

TOWNSHIP COMMISSIONERS MEETING MINUTES
AUGUST 21ST 2024
6:08 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) An Executive Session was held on July 3rd, 2024, regarding contract and personnel matters.
- 3) A Workshop Session was held on AUGUST 7th, 2024.
- 4) An Executive Session was held at 5:00Pm on Wednesday, August 21st, 2024, for contract and personnel matters.

CALL TO ORDER

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL:

Commissioners and Other Officials

Ms. Barlamas, President - Present

Mrs. Mylan, Vice President – Present (Left before Approval of the Minutes)

Mr. Angus, Commissioner - Present

Mr. Molchen, Commissioner - Present

Mrs. DeBona, Commissioner – Present

Mr. Garen Fedeles, Solicitor - Present

Mr. Vilella, Manager - Present

Mr. Dan Barna, HRG Engineering - Present

Ms. Kristen Vasilakis, HRG Engineering - Present

Mr. Michael Thomas, Working Foreman – Present

Chief Juan Villagomez – Present

Officer Douglas Edgell – Present

Residents & Guests in Attendance

Fabiola Gergerich – Woodland Road

Pam Webb– Sylvan Road

Tim Webb – Sylvan Road

Rick Webb – Sylvan Road

Angela & Keith Meyers – Woodland Road

Rosemary Schrum – Woodland Road

Becky Homich – Beaver Road

Sharon Speicher – Beaver Road

Mike Leisure – Sylvan Road

Jack Bedalotta – Sylvan Road

Denise Campbell – Sylvan Road

Update Woodland Road Landslide

Connie Barlamas, President Board of Commissioners

Bob, Vilella, Township Manager

Columbia Gas is still working on the road and a few residents have received false information from Columbia Gas employees regarding when the Township can start repairing the slide. The Township cannot perform any repair work on the road until Columbia Gas has completed their work. Columbia Gas are re-routing a main gas line, and the Township will not put any residents in danger by working on the road. Columbia Gas should be completed on their repair in about a week. Then the Township can proceed with the next phase.

Regarding the next phase; the Township has not been able to procure any funds for the Landslide repair. However, next week President Barlamas and the Township Manager will be meeting with the USDA to hopefully procure a grant up to 75% of the money needed to repair the road. The Township has changed strategy and now we are asking for smaller sums of money from outside sources which may be easier to attain than one large sum.

Township YTD Round Up

Connie Barlamas, President Board of Commissioners

Bob, Vilella, Township Manager

The good news is that the Township was able to use the original grant, awarded to us in 2020, for the Township Building Renovation to move the Police Department downstairs which is almost completed. The Township has also been awarded two additional grants which will be utilized to renovate the upstairs of the Township Building. Additional update to this project will be discussed at the September & October meetings.

There are two more slides occurring in the Township:

- Forest Road has significant slide. Beaver County Emergency Management is aware of this situation. In 2023 the Township spent \$140,000 to repair Forest Road yet in 2024 the Road continued to slide.**
- Ridge Road is crumbling at a slow rate. Eventually the road will collapse. The Township Engineers are completely aware of the situation and the road.**
- There is a sinkhole on Anthony Wayne Drive. There is a cone over the hole protecting cars from falling in the hole; some residents have been removing the cone which is dangerous. The cone is there to protect resident's cars from damage.**
- There is a sinkhole at the corner of Lower Virginia and Martins Way. In 2023 the Township received an ARPA Grant which was used on these roads. The Township will call in the bond from the Company who originally did this work to repair this sinkhole.**
- A large sinkhole was recently repaired on Beaver Road.**

Public Comment

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

President Barlamas and the Board of Commissioners encouraged any resident attending the meeting to voice their concerns. An open forum ensued regarding the Woodland Road Landslide. Questions

regarding the cost of repairs, the grants that were submitted, the individual municipalities that did receive grant money and the amounts they were rewarded. President Barlamas said that the Township will not start working on the road until Columbia Gas is finished. costs to repair the slide, grant money. Residents were encouraged to reach out to the news media and public officials for help. Some residents questioned if there is a contingency plan if the grant money is not awarded. The plan is to look at getting a low interest loan or paying for the repair out of pocket. However, this will deplete all of the funds that the Township has. Some residents had complaints regarding the access road; drain in the road is sinking a driveway that has a sewer pipe running through it is sinking etc. The Road Crew will investigate these issues. A resident asked the Engineer if it would be possible to build a bridge on the side of the road that A resident thanked the township for the sign that is at the light on the access road. The sign does encourage people to wait the allotted time for the light to change. Regarding Congressman Delusio, remember it is an election year. One resident would like to be informed more by the Board regarding the progress of the road. However, the Board pointed out that there seems to be a lot of misinformation out there regarding the road and when there are news emails are sent. The Commissioners and the Township is working constantly on getting funding to repair the road. The goal is to have the road repaired before winter and the Board is prepared to exhaust all their funds to get the road repaired. The Board has a great amount of sympathy for the residents affected by the slide. Please be patient a little longer the road is on the schedule for repair.

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Approval of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of June 19th, 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 JULY/AUGUST 2024.

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

Voice Vote – Motion Carried
 Motion DeBona Second Molchen

III. Approval of the Accounts Payable for the JULY/AUGUST 2024.

A.) It is the recommendation of the Finance Committee to approve the JULY 2024 Accounts Payable in the total amount of \$294,826.98 and the AUGUST 2024 Accounts Payable in the amount of \$645,641.06.

	JULY	AUGUST
General Fund	\$ 219,138.54	\$ 56,935.25
2018 GO Bond Principal and Interest U.S. Bank	\$ N/A	\$ 176,931.25
Health Insurance	* \$ 32,278.93	\$ 32,278.93
Developers Escrow Fund	\$ N/A	
Liquid Fuels Ck. 742	\$ 10,477.26	\$ 5,712.12
Sewer Fund RUN 1896-1798	\$ 33,509.62	\$ 374,360.17
Police Pension Fund	\$ 422.63	\$ 422.63
2018 Capital Program Fund	\$ N/A	

TOTAL	\$ 294,826.98	\$ 645,641.06

Roll Call Vote-Motion Carried

Motion Molchen Second DeBona

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.

- 1) To accept the recommendation of the Beaver County Planning Commission and the Harmony Township Planning Commission for the Lot Line Relocation for Lots 14 and 15 located on Ridge Road situate 858 and 848 Ridge Road, Ambridge, PA. 15003. Michael and Valerie Fitzpatrick, and
- 2) To submit to the Beaver County Planning Commission the request for review for a Lot Line Relocation at parcels 64-09-815 and 64-09-816 located at 2400 Duss Avenue, Ambridge, PA. 25003 for Bryan Mikush of 1498 Ridge Road, Ambridge, PA 15003.

Roll Call Vote-Motion Carried

Motion Molchen Second DeBona

Molchen Yes Mylan Absent Angus Yes Barlamas Yes DeBona Yes

V. NEW BUSINESS

PERSONNEL

1. A motion to accept the resignation of Michael Scheers effective July 21st, 2024.

Roll Call Vote – Motion Carried

Motion Molchen Second Angus

Molchen Yes Mylan Absent Angus Yes Barlamas Yes DeBona Yes

PLANNING AND ZONING

1. A Motion to accept the Engineering Proposal of the HRG Engineering for the Woodland Road Landslide Project in the amount of \$10,000 for Construction Observation plus reimbursables.

Roll Call Vote-Motion Carried

Motion DeBona Second Angus

Molchen Yes Mylan Absent Angus Yes Barlamas Yes DeBona Yes

2. A Motion authorizing the Township Manager to apply for the Grant and assistance from the Natural Resource and Conservation Service and the United States Dept. of Agriculture for Federal assistance with the Woodland Road Landslide.

Roll Call Vote-Motion Carried

Motion DeBona Second Molchen

Molchen Yes Mylan Absent Angus Yes Barlamas Yes DeBona Yes

3. A Motion authorizing the Township Manager to submit a Grant request to FEMA HAZARD MITIGATION ASSISTANCE GRANT PROGRAM via the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency.
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. There were no comments made by the Township Manager.
- B. Consulting Engineer's Report An Engineers Report for the month of July/August 2024 has been submitted.

Dan Barna, HRG Engineer, discussed putting together a plan for Grants and will be discussing this further with the Board. They will also be in touch with Columbia Gas and Stefanix regarding their timeline.

- C. Solicitor's Report. The Solicitor has entered her invoice for services and set forth the work performed for the Month of July/August 2024. There were no comments made by the Solicitor.

VII. ELECTED OFFICIALS' REPORT

1. Commissioner DeBona asked for patience from the residents regarding the Landslide road. Also, School starts August 22nd please be aware of the Children.
2. Commissioner Molchen thanks all the residents for their patience regarding the Landslide road.
3. Commissioner Angus had no comment.
4. President Barlamas spoke to the residents regarding the negotiation with the Ambridge School District to bring tennis courts to Harmony Township. Ambridge has two tennis teams and nowhere to play. Also, November 30th is the tentative date for Winter Fest. The Township will also be partnering with the Police Dept. and Shop N Save to do Shop with the Cops again this year.

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.*

Fabiola Gergerich – Asked about Mike Scheers Officer Scheers accepted a position as a Detective for the District Attorney's Office. She asked about the flooding on Duss Avenue. Penn Dot was called and because Duss Avenue is a state road the Township is not permitted to work on the road.

Angela Meyers- asked about Shop with the Cops. Chief Villagomez spoke regarding his program. Last year the Township raised \$18,000.00 and the goal is to raise more. The program is based on need. One child from each family chosen to get to shop with a cop and pick up any item in the grocery store they want. Again, this year the Township and the Police Department will partner with Saffran Shop N Save. December is the month for Shop with the Cops so the families have food for Christmas. Also, last year presents were purchased for every child under the age of 18 years old. This year present will be bought as well.

Winterfest will have animals again especially the Camel. He was a real hit with everyone. Also, the plan is to also have an ice sculptor at the event.

Officer Douglas Edgell asked the residents to please have visible lighting and fluorescent address lettering on their mailboxes. Also, please be diligent with lawn equipment and close your Garage doors at night. If you have a problem that is not an Emergency please call 775-0880 Dispatch non-emergency number.

IX. ANNOUNCEMENTS

This announcement was inadvertently included in the August agenda. ~~Commissioners has been cancelled for the month of July. The Harmony Township Municipal Authority and the Harmony Township Planning Commission will be held as scheduled.~~

X. ADJOURNMENT

Voice Vote – Motion Carried.

Motion Molchen Second DeBona Time of Adjournment: 7:24Pm