

**TOWNSHIP COMMISSIONERS MEETING MINUTES
NOVEMBER 20TH 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 NOVEMBER 6TH, 2024.

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 - Absent

Mrs. DeBona, Commissioner – Absent

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 – Absent

Chief Juan Villagomez, Police Chief – Present

Residents & Guests in Attendance

Angela & Keith Meyers – Woodland Road

Sharon Speicher – Beaver Road

Becky Homich – Beaver Road

Fabiola Gergerich – Woodland Road

UPDATE: Woodland Road Landslide

Road is Done!

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 October 16, 2024, as submitted.

Voice Vote-Motion Carried

Motion Mylan Second Angus

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

1. Road Department Report
2. Police Department Report
3. Sewage Department Report.
4. Tax Collector's Report as submitted September 2024.

Voice Vote – Motion Carried

Motion Angus Second Mylan

III. Approval of the Accounts Payable for the OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 2024.

A.) It is the recommendation of the Finance Committee to approve Accounts Payable for NOVEMBER in the amount of \$212,817.19.

General Fund	\$ 51,173.74
2018 GO Bond Principal and Interest U.S. Bank	N/A
Health Insurance	\$ 31,278.93
Developers Escrow Fund	\$
Liquid Fuels	\$ 8,660.14
Sewer Fund RUN 1896-1798	\$ 121,704.38
Police Pension Fund	
2018 Capital Program Fund	
TOTAL	\$ 212,817.19

Roll Call Vote-Motion Carried

Motion Mylan Second Angus

Molchen Absent Mylan Yes Angus Yes Barlamas Yes DeBona Absent

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 adopt the 2025 Budgets, to include the General Fund, Liquid Fuels, and the Sewer Fund Budgets in the following amounts:

	2025	2024
GENERAL FUND	\$ 2,655,794.00	\$ 2,667,868.00
LIQUID FUELS	\$ 142,346.00	\$ 136,846.00
SEWER FUND	\$ 929,002.00	\$ 973,272.00

TOTAL	\$ 3,727,142.00	\$ 3,777,986.00
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Roll Call Vote – Motion Carried

Motion Angus Second Mylan

Molchen Absent Mylan Yes Angus Yes Barlamas Yes DeBona Absent

2. A Motion to authorize the 2025 Budget Adoption Ordinance, establishing the rate of real estate tax for the year 2025 to include general and debt service purposes. 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 unless modified by the Board of Commissioners. The Budget will be advertised and made available for public inspection at the Municipal Building.

Roll Call Vote – Motion Carried

Motion Mylan Second Angus

Molchen Absent Mylan Yes Angus Yes Barlamas Yes DeBona Absent

3. A Motion authorizing the President of the Board of Commissioners and Township Manager to make an application for the 2025 Tax Anticipation Note in the amount of \$200,000 at the established tax-exempt interest rate of 5.19%.

Roll Call Vote – Motion Carried

Motion Angus Second Mylan

Molchen Absent Mylan Yes Angus Yes Barlamas Yes DeBona Absent

4. Authorize the contribution in the amount of \$59,047.00 to Wells Fargo for deposit to the Police Pension Fund Account on or before December 31, 2024.
 - A. Authorize a contribution of \$21,556.00 to the Service Employees Pension Plan consistent with the 2024 Minimum Municipal Obligation (MMO) prior to December 31, 2024, to be paid from State Aid and the General Fund.
 - B. To authorize the Township contribution to the Western PA Teamsters and Employers Pension Fund-Union Plan as required by the collective bargaining unit.
 - C. Authorize the Municipal Manager and the President of the Board of Commissioners to direct the MMO and Municipal Contribution to the appropriate Pension Fund.

Roll Call Vote – Motion Carried

Motion Mylan Second Angus

Molchen Absent Mylan Yes Angus Yes Barlamas Yes DeBona Absent

5. Motion to approve Change order submitted by McCurly Houston Electric for data drops to the renovated police department. Total \$4,100.00.

Roll Call Vote – Motion Carried

Motion Angus Second Mylan

Molchen Absent Mylan Yes Angus Yes Barlamas Yes DeBona Absent

6. A Motion to accept the 2025 Minimum Municipal Obligation (MMO) as prepared by Mockenhaupt Benefit Group as follows:
 - A. Approval of the Harmony Township Police Minimum Municipal Obligation for the year 2025. Based upon the 2023 Actuarial Value of Assets which exceeds the Present Value of Benefits, this plan is fully funded, and no contributions are required for the year 2025.
 - B. A Resolution of the Harmony Township Commissioners establishing, effective January 1, 2025 through December 31, 2025, that the amount of Participant Contribution shall be 0.0% of compensation.

- C. Approval of the Minimum Municipal Obligation for the 2024 year for the estimated Harmony Township Union Employees Defined Contribution Pension Plan in the amount of \$18,351.00.
- D. Approval of the Minimum Municipal Obligation for the 2024 year for the Harmony Township Service Employees Pension Plan in the amount of \$20,833.00.
- E. Authorize these amounts to be appropriated in the 2025 General Fund Budget.

Roll Call Vote – Motion Carried

Motion Mylan Second Angus

Molchen Absent Mylan Yes Angus Yes Barlamas Yes DeBona Absent

PERSONNEL

- 1. A Motion to authorize the hiring of Dalton Janicki as a part time patrolman subject to training, background testing, physical and medical evaluations as deemed necessary by the Board of Commissioners Board of Commissioners. This position is subject to the Collective Bargaining Agreement where applicable.

Roll Call Vote – Motion Carried

Motion Angus Second Mylann

Molchen Absent Mylan Yes Angus Yes Barlamas Yes DeBona Absent

PUBLIC SAFETY

- 1. Authorize an agreement with CoStars for the purchase of road salt for 2024/2025 year. The Township is required to purchase 60% of the 400 ton order and maximum of 600 tons. The cost of salt is equal to 85.32 per ton to be paid from the Liquid Fuels Fund.

Roll Call Vote – Motion Carried

Motion Angus Second Mylan

Molchen Absent Mylan Yes Angus Yes Barlamas Yes DeBona Absent

- 2. Authorize the President of the Board of Commissioners to enter into an Agreement with Valley Waste for the collection of solid waste for a three (3) year term commencing on January 1, 2025, through December 31, 2027. Solid waste collections for the term of this Agreement shall be consistent with the terms of the Agreement currently in place.

Roll Call Vote – Motion Carried

Motion Angus Second Mylan

Molchen Absent Mylan Yes Angus Yes Barlamas Yes DeBona Absent

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

- 1. A Motion to adopt the following Resolutions required for Grant submittal to the DCED as part of the LSA Grant funding applications and authorizing the submission of the Grants by the Harmony Township Commissioners:

- A. LSA Statewide Resolution 2024-11-01: harmony Township, Beaver County hereby requests a Statewide Local Share Assessment grant of \$910,815 from the Commonwealth Financing Authority to be used for the Byersdale Park Tennis Courts project.

The Applicant does hereby designate Constance Barlamas, Board of Commissioners President, and Robert Villella, Township Manager, as the Township and the Commonwealth Financing Authority to facilitate and assist in obtaining the requested grant.

- B. **LSA Statewide Resolution 2024-11-02: Harmony Township, Beaver County hereby requests a Statewide Local Share Assessment grant of \$107,000 from the Commonwealth Financing Authority to be used for the Preliminary Landslide Investigation project.**

The Applicant does hereby designate Constance Barlamas, Board of Commissioners President, and Robert Villella, Township Manager, as the Official(s) to execute all documents and agreements between Harmony Township and the Commonwealth Financing Authority to facilitate and assist in obtaining the requested grant.

- C. **LSA Statewide Resolution 2024-11-03: Harmony Township, Beaver County hereby requests a Local Share Account Assessment grant of the Sanitary Sewer Grade 4&5 Defect Repairs Project.**

The Applicant dos hereby designate Constance Barlamas, Board of Commissioners President and Robert Villella, Township Manager as the official(s) to execute all documents and agreements between the Harmony Township and the Commonwealth Financing Authority to facilitate and assist in obtaining the requested.

Roll Call Vote – Motion Carried

Motion Mylan Second Angus

Molchen Absent Mylan Yes Angus Yes Barlamas Yes DeBona Absent

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. Township Manager has nothing to add at this time.
- B. **Consulting Engineer’s Report.** An Engineers Report for the month of October/November 2024 has been submitted. Dan Barna mentioned that the LSA applications will be in next week and a Park Master Plan is being complied By the Commissioners and the Engineers.
- C. **Solicitor’s Report.** The Solicitor has entered her invoice for services and set forth the work performed for the Month of October/November 2024. There were no comments made by the Solicitor. He had no further comments

VII. ELECTED OFFICIALS’ REPORT

1. Commissioner Angus wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.
2. Commissioner Mylan thanked the Road Crew and Bob Villella for everything that they do. She rejoiced in the fact that the Police Department Renovation is almost complete. She also encouraged everyone to come and Participate the Winter Community event. also welcomed Derek Vallimont to the Harmony Township Police Department.
3. President, Constance Barlamas, expressed her happiness that the Landslide Road work is complete! She thanked the Road Crew, Police Department and Bob Villella for all of their hard work pertaining to the Landslide. She also mentioned that Shop with a Cop will take place on December 14, 2024 and volunteers are still need.

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

1. Questioned when there would be an update on the Road Projects Plan. President Barlamas explained that discussions have begun regarding the spreadsheet for the Road Projects. Discussions with the Engineer's have started. Also, the Township has received a grant for \$750,00.00 which is a huge plus for the Township. Preliminary plans have started and hopefully a rough draft will be available at the end of January 2025.
2. Questioned if the Township received any unused ARPA money. President Barlamas said that by December that information should be available.
3. Questioned the new contract with Valley Waste. The new contract is a continuation of the present contract. Harmony Township has an extremely good rate regarding waste removal.
4. Questioned the status of the drain. President Barlamas said that the Township has the bottom portion and that Mike Thomas is in pursuit of finding the top portion.
5. Question what is the status regarding the number of Police Officers employed by Harmony Township. President Barlamas stated that Harmony Township presently has five (5) Full time Officers and technically (2) part time Officers which are still on the books but are full time for other Townships. However, the new part time Officer will hopefully not be full time for other Townships.

Angela Meyers

She thanked everyone associated with the completion of the repair of Woodland Road.

Chief Juan Villagomez

1. He thanked the Meyer's for their donation of a refrigerator for the Police Department.
2. Shop with a Cop is being held December 14, 2024. Volunteers are still needed.
3. A few Police Programs that have been initiated at Highland School. Cookies with the Cops.
4. Chief Villagomez attended a program at the school that involved a therapy pig and the kids. It was a fun time for all.

XI. ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. The Township is excited to announce that they received two grants. One from LSA for \$750,000 and another for the Police Department dash cameras for \$15,000 from Norfolk Southern.
2. The Harmony Township Police Renovation Project is nearing completion. We cannot wait to invite you in!
3. The Township plans on beginning work on the renovations to the upper floor of the Township Building. We will begin cleaning up and getting ready for our March start date.

4. On November 30, 2024 the Township will hold the 2024 Winter Community Event from 12:00 – 4:00 Pm. Please come and participate in this great family and community event.
5. The Township Building will be closed for Thanksgiving Day and the day after Thanksgiving, November 28th and 29th.

X. **ADJOURNMENT**

Voice Vote – Motion Carried.

Motion Mylan Second Angus Time of Adjournment: 6:27 PM