th and Duss Avenue are faded and that is a safety concern. The Township Manager, Bob Vilella, explained that the Township is negotiating with a Line Painting Company for an estimate. He also commented on a meeting he attended which it was stated that due to the train derailment in East Palestine Ohio communities that are close to Railways have a very good chance to receive Grant money Police, Fire and EMS Departments.

Rosemary Schrum once again reiterated her disappointment with the lack of transparency regarding the hiring of a Police Chief. The Board again explained that they do not have a specific timeline, but they will be discussing the issue of Chief soon. Mrs. Schrum also mentioned that there is an excess of public garbage on a property on Woodland Road. However, this issue would need to be discussed with the Magistrate.

Sharon Speicher complained about an abandoned house on Beaver Road which has an old dirty mattress laying in the driveway. She said that this mattress has been there for years. The Township Manager, Bob Vilella, explained that the owner of the home is currently incarcerated. The Solicitor stated that if the Township decided to clean the area they would need to hire a Company and that the payment to this company would come from the tax payers. Also, legally because the current owner is incarcerated the Courts cannot act until her release.

Joe Kotula resides on Forest Road and his neighbor, who has been deceased for two (2) years) has several dead trees on his property. These trees are a liability. If these trees fall they will damage his property and vehicles. He wanted to know if himself or the Township could remove the trees. Legally the Solicitor stated that the Township cannot enter private property.

Greg Kurash attending the meeting regarding the Forest Road Project. The Engineering assured him that the project was still going to happen it is just delayed due to storm water issues.

The following residents made inquiries regarding the selection process and timeline for selecting a Police Chief:

1. Greg Kurash
2. Angela Meyers
3. Fabiola Gergerich
4. Sharon Speicher
5. Rosemary Schrum
6. Jack Bedalota
7. Greg Szuchy

Collectively the Board indicated that 2023 is a contract year. The Board will need to discuss all the aspects of hiring a new Chief including the financial impact.

IX. ANNOUNCEMENTS.

The next Workshop Session of the Board of Commissioners will be held at 6:00Pm on April 5th, 2023.

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Harmony Township Commissioners will be April 19th, 2023, at 6:00Pm.

The Township Offices will be closed April 7th, 2023, in recognition of Good Friday. Township offices will open on April 10th, 2023.

X. ADJOURNMENT

Voice Vote.

Motion Molchen Second Angus Time of Adjournment: 7:25 PM