

TOWNSHIP COMMISSIONERS MEETING MINUTES

JUNE 19TH, 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) A Workshop Session was held on June 5th, 2024.**
- 3) An Executive Session was held on June 5th, 2024, regarding contract and personnel matters.**
- 4) An Executive Session was held at 5:00Pm on Wednesday, June 19th 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

Mr. Angus, Commissioner - Present

Mr. Molchen, Commissioner - Present

Mrs. DeBona, Commissioner – Present

Ms. Shannon Steele, Solicitor- Absent (Garen Fedeles was present)

Mr. Vilella, Manager - Present

Mr. Dan Barna, HRG Engineering - Present

Ms. Kristen Vasilakis, HRG Engineering - Present

Mr. Michael Thomas, Working Foreman – Present

Officer Doug Edgell, Harmony Township Police Department

Officer Mike Scheers, Harmony Township Police Department

Residents & Guests in Attendance

Fabiola Gergerich – Woodland Road

John & Tracy Krepps– Woodland Road

Marie & Tom Panutsos – Sylvan Road

Shirley & Rick Webb – Sylvan Road

Angela & Keith Meyers – Woodland Road

Heidi Bober – Sylvan Road

John & Cheryl Fortney – Sylvan Road

Michael Guide – School Street

J.J. Stefanik – Contractor

Blake McElhaney – St. Andrews Drive

Maddie & James Parlow – Woodland Road

Sharon Speicher – Beaver Road

M J McAdams – Woodside Drive
Nate Troupe – Senator Vogel’s Office
Chris Whipple – Virginia Avenue
David Howell – Woodland Road
Jeff Herman – Woodland Road
Tammy Montagna – Sylvan Road
Barb Michiny – Hopewell Township
Kera Rubino – Hopewell Township
Rob Mercuri – House of Representatives
Michael Perich- Center Township
Rob Gregg

UPDATE Woodland Road Landslide

Connie Barlamas, President Board of Commissioners
Bob, Villella, Township Manager

Landslide Timeline – Connie Barlamas, President Board of Commissioners

- 4-4-24 Original Landslide occurred. Road crew fixed the slide, and it held for 8 Days.**
- 4-12-24 Five (5) Days of rain caused the slide to expand. Road Crew and Stefanix Contracting went to work to mitigate the situation.**
- 4-12-24 President Barlamas, Commissioner Molchen and the Police spoke to the residents directly affected by the slide.**
- 4-15-24 A Meeting between President Barlamas, Township Manager, Mike Thomas, Working Foreman, Engineers HRG & LSSE regarding the situation.**
- 4-17-24 The Commissioners contracted a Geo Technical Engineer to survey the site and their report was received by the Township in 30 Days.**
- 4-17-24 Caroline Lowe, Representative Delusio’s office attended the meeting. She walked the site and talked to the Township Manager and the Commissioners on what to do to apply for Grant money to help repair the road.**

Fast Forward to June and Caroline Lowe informed the Township Manager that we were not approved for the grant and that the grant was not submitted because it would not fit the parameters of the Republican

Majority in the House. Congressman Deluzio and Ms. Lowe are now too busy to attend any of the Township meetings. However, the Township has been in touch with Senator Vogels office and Representative Matzie’s office and they are willing to help us regarding funding options. Also, the Commissioners will be meeting with a Representative from Governor’s Shapiros office on Friday June 21st.

Rob Mecuri - House of Representatives House Bill 589 is due to be voted on Tuesday, June 25th which essentially will give immediate aid to communities that have Emergency situations like landslides. He also said he will support Harmony Township in anyway his office can.

Nate Troupe – Representative from Senator Vogels office spoke regarding the slide. It is clearly a hazard, and it does need immediate attention. He is willing to take a look at the slide and Senator Vogels office will assist Harmony Township to secure funding.

The Geo Technical Engineer gave Harmony the estimate to repair Woodland Road which is \$500,000. This estimate is half of what was originally estimated. This is good news.

Harmony Township Police called Columbia Gas regarding the exposed gas line on Woodland Road is now slightly bowed. The Township is waiting for the report from Columbia Gas.

President Barlamas and all the Commissioners know that the access road is terrible to drive on. They realize the frustration that residents have regarding the access road. The Township is working diligently to repair the slide as soon as possible. Unfortunately, this type of project takes time. They thank all the residents for their understanding. Also, President Barlamas emphatically pointed out that it is not the intention of the Board to raise taxes or to impact the residents financially regarding the repair.

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 is drafting a letter which shows exactly the costs to repair the slide, grant money that was received, and grants which were awarded to other municipalities. Some residents questioned if the news media were contacted, and President Barlamas confirmed that the media was notified, and the Township did appear on the news. President Barlamas pointed out that the Township was advised to Declare a State of Emergency; they were told this would help to receive funding. However, funding for repairs has not been awarded to date. A few residents still had complaints regarding the access road and the emergency traffic signals. Officer Doug Edgell and Officer Mike Scheers both addressed this issue. Residents asked if the Police Department could draft a letter to all the residents that are directly impacted by the slide how the light signals are triggered and emergency phone numbers for residents to call if the signals are malfunctioning.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Approval of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of May 15th, 2024, as submitted.

Voice Vote-Motion Carried

Motion DeBona Second Mylan

II. Approval of the following reports: The Township Manager is recommending the acceptance of the following Department Reports for the month of MAY/JUNE 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 Molchen Second Mylan

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

A.) It is the recommendation of the Finance Committee to approve the June 2024 Accounts Payable in the total amount of \$228,747.59.

General Fund	\$ 145,416.63
2018 GO Bond Principal and Interest U.S. Bank	\$ N/A
Health Insurance	* \$ 32,259.43
Developers Escrow Fund	\$ N/A
Liquid Fuels Ck. 742	\$ 5,314.93
Sewer Fund RUN 1896-1798	\$ 45,333.97
Police Pension Fund	\$ 422.63
2018 Capital Program Fund	\$ N/A
TOTAL	\$ 228,747.59

Roll Call Vote-Motion Carried

Motion DeBona Second Molchen

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 authorize the following persons to be a signatory on any Township accounts unless otherwise provided. Any check requires three (3) authorized signatures.

- Constance Barlamas, President, Board of Commissioners
- Terry, Vice President, Board of Commissioners
- Lori Thompson, Treasurer
- Robert J. Villella, Township Manager

Roll Call Vote – Motion Carried

Motion DeBona Second Molchen

Molchen Yes Mylan Absent Angus Yes Barlamas Yes DeBona Yes

2. A Motion to establish a Harmony Township Money Market Fund for the express purpose of depositing the 2024 TAN.

Roll Call Vote – Motion Carried

Motion Mylan Second DeBona

Molchen Yes Mylan Absent Angus Yes Barlamas Yes DeBona Yes

3. A Motion authorizing the Township Manager to satisfy regular monthly bills during the month of July due to the regularly scheduled meeting being cancelled.

Roll Call Vote – Motion Carried

Motion Molchen Second Mylan

Molchen Yes Mylan Absent Angus Yes Barlamas Yes DeBona Yes

PLANNING AND ZONING

1. A Motion to accept the recommendation of the Harmony Township Planning Commission of Michael and Valerie Fitzpatrick for the Lot Line Relocation for Lots 14 and 15 located on Ridge Road situate 858 and 848 Ridge Road, Ambridge, PA 25003.
Motion Molchen Second Angus
Molchen Yes Mylan Absent Angus Yes Barlamas Yes DeBona Yes
2. A Motion to appoint Max Schmeirer as Solicitor for the Harmony Township Zoning Hearing Board effective upon appointment by the Board of Commissioners.
Motion Molchen Second Angus
Molchen Yes Mylan Absent Angus Yes Barlamas Yes DeBona Yes

RECREATION

1. A Motion to adopt Resolution No. 06-01-19-24 of the Harmony Township Commissioners, Beaver County, PA establishing a tobacco and nicotine free policy in designated parks located in the Township, establishing policies regarding the elimination of tobacco and tobacco products in the parks, providing a definition of tobacco for the purposes of this Resolution and providing for appropriate signage designating the park and facilities as a Young Lungs at Play area.
Roll Call Vote-Motion Carried
Motion Mylan 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 received a notice from the firm GAI Consultants regarding the position of a closure plan to the DEP for the closure of the Ambridge Landfill which is a class three residual waste landfill. This landfill is located close to Harmony Township. If any resident has questions regarding the closure the Township Manager can provide them with contact information.

- B. Consulting Engineer's Report An Engineers Report for the month of May/June 2024 has been submitted.

Dan Barna, HRG Engineer, discussed the report that was received from the Geo Technical Engineers. The next step is for the Township to create a timeline for the repair. The goal is to complete the project before winter. Mr. Barna summarized the Geo Technical Report, which was prepared by GeoMechanics, Inc. Elizabeth, PA.

J.J Stefanik, Stefanik Contracting spoke regarding the exposed sewer line. Columbia Gas needs to complete their work on the exposed gas line and Stefanik Contracting has been in contact with Columbia Gas regarding this repair. Stefanik has a complete outline of what is needed to repair the sewer line. Their report is attached to the June Minutes.

Public comments continued. Both Dana Barna and J.J. Stefanik answered questions from the residents and board members.

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

VII. ELECTED OFFICIALS' REPORT

1. Commissioner Molchen thanked J.J. Stefanik, the Police Department and The Road Crew for all their hard work and dedication.
2. Commissioner Angus thanked the residents for their patience. He is encouraged by all the transparency coming from the Township. He Thanked all the people who work for the Township for doing their jobs perfectly.
3. Commissioner Mylan thanked the Police Department, the Road Crew and the Township Manager for all their hard work. She thanked the residents for their patience and encouraged them to continue expressing their concerns.
4. Commissioner DeBona spoke to the residents and explained that she feels their frustration and she thanked them for their patience and understanding. Also, on a happier note, Ambridge will be having their annual Fireworks display on July 5th she encouraged residents to attend. The Harmony Township Fire Department did very well on their raffle fundraiser she thanked everyone for supporting the HTFD.

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.*

A resident asked about the DRAP Grant. This grant is for qualifying residents who have been impacted by the slide. President Barlamas said that information regarding the Grant will be sent out next week to the residents directly impacted by the slide.

A few residents congratulated the Board on their transparency of information regarding the slide and other Township issues. Also, many residents thanked the Police Department, The Road Crew, The Commissioners and Township office for all their hard work and dedication.

IX. ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Workshop and Regularly Scheduled Meeting of the Harmony Township 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.

Motion to adjourn to Executive Session – Executive Session entered at 7:45Pm.

X. ADJOURNMENT

Voice Vote – Motion Carried.

Motion Molchen Second Mylan Time of Adjournment: 7:45Pm

