

# TOWNSHIP COMMISSIONERS MEETING MINUTES

September 20th, 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 Township Negotiations Committee met with the Police on September 6<sup>th</sup> for contract negotiations.
- 3) The Board of Commissioners held a Workshop Session on September 6<sup>th</sup>, 2023.
- 4) The Board of Commissioners held an Executive Session after the Workshop Session of September 6<sup>th</sup>, 2023, to discuss potential legal action related to real estate matters.
- 5) The Board of Commissioners held an Executive Session on September 11<sup>th</sup>, 2023, at 5:30 Pm for personnel related matters.
- 6) The Board of Commissioners held an Executive Session at 5:30 PM on September 20<sup>th</sup>, 2023, for personnel matters.

## 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 – Absent / Taryn Hardy, Solicitor-Present

Mr. Villella, Manager

Mrs. Winne, Tax Collector/Treasurer

Mr. Nordquist, Township Engineer

Mr. Troy Gump, Codes Enforcement Officer

### Residents in Attendance

Craig Winnie - Lenzman Court

Fabiola Gergerich - Woodland Road

Rosemary Shrum – 260 Woodland Road

James Esseck - HTVD

Greg Szuchy – 806 25<sup>th</sup> Street

Brian Murray - HTVD

Kaylie Szuchy - Manning Street

Patrick Shearer – 806 25<sup>th</sup> Street

Brandon Sipes - HTVD

John Cermak - 2650 Manning Street

**Art Ammon – HTVD**  
**Dave Finch – HTVD**  
**Andrea Johnson – HTVD**  
**Sharon Speicher – Beaver Road**  
**Bob Pettner - HTVD**

**Public Comment.**

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

**James Essek** – spoke on behalf of the Fire Department regarding the new contract between Harmony Township and the HTVD and additional money needed for the new Pumper Truck which is required for the HTVD. Currently the ISO rating has increased current pumper Truck is not compliant. The new Truck was originally priced at \$675,000. The VFD is asking an extra \$25,000 per year to help finance the truck. The new total for the truck is \$629,000 with a 2% loan. The Board will be voting tonight regarding this request. Also, Mr. Essek had a question for NIRA NIRA Engineering, Jim Nordquist, regarding Wright Automotive Project. The sprinkler system currently planned for the project is too small for the Building size. Wright will be submitting revised plans.

**Craig Winnie** - Questioned item #1 under Personnel regarding the Civil Service Board. He feels that the motion on May 17, 2023, vote should be amended to adhere To the 1<sup>st</sup> class township code and Civil Service Commissions.

**John Cermak** – Questioned item #1 under Community Development. Mr. Cermak feels that this item should be postponed until next month since Wright Automotive is revising their plans regarding the project.

**August 16<sup>th</sup> Meeting Inquiries:**

1. The Ambridge Water Authority is expected to flush hydrants in Ambridge Borough beginning October 5<sup>th</sup>, 2023, and is planning to be in Harmony Township around the middle of October.
2. The vehicles reported to be parked at the apartments on Woodland Road were removed that week.
3. The Building Inspector has been in contact with the party regarding the fence and it will be resolved shortly.
4. The debris left by the tenant at the Perry Alley location was removed by the landlord's maintenance contractor. The Township Manager checked with the reporting party to verify the materials were removed.

- I. Approval of the Minutes of the regular Meeting of August 16th, 2023 .  
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 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 Mylan Second Molchen

**III. Approval of Accounts Payable for the month of August 2023.**

A.) It is the recommendation of the Finance Committee to ratify and approve the September 2023 Accounts Payable in the total amount of \$ 370,800.10.

General Fund	\$ 87,969.32
2018 GO Bond Interest /Principal U.S. Bank	\$ N/A
Health Insurance	\$ 29,917.05
Developers Escrow Fund	\$ N/A
Liquid Fuels	\$ 12,010.18
Sewer Fund	\$ 95,786.46
Police Pension Fund	\$ 422.63
2018 Capital Program Fund	\$ 378.00
1 <sup>st</sup> Install M O’ Herron	\$ 144,316.46 <input type="checkbox"/>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 370,800.10</b>

. Township will receive 80% of this amount back from the County of Beaver American Rescue Plan Fund Grant (ARPA)

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 \$144,316.44 from the Harmony Township Capital Improvement Fund to the Harmony Township General Fund for the 2nd installment of the payment to M O Herron- Beaver County ARPA Grant Award.

Roll Call Vote – Motion Carried

Motion Mylan Second Barlomas

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 Agreement by and between the Harmony Township Commissioners and the Harmony Township Fire Department for the continuation of contracted fire services for a five (5) year term commencing on the 1<sup>st</sup> day of January 2023 and ending the 31<sup>st</sup> day of December, 2027, and for additional financial contributions for the purchase of a pumper truck, subject to a mutually acceptable Agreement and Solicitors review.

Roll Call Vote

Motion Molchen Second Angus

Angus Yes Barlomas Yes Molchen Absent Mylan Yes DeBona Yes

**Personnel**

- 1) A motion to amend the May 17, 2023, vote relating to the referral of multiple candidates to the Harmony Township Civil Service Commission for the conduct of a competitive exam to a motion to refer one single candidate in order to comply with the requirements of both the First Class Township code and the Harmony Township Civil Service Commission.

Roll Call Vote

Motion Angus Second Molchen

Angus Yes Barlomas Yes Molchen Absent Mylan Yes DeBona Yes

- 2) A motion authorizing the Harmony Township Civil Service Commission for the conduct of a non-competitive exam in accordance with Chapter 6. promotions of the Civil Service Rules and Regulations adopted September 18<sup>th</sup>, 2017.

Roll Call Vote

Motion Barlomas Second Mylan

Angus Yes Barlomas Yes Molchen Absent Mylan Yes DeBona Yes

**Community Development**

- 1) A Motion authorizing the acceptance of the site 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 and contingent upon the following: that all permits and authorizations be obtained prior to the start of any development, that the recommendations of the Harmony Township and Beaver county Planning Commission be accepted and incorporated into the site plan where applicable, and that all such information and materials as required by the Harmony Township engineers, as required be provided to the Engineer to their satisfaction, where applicable.**

**Vote was Tabled until October Board Meeting.**

### **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. Will be meeting with a Representative of Columbia Gas to discuss updates and resident complaints.**
  - 2. M O Herron will be receiving the 2<sup>nd</sup> Payment for the Storm Work contract.**
  - 3. 2022 Audit is completed and in review.**
  - 4. Comcast sent the township a request for a new Franchise Agreement**
  - 5. Variance request have been delivered to the Zoning hearing Board.**
- B. Consulting Engineer's Report. An Engineers Report for the month of August 2023 have been submitted.**
- 1. All storm sewer work has been completed. There a just a few minor items that need completed.**
  - 2. The decision for the approval of the Small Water Program Grant is still delayed.**
  - 3. Forest Road Project is complete. A few minor issues need addressed.**
  - 4. Letter was sent to Skyline Metal for revised plans.**
  - 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 August 2023.**
- 1. Tax Assessments have been mailed and the Township has sent the Solicitor and appeals that have been submitted.**

### **VI. Elected Officials' Report**

- A. Tax Collector Report. The Tax Collector has submitted her reports for August 2023.**
- B. Commissioner, Matt Molchen, commented on the new Playground. He has received excellent feedback from residents. Adults and children are enjoying the Playground.**

- C. Commissioner, Connie Barlamas, mentioned having a community event for light up night and to work with the Ladies Auxiliary on the project. The Ladies Auxiliary will be selling Poinsettias on December 8<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>. The Winter Community day will be on December 9<sup>th</sup> and there will be a need for volunteers. A committee consisting of Connie Barlamas, Matt Molchen and Officer Mike Sheers exists right now. Also, Connie will be working with the Township Manager, Bob Villella, on the event. If anyone in the Harmony Community would like to volunteer, please talk to the Township Manager. Tentative time of the event on December 9<sup>th</sup> is 2pm to 8pm.
- D. Commissioner, Terry Mylan, thanked the Fire Department and the Ladies Auxiliary for all their hard work. They are both highly appreciated. Commissioner Mylan mentioned that we are coming into Finance Season and that taxes have not been raised in quite a while. The Finance Committee will be discussing taxes and the road projects that need to be completed.
- E. Board President, Grace DeBona, mentioned that Trick or Treat night is on Tuesday, October 31st from 6pm to 8pm. Please be careful and watch for children walking and please dress appropriately for the weather. The Fire Department is having a Cash Bash on September 21<sup>st</sup>. The Lady's Auxiliary is having a Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser on Sunday, September 24, 2023. The Board will hold their Workshop Meeting on October 4<sup>th</sup> and the Regular Meeting will be on October 18<sup>th</sup>.

A motion voted on May 17, 2023, under Public Safety to authorize the Harmony Township Civil Service Commission to extend to all qualifying employees of the Harmony Township Police Department an appropriate examination and to establish the most qualified individual for that position and to report the results to the Board of Commissioners. The motion was made first by Mr. Angus and seconded by Mr. Molchen and the motion was unanimously carried. A motion to rescind this motion from May 17, 2023, is rescinded by Mr. Angus and rescinded by Mr. Molchen Voice Vote-Motion Carried.

**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.*

**Fabiola Gergerich:** inquired about the following:

1. The Winter December 9<sup>th</sup> event needs to be placed on the website.
2. Beaver Valley Road Park- when internet be available? Duquesne light needs to install the light pole first.
3. Building renovations- The Architect is drawing the plans.
4. LSA Program – A list has been prepared and the Board needs to review the list.
5. Chief of Police position – when will the decision be made. Board explained that they are close to a decision. Mr. Cermak interjected

and said that the Civil Service Board could have a decision by October.

**John Cermak:** inquired about the following:

1. The internet web page needs updated.
2. The Agenda should be posted 24hours prior to a meeting.
3. The 2023 Budget and minutes need uploaded to the website.
4. The Provich property on 24<sup>th</sup> Street is in horrible condition. What is the Board doing about getting this Building up to code? The Provich property is in active litigation.
5. Harmony Ridge is not working according to code regulations. They are running a bar in the restaurant without the proper permits. What is the Board doing in regards to Harmony Ridge? The Board will look into the situation and address it at the next meeting.

#### **VIII . ANNOUNCEMENTS.**

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

Workshop: October 4<sup>th</sup>, 2023 @6:00Pm

Regular Meeting: October 18<sup>th</sup>, 2023 @ 6:00Pm

Spaghetti Dinner sponsored by the VFD Ladies Auxiliary – Sunday, Sept 24<sup>th</sup> from Noon to 4:00PM. Take out only! Dinners are \$10.00. Call 724-312-1227 or 412-215-8656. Buno Appetito.

Volunteer Fire Department are hold a Cash Bash on October 21<sup>st</sup>.

TRICK OR TREAT will be held on Tuesday, October 31<sup>st</sup> from 6:00PM to 8:00PM!

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

#### **XI. ADJOURNMENT**

Voice Vote. Motion Passed.

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

