

TOWNSHIP COMMISSIONERS MEETING MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 18TH 2024
6:05 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 SEPTEMBER 4th, 2024.
- 3) An Executive Session was held at 5:00Pm on Wednesday, SEPTEMBER 18th, 2024, for legal and personnel 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 - Absent
Mr. Molchen, Commissioner - Present
Mrs. DeBona, Commissioner – Present
Mr. Garen Fedeles, Solicitor - Present
Mr. Villella, Manager - Present
Mr. Dan Barna, HRG Engineering - Present
Ms. Kristen Vasilakis, HRG Engineering - Present
Mr. Michael Thomas, Working Foreman – Present
Chief Juan Villagomez, Police Chief – Present

Residents & Guests in Attendance

Fabiola Gergerich – Woodland Road
Pam & Tim Webb– Sylvan Road
John Krepps – Woodland Road
M J McAdams – Woodside Drive
Angela & Keith Meyers – Woodland Road
Marie & Tom Panutsos – Sylvan Road
Jeff Herman – Woodland Road
Sharon Speicher – Beaver Road
Shirley Webb – Sylvan Road
Tammi Montagna – Sylvan Road
William & Marie Gandjos – Sylvan Road

UPDATE: Turley & Co., Certified Public Accountants
Harmony Township 2023 DCED Audit

Harmony Township's General Fund ended the year 2023 on a Positive in the amount of \$49,000.00. The General Fund had gains for the past (5) years. The Sewer Fund ended the year 223 on a Positive in the amount of \$127,000.00.

UPDATE: Woodland Road Landslide
Connie Barlamas, President Board of Commissioners
Bob, Villella, Township Manager

The good news is that the Township has tentative approval for the NRCS Grant in the amount of \$300,000.00. This Grant was procured by the Township Manager and the Board of Commissioners and HRG.

No political help was given in procuring this Grant. Tentative start date is October 1st. The Township is also looking at a USDA Loan is 3.275% over 30 years which will cover the second half of the expenses for repairing Woodland Road Landslide. The goal for this repair is to have the project finished before winter. The Board of Commissioners is in the process of compiling a report for just Roads in Harmony Township that are prone to Landslides. With the help of HRG Engineers Harmony Township is applying for the LSA Grant which awards a million dollars. The repair of Ridge Road alone will be in the millions.

Public Comment - None

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

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Approval of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of August 20, 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 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 Molchen Second Mylan

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

- A.) It is the recommendation of the Finance Committee to approve the August/September Accounts Payable in the total amount of \$**

AUGUST/SEPTEMBER	
General Fund	\$
2018 GO Bond Principal and Interest U.S. Bank	\$
Health Insurance	* \$
Developers Escrow Fund	\$
Liquid Fuels Ck. 742	\$
Sewer Fund RUN 1896-1798	\$
Police Pension Fund	\$
2018 Capital Program Fund	\$
TOTAL	

Roll Call Vote-Motion Carried

Motion _____ Second _____
 Molchen _____ Mylan _____ Angus _____ Barlamas _____ DeBona _____

Note: Due to computer problems regarding Quickbooks the financial information was not collected. However, the Financial information will be presented at the October Meeting. The Township Manager had approval by the Commissioner Board President to pay the September Bills.

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) Authorization to place on MuniBid the following Township vehicles and/or equipment for Sale: GMC Tahoe, Ford Explorer utilized by the Police Department and a 2022 F-350 with Western snowplow and Salt Dog V Hopper.
- 2) Authorization to participate in the Beaver County Infrastructure Project and providing for the release of GIS information as received and compiled from time to time by the Township and/or its agents.

Voice Vote-Motion Carried

Motion DeBona Second Molchen

V. NEW BUSINESS

FINANCE

1. A Motion to authorize the acceptance of the 2023 Volunteer Fire Relief Association allocation and to authorize the distribution of the amount of \$17,775.26 to the Harmony Township Volunteer Fireman’s Protective Association within sixty (60) days of receipt (September 18, 2024) or earlier. The Township Treasurer is directed to file all required verifications of distributions the Auditor General consistent with past practice. This amount is paid by the Commonwealth.

Roll Call Vote – Motion Carried

Motion Molchen Second DeBona
Molchen Yes Mylan Yes Angus Absent Barlamas Yes DeBona Yes

PLANNING AND ZONING

1. A Motion authorizing the President of the Board of Commissioners and the Township Manager to enter into an Agreement with the Natural Resources and Conservation Services (NRCS) Emergency Watershed Program Protection for a Grant Award amount of \$313,500.00 being calculated upon 75% of estimated earth removal costs of \$418,000.00. The Grant Award is to be used for the express purpose of addressing the construction costs and the repair to the Woodland Road landslide and any costs determined by the NRCS to be eligible under the Emergency Watershed Program Protection EWPP.

Roll Call Vote-Motion Carried

Motion DeBona Second Molchen

Molchen Yes Mylan Yes Angus Absent 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 August/September 2024 has been submitted. There were no comments made by the Township Engineers.
- C. Solicitor's Report. The Solicitor has entered her invoice for services and set forth the work performed for the Month of August/September 2024. There were no comments made by the Solicitor.

VII. ELECTED OFFICIALS' REPORT

1. Commissioner Molchen thanked Mike Thomas and the Road Crew for the deer removal on Ridge Road.
2. Commissioner Mylan thanked Bob Vilella, Township Manager, and Connie Barlamas, Board President, for all of their hard work procuring money for the Woodland Road Landslide repair.
3. Commissioner DeBona also thanked Bob Vilella, Township Manager, and Connie Barlamas, Board President, for all of their hard work procuring money for the Woodland Road Landslide repair.
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. The Township is applying for Grants to fund the Tennis Courts. The US Tennis Association will grant up to \$250,000.00. November 30th is the date for Winterfest. Also, the Board of Commissioners may need to use the Fire Department facilities to hold monthly meetings due to the Township Building renovations. Renovations should start in October. The Township will find out if the Building renovations will affect the voting in November.

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 the Beaver County Infrastructure Project. Why does GIS information need to be provided. Garen Fedeles, Solicitor, explained that the GIS information is used by the County to show which areas have public utilities. Also, she congratulated the Board on the Grant for the Woodland Road Landslide project.

Angela Meyers- asked about Shop with the Cops. What is the date for Shop with The Cops. The tentative date is December 21st before Christmas break.

IX. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- The Ladies VFD Auxiliary is have a soup sale November 9th.
- VFD Cash Bash is being held on October 26th. Tickets are on sale now.

X. ADJOURNMENT

Voice Vote – Motion Carried.

Motion **Molchen** Second **DeBona** Time of Adjournment: **6:38 PM**