

TOWNSHIP COMMISSIONERS MEETING MINUTES
JANUARY 17TH, 2024
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 January 02, 2024, for the purpose of reorganization.
- 3) The Board of Commissioners held an Executive Session on January 09, 2024, for personnel and pension related matters.

CALL TO ORDER

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL:

Commissioners and Other Officials

Ms. Barlamas President - Present

Mrs. Mylan, Vice President - Present

Mr. Angus, Commissioner - Present

Mr. Molchen, Commissioner - Present

Mrs. DeBona, Commissioner – Present via Phone

Ms. Shannon Steele, Solicitor-absent (Attorney Garret Fedeles attended)

Mr. Vilella, Manager

Mr. Nordquist, Township Engineer

Residents in Attendance

Fabiola Gergerich – Woodland Road

John Krepps – Woodland 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 Authorizing of the Township Manager to publish the adopted amended Real Estate Tax Rate. The advertising charge is \$300 which Mrs. Gergerich feels is high. She also would like to know why the rate was amended and was Paula Winnie, The Tax Collector, asked for her input regarding the amended rate? Garrett Fedeles explained the amending of rate was due to a rounding issue. The previous rate was right at the 10% level and moving the decimal point this put the rate below the 10% level.

I) APPROVAL of MINUTES

Approval of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of December 20th, 2023, as submitted.

Voice Vote-Motion Carried

Motion Molchen Second DeBona

**Approval of the Minutes of the Special Meeting of January 02, 2024, as submitted.
 Voice Vote-Motion Carried
 Motion Molchen Second DeBona**

II. Approval of the following reports: The Township Manager is recommending the acceptance of the following Department Reports for the month of December 2023/ January 2024.

- 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 December 2023.**

**Vote-Motion Carried
 Motion Molchen Second DeBona**

III. Approval of the Accounts Payable for the month of January 2024

A.) It is the recommendation of the Finance Committee to approve the January 2024 Accounts Payable in the total amount of \$108,857.42.

General Fund	\$ 39,079.62
2018 GO Bond Principal and Interest U.S. Bank	N/A
Health Insurance	* \$ 31,082.23
Developers Escrow Fund	\$ N/A
Liquid Fuels Ck. 742	\$ 4,913.64
Sewer Fund RUN 1896-1798	\$ 33,358.70
Police Pension Fund	\$ 422.63
2018 Capital Program Fund	\$ 0.00
TOTAL	\$ 108,857.42

*** Health Insurance – February 2024**

**Roll Call Vote-Motion Carried
 Motion DeBona Second Molchen
 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) Authorize the Township Manager to publish in the Beaver County Times a special meeting to be held on February 7th, 2024, for the purposes of adopting the amended Real Estate Tax Rate Ordinance and the acceptance of bids for contracted services for the Township Renovation project.
- 2) Authorize Resolution 2024-01-01 renumbering the following Ordinances:
Ordinance No. 446 – repealing the Volunteer Service Credit Program to Ordinance No. 447.
Ordinance No. 447 Zoning Ordinance Amendment to Ordinance No. 448 .
- 3) To accept letters of interest from Township residents to serve on the Harmony Township Planning Commission or the Harmony Township Zoning Hearing Board. Letters of interest should be received on or before February 12th, 2024. A public notice to be placed in the Beaver County Times and other media requesting letters of interest.

Voice Vote-Motion Carried.

All in Favor

V. NEW BUSINESS

A) FINANCE

A Motion to amend 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 4.8350 mills on each dollar of assessed valuation, or the sum of 4.8350 dollars on each one thousand dollars of assessed valuation.

For general purposes, the sum of 4.0300 mills on each dollar assessed valuation, and for debt purposes the sum of .8050 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 Angus Second Molchen

Molchen Yes Mylan Yes Angus Yes Barlamas Yes DeBona Yes

B) PUBLIC SAFETY

A Motion authorizing a two (2) year extension of the contract for the cleaning, detailing, and disinfecting of four (4) Police vehicles with Glat Auto Detailing in the amount of \$425 per year, per vehicle equal to a total of \$1700 per year or a total of \$3400 for the two (2) year extension.

Roll Call Vote-Motion Carried

Motion Molchen Second DeBona

Molchen Yes Mylan Yes Angus Abstained Barlamas Yes DeBona Yes

Manager Note: The extension was last renewed in February of 2022 at the rate of \$400 per vehicle or \$3200 for the two (2) year term.

C) SANITARY SEWERS, HEALTH AND SANITATION

- 1) A Motion to appoint the following individuals to the Harmony Township Municipal Authority effective January 01, 2024, Garrett Kovacevic, Emanuel Kanakis, and Alex Barlamas.

Roll Call Vote

Motion Angus Second DeBona

Molchen Yes Mylan Yes Angus Yes Barlamas Yes DeBona Yes

Manager Note: This term will be to December 31, 2027.

- 2) A motion to appoint the law firm of Bible and Schmierer as Solicitor for the Harmony Township Municipal Authority for a monthly retainer of \$200 and an hourly rate of \$100. All fees are paid from the Sewer Fund.

Roll Call Vote-Motion Carried

Motion Angus Second DeBona

Molchen Yes Mylan Yes Angus Yes Barlamas 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.

1. The Township Offices will be upgrading the internet to 500 meg a coaxial upgrade. Comcast will start the upgrade between 5 & 6 months which is the time needed for Comcast to build the fiber connection to be installed.
2. The Township has been awarded Grants from DECD. One Grant in the amount of \$203,272.00 for Township info-structure and one in the amount of \$141,820.00 for sanitary sewer upgrade.
3. Due to Weather conditions the Township has encountered difficulties especially with service provided normally by PennDOT. The Township Road Crew was called out on several occasions for problems on Route 989 and Route 65 etc. which are the responsibility of PennDOT. The Township Manager is going to reach out to Representative Robert Matzie regarding this situation. He is also going to contact PennDOT to discuss compensation for the Township for working on roads which are the responsibility of PennDOT.
4. The Township Manager is requesting a motion authorizing the Township to enter into a one (1) year agreement with APPI which will provide natural gas rates. Also, enter into a one (1) year agreement with Constellation Energy which will provide natural gas at \$0.41 per therm. Which is considerably less than what the Township is currently paying Columbia Gas.

Roll Call Vote-Motion Carried

Motion Angus Second DeBona

Molchen Yes Mylan Yes Angus Yes Barlamas Yes DeBona Yes

B. Consulting Engineer's Report. An Engineers Report for the month of December 2023/January 2024 has been submitted.

1. Mr. Nordquist was going to discuss the DECD Grants that the Township was awarded; however, Mr. Villella already covered that subject. The Engineers has no further issues to discuss.

C. Solicitor's Report. The Solicitor has entered her invoice for services and set forth The work performed for the month of December 2023 / January 2024.

1. The Police contract is being finalized.
2. Litigation and Negotiations will be discussed during the Executive Session immediately following this meeting.

VII. ELECTED OFFICIALS' REPORT

1. Commissioner Angus thanked the Board for renewing the contract with Glat Auto Detailing.
2. President Barlamas unfortunately lost her voice, but she wants to thank everyone for all their hard work.
3. Commissioner Molchen thanked the Road Crew for their excellence in keeping the roads clear during snow events.
4. Commissioner Mylan also thanked the Road Crew for their excellence in keeping the roads clear during snow events. She also thanked the Police

Department for all the excellent work they do as well especially with dealing with accidents during snow events

5. Commissioner DeBona had no comments.

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.*

1. John Krepps-Woodland Road. Mr. Krepps is concerned about the lack of road markings at the intersection of 24th and Duss Avenue. The Township Manager addressed this issue. Harmony Township entered into an agreement with a company, Williams & Willman, for the placement of thermal plastic markings to be installed. Unfortunately, their machine was disabled. The other problem is PennDOT because they planned to tar and chip Duss Avenue therefore the markings would be covered over and PennDOT would not replace them. The markings could be painted on the road, but the Insurance Carrier for Harmony Township will not permit the Road Crew to work on State Roads. The Painting would need to be contracted out and it would be paid through the Liquid Fuels Fund. Commissioner DeBona asked Mr. Villella if he could reach out to Representative Matzie regarding this situation; Mr. Villella agreed to talk to Representative Matzie.
2. Fabiola Gergerich-Woodland Road. Since the Board has reorganized has the committees been assigned. The Board has not yet assigned the committees yet. Mrs. Gergerich inquired if a Treasurer has been chosen yet. The Board informed that a new Treasurer has not been chosen yet. Mrs. Gergerich also inquired about the ARPA money the Township received in 2023. She was under the impression that the Township has not used all that money. However, The Township Manager explained that Harmony Township that all the Grants and funds from ARPA have been exhausted. The County is aware of the Municipal Authority ARPA Grant Project for Flow Monitoring for the meter pit behind Speedway. This project will be completed prior to the end of 2024. Also, Harmony Township has reached out to the County inquiring if the Township would be eligible to receive additional funds not used by other entities.

IX. ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

Workshop Meeting: February 7th, 2024 @ 6:00PM

Regular Meeting: February 21st, 2024 @ 6:00PM

X. ADJOURNMENT

Voice Vote – Motion Carried.

Motion Angus Second Molchen Time of Adjournment: 6:30PM

