

TOWNSHIP COMMISSIONERS MEETING MINUTES

APRIL 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 Workshop Meeting on April 03, 2024.
- 3) The Board of Commissioners held an Executive Session on April 03, 2024, for the purposes of personnel, contract, legal matters.
- 4) The Board of Commissioners held an Executive Session on March 20, 2024, for the purposes of personnel and contract related matters.

CALL TO ORDER

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL:

Commissioners and Other Officials

Ms. Barlamas, President - Present

Mrs. Mylan, Vice President - Absent

Mr. Angus, Commissioner - Present

Mr. Molchen, Commissioner - Present

Mrs. DeBona, Commissioner – Present

Ms. Shannon Steele, Solicitor-Absent (Attorney Taryn Hardy attended)

Mr. Villella, Manager - Present

Mr. Dan Barna, HRG Engineering - Present

Ms. Kristen Vasilakis, HRG Engineering - Present

Residents in Attendance

Fabiola Gergerich – Woodland Road

John Krepps – Woodland Road

Mary Jane McAdams – Woodside Drive

Rosemary Shrum – Woodland Road

Keith Meyers – Woodland Road

Angela Meyers – Woodland Road

William Gandjos – Woodland Road

Others in Attendance

Caroline Lowe – from Congressman DeLuzio's Office

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 – Asked for clarification of the following items:

1. **Item #1 under Personnel who is Jim Curcio?** President Barlamas answered her question. **Jim Curcio is a Volunteer Fireman and he volunteered to take on the job of Emergency Manager Coordinator and he will be getting all the certifications need for this position.**
2. **Item #1 under Public Safety-Emergency Services who dictates when the weather-related emergency conditions no longer exist.** The Township Manager said that he would get in touch with the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency to get an answer to Mrs. Gergerich question.

Angela Meyers – Thanked the Board the Engineers, The Police Department and the Road Crew for acting quickly regarding the slide on Woodland Road.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Approval of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of March 20th, 2024, as submitted.

Voice Vote-Motion Carried

Motion DeBona 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/April 2024.**

1. **Road Department Report**
2. **Police Department Report**
3. **Sewage Department Report.**
4. **Tax Collector’s Report as submitted March 2024.**

Vote-Motion Carried

Motion Molchen Second Angus

- III. Approval of the Accounts Payable for the month of March 2024**

- A.) It is the recommendation of the Finance Committee to approve the April 2024 Accounts Payable in the total amount of \$124,623.88**

General Fund	\$ 55,998.69
2018 GO Bond Principal and Interest U.S. Bank	\$ N/A
Health Insurance	* \$ 31,082.83
Developers Escrow Fund	\$ N/A
Liquid Fuels Ck. 742	\$ 5,131.29
Sewer Fund RUN 1896-1798	\$ 31,998.44
Police Pension Fund	\$ 422.63
2018 Capital Program Fund	\$ N/A
TOTAL	\$ 124,623.88

Roll Call Vote-Motion Carried

Motion DeBona Second Mylan

Molchen Yes Mylan Absent 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.

V. NEW BUSINESS

FINANCE

1. A motion to ratify the purchase of two (2) Police vehicles, a 2019 Chevrolet Tahoe PPV with additional cage and rear divider for \$25,550 and a 2022 Ford F-150 4X4 Police Responder for \$35,000 from Ron Jones Auto Sales of 2009 Broadhead Road, Hopewell Twp., Aliquippa, PA 15001 and a used car seat for a 2012 Tahoe for \$250.00. A total transaction cost of \$60,800.00. All amounts to be paid through the General Fund.

Roll Call Vote-Motion Carried

Motion Molchen Second Angus

Molchen Yes Mylan Absent Angus Yes Barlamas Yes DeBona Yes

PERSONNEL

1. A Motion appointing Jim Curcio as Emergency Management Coordinator for Harmony Township.

Motion DeBona Second Molchen

Molchen Yes Mylan Absent Angus Yes Barlamas Yes DeBona Yes

PUBLIC SAFETY- EMERGENCY SERVICES

1. A Motion pursuant to the provisions of Section 7501 of the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Services Code (35 PA. C.S. Section 7501), as amended, do hereby declare the existence of a disaster emergency in the Township of Harmony, and the Harmony Township Emergency Management Coordinator to coordinate the activities of the emergency response, to take all appropriate action needed to alleviate the effects of this disaster, to aid in the restoration of essential public services, and to take any other emergency response action deemed necessary to respond to this emergency.

The officials of Harmony Township are also authorized to act as necessary to meet

The current demands of this emergency, namely: by the employment of temporary

workers, by the rental of equipment, by the purchase of supplies and materials, and

by entering into such contracts and agreements for the performance of public work

as may be required to meet the emergency, all without regard to those time-consuming

procedures and formalities normally prescribed by law, mandatory constitutional

requirements expected.

This declaration shall take effect immediately and continue until the weather-related

emergency conditions no longer exist. This declaration will be promptly provided to

the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency, if necessary, the Beaver County

Commissioners, Representative Rob Matzie, Senator Elder Vogel, Congressman Chris

DeLuzio, Senator John Fetterman and Senator Robert Casey.

Roll Call Vote-Motion Carried

Motion DeBona Second Molchen

Molchen Yes Mylan Absent Angus Yes Barlamas Yes DeBona Yes

EMERGENCY AUTHORIZATIONS

1. A Motion authorizing the firm of Stefanik Contracting Company, 2267 Todd Road, Aliquippa, PA 15003 to perform excavation and reconstruction services based upon the plans prepared by the Township and Municipal Authority Engineering representatives, LSSE Engineering Services and HRG Engineering at an initial cost of \$40,000.00.
2. A Motion ratifying the rental Agreement with Road Safe Traffic Systems for portable traffic signals installed at Sylvan Road and Breitenstein Road at the monthly rate of \$10,500.00.
3. A Motion authorizing HRG Engineering to coordinate geotechnical engineering services to investigate the severity of the landslide on Woodland Road and to determine the extent of the repairs at an amount of \$24,925.00
4. A Motion authorizing a change in Beaver County ARPA project from the storm sewers and road restoration on Harmony Avenue to the storm sewer, sanitary sewer and associated infrastructure including road restoration at Woodland Road slide site.

Roll Call Vote-Motion Carried

Motion Molchen Second DeBona

Molchen Yes Mylan Absent 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. The Township Manager deferred any comments regarding his report to HRG Engineering, Mike Thomas, Foreman of the Public Works Department and Chief Villagomez, Harmony Township Police Department.
- B. **Road Department Report.** Mike Thomas, Foreman of the Public Works Department spoke regarding the Woodland Road slide. The Public Works Department have been working on the access road. Also, he is aware of a few problems regarding the traffic signals and hopefully by next month those problems will be resolved.
- C. **Police Department Report.** Chief Villagomez reported that residents directly impacted by the slide and been very cooperative regarding the construction work and the traffic signals. However, outside residents have not been as cooperative regarding the traffic signals. Chief Villagomez thanked the Public Works Department, Brandon Robinson and his Father for helping regarding the Roadway and Regan Keer for his help on the access road.
- D. **Consulting Engineer's Report.** An Engineers Report for the month of March/ April 2024 has been submitted. Dan Barna, Project Manager updated the progress that has been made regarding the slide on Woodland Road. HRG survey

team went out to the slide site on April 16, 2024, and they mapped out the utilities. The Geotechnical Engineer went out to the site on April 17, 2024, and they marked their drilling site. The drill that is needed for this project is currently not available. They realize this situation is an emergency and they will get started as soon as possible. Unfortunately, the project will not be quick; but they will try to complete the project as soon as possible. The Township Manager asked Dan Barna, HRG Engineer, to explain to the audience why it is important to have a Geotechnical Engineer on this project. The Geotechnical analysis report is important because it identifies the reason why the slide occurred. Therefore, the Engineers will now know what is needed to repair the road properly. President Barlamas said that a preliminary estimate, was given by the Engineers, for the repair of Woodland Road will be approximately \$400,000.00. Keeping that in mind: this is a huge project, and it will take time to complete. Residents need to be mindful of this fact when using the access road.

- E. Solicitor's Report. Attorney Hardy submitted Solicitor's Steele report. The Solicitor's invoice was submitted for her services for the Month of March/April 2024. The report contains mostly executive session information which cannot be discussed publicly.

VII. ELECTED OFFICIALS' REPORT

1. President Barlamas thanked everyone who helped with the slide situation. Especially the Police Department and the Public Works Department who worked around the clock to secure safety of the residents directly impacted by the slide. Also, a huge thank you to the Brandon Robinson and his Father and Bill Kerr for all their help. President Barlamas and several Commissioners walked Woodland Road and Sylvan Road Friday and Monday to update information regarding the slide to the residents who were directly impacted. Everyone was very understanding and understood the severity of the situation. Special thanks to Commissioner Dan Camp who came out and walked both Woodland and Sylvan Road with the Township Commissioners. He was instrumental in contacting the Deputy Director of the 911 Center for help. Now that the Township has declared a State of Emergency; the Deputy Director can help the Township find funding for the repairs for Woodland Road. Unfortunately, there are three other areas that have been adversely affected by the weather. Forest Road, Ridge Road and Valley Road all have problems which have been caused by the excessive rain. Hopefully, by declaring a State of Emergency this will help with correcting the problems that have occurred on these three roads.
2. Commissioner DeBona thanked everyone who helped with the situation regarding the slide. Especially to the Police Department and the Public Works Department whose help went above and beyond.
3. Commissioner Angus thanked everyone as well. He said it was awesome to see how the community came to together to help during the crisis.
4. Commissioner Molchen reiterated the sentiment of the other Commissioners. He thanked everyone for their help and dedication involving the slide situation. A big thanks was given to HRG Engineers and the Robert Vilella, Township Manager, for all their help and support.

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. Bill Gandjos - mentioned that once Woodland and Sylvan Roads are repaired the Township should have a huge block party to commemorate the occasion.**
- 2. Fabiola Gergerich – She asked about the Geotechnical analysis report; do the Engineers have any idea what cause the slide? Dan Barna, HRG Engineers, said that The Engineers cannot say or certain what caused the slide. Utilities and water is a real possibility. Once the Township receives the Geotechnical analysis report there will be a better understanding on why the slide occurred. Hopefully the report will be available by the May meeting. Also, Mrs. Gergerich asked about Forest Road. Where has the drop occurred? The affected part of Forest Road is right by the cul-de-sac and it has dropped about a foot on the fault line. Oddly enough in 2023 the Forest Road project was completed and now in 2024 part of the road has dropped. As for Ridge Road the Commissioners were told that the only way to save the road would be to install cement pylons. However, these pylons cost 1 million dollars. So the Township definitely needs funding.**
- 3. Caroline Lowe – She works for Congressman DeLuzio’s office. She was asked about Government funding to help repair Woodland and Sylvan Roads. Ms. Lowe explained that any money granted for declaring a State of Emergency needs to come directly from Governor Shapiro. Once the Governor signs off on the State of Emergency status then this opens up the door for disaster relief money from FEMA this is the fastest way to receive funding. Federal infrastructure dollars trickle down through the state. There are some PennDOT grants available; Ms. Lowe said she will advise the Township Manager who he needs to call regarding these grants. Hopefully her office Will be opening up some community funding bill soon. It sounds like a road project is something that would be a good fit for the Township. He office is still waiting for guidance from the House Appropriations Committee on what categories and projects are aloud. But the Congressman DeLuzio has requested fifteen projects and these selected projects then need approved through the Appropriations Committee then they get passed along with the Federal Budget. She did warn the Commissioners that all the projects that received funding in 2023 were just recently approved in 2024. So, this is a long process. President Barlamas said any help from the Congressman’s office will be greatly appreciated. Ms. Lowe agreed to visit the slide after the meeting.**

IX. ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

Workshop Meeting: May 1st, 2024 @ 6:00PM

Regular Meeting: May 15th, 2024 @ 6:00PM

Township Offices closed April 23rd, 2024, for Election Day. Please Vote?

Harmony Township VFD-Ladies Auxiliary Spring Craft and Vendor Show is being held on Saturday, April 27th 10:00 Am to 4:00 Pm. Please call Becky 724-312-1227 for information or email htvfdladiesaux@gmail.com

X. ADJOURNMENT

Voice Vote – Motion Carried.

Motion Molchen Second Angus Time of Adjournment: 6:37PM