

Allegheny Township, Westmoreland County
Board of Supervisors Meeting
136 Community Building Road
Leechburg, PA 15656

Minutes 07/10/2023

Michael Korn, Chair

Ren Steele, Vice Chair

James Morabito, Supervisor

Meeting No. 7 of 2023

Greg Primm, Township Manager, absent

Roger Schwarz, Public Works

Duane Fisher, Police Department

Bernard Mathews, Solicitor

The meeting was called to order by Supervisor Korn at 7:00 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance and Roll Call.

Good of the Order

Supervisor Korn welcomed Valley Dairy as a new member of the Allegheny Township business community and invited Mr. Joe Wyant to speak. Mr. Wyant shared a history of the company and stated it has been a very positive experience operating their business in Allegheny Township since opening.

Minutes of Meeting June 12, 2023

Motion by Supervisor Steele to Approve the minutes of the Board of Supervisors Meeting for June 12, 2023; second by Supervisor Morabito; motion carries.

Police Department/Public Safety

Police Report for June 2023 given by Chief Fisher and is on file. Chief Fisher reported that gun and ammo lockers have been received and will be installed by public works when they are available. The Chief demonstrated new ballistic vests that will be outfitted for the police. Two new police cars have been received and are going for outfitting in July. Supervisor Morabito noted the high number of events and there was a discussion by the Board of how the numbers are derived. It was noted there could be differences in how departments report events. Chief Fisher stated that 911 dispatch calls could be used for comparison and Supervisor Korn suggested that be done.

Emergency Management and Code Enforcement Reports

Emergency Management Report for June 2023 on file. Lower Kiski EMS report for June 2023 given and on file. Ty Alu from Lower Kiski EMS reported on their activities for the month. Supervisor Korn reported on a meeting held with him, Manager Primm and two board members for Lower Kiski EMS to discuss their financial difficulties.

Supervisor Korn discussed a conversation he had with Mr. Brian Lawrence from the Westmoreland County Redevelopment and Land Bank regarding 63 Ridge Avenue. There are four methods to demolish a blighted property with the fastest and least costly being getting permission from the property owner. Since ownership of the property is unknown, Supervisor Korn asked Solicitor Matthews to determine whether an estate has been opened for the property

and who could be contacted to seek permission to demolish it. All demolition costs would be borne by the County.

Fire Department Report

Fire Department Reports for June 2023 on file.

Public Works Department

Public Works Report for June 2023 given by Mr. Schwarz and is on file. Mr. Schwarz reported that the theft of signs in the Township seems to have stopped since it was reported in the newspaper. He also discussed the benefits of tarring and chipping Township roads. Mr. Schwarz spoke favorably of Manager Primm's supervision during his time as Public Works Superintendent.

Manager's Report

None

Zoning Report

June 2023

Correspondence

***Allegheny Township Municipal Authority**, Meeting Minutes for Meeting Minutes for May 15, 2023 Meeting, and Agenda for June 19, 2023.

***Kiski Valley Water Pollution Control Authority**, Meeting Minutes for May 17, 2023, and Meeting Agenda for June 21, 2023

***Alle-Kiski Intergovernmental Council**, Exploring the Benefits of Regionalizing/Consolidating Fire Service

***Municipal Water Authority of Westmoreland County**, 2022 Water Quality Report

Seminars/Meetings/Events

Supervisor Korns reviewed the history of Community Days in the past and that Township Resolution #21-2022 was passed supporting the creation of an Allegheny Township Community Days Committee. Supervisor Korns asked Supervisor Morabito for an update on the event. Supervisor Morabito noted the event went very well, despite the weather, and that they learned a number of things to make it better in the future. Supervisor Korns questioned Supervisor Morabito about what Township account was used for the finances and Supervisor Morabito reported a 501(3)(c) (Corrected to 501(C)(3)) was created for the event.

Department Reports

Motion made by Supervisor Morabito to approve the Department Reports for the month of June 2023; second by Supervisor Steele; motion carries.

Treasurer's Report

Motion made by Supervisor Steele to approve the Financial Reports for the month of June 2023; second by Supervisor Morabito; motion carries.

Public Relations and Announcements

- *Planning Commission Meeting July 11, 2023 at 7:00 p.m.
- *MAAT meeting July 17, 2023 at 5:30 p.m.

Action Items

Motion by Supervisor Morabito to Accept the resignation of Katherine Guercio from the Planning Commission effective August 1, 2023; second by Supervisor Steele; motion carries.

Motion by Supervisor Steele to Accept resignation of Gregory A. Primm, Township Manager, effective August 31, 2023, in accordance with the conditions provided in his contract; second by Supervisor Morabito. Motion by Supervisor Steele to amend original motion to include “with regret”; second by Supervisor Steele; motion carries. Motion by Supervisor Steele to Accept resignation of Gregory A. Primm, Township Manager, with regrets, effective August 31, 2023, in accordance with the conditions provided in his contract; second by Supervisor Morabito. Supervisor Steele expressed regrets about Mr. Primm’s resignation and made positive comments about his accomplishments. Supervisor Korns expressed regrets about the resignation and reviewed Mr. Primm’s accomplishment during his tenure at the Township. Motion carries.

Motion by Supervisor Morabito to Approve 2023 Allegheny Township Fall Clean Up Days as Friday October 20th from 7:30 a.m. – 2 p.m. and Saturday October 21st from 8 a.m. – 12 p.m.; second by Supervisor Steele; motion carries.

Motion by Supervisor Morabito to Advertise position of Township Manager; second by Supervisor Steele; Supervisor Morabito discussed a conversation he had with Mr. Jason Dailey regarding providing interim manager services and provided a proposal to the other two supervisors. Supervisor Korns stated he would consider this after reviewing it; motion carries.

Motion by Supervisor Morabito to Communicate to the Municipal Authority of Westmoreland County that the Allegheny Township Board of Supervisors is not interested in further discussion of the terms of MAWC Preliminary Offer date July 7, 2023; second by Supervisor Steele; Supervisor Korns reviewed the summary offer received from them and his opposition to the sale. Supervisor Steele and Supervisor Morabito expressed their opposition to the motion; motion carries.

Citizens Comments

Kathy Starr commented on the “Jewels” of Allegheny Township, including the Freeport Theatre. Supervisor Korns agreed and suggested Supervisor Steele reach out to a group compiling an interactive database of historic sites in the County.

John Framel thanked Ren Steele for his service to the township and expressed his hope that the supervisor who succeeds him would use his example of not having an agenda when in office. He also thanked Susan Teagarden and Lee Shumaker for the job they did for the Township. John commented on the positive points of Allegheny Township. He also gave accolades to Mr. Primm.

Matt Johnston thanked Mr. Primm for his help and said he was a great asset for the fire department, including getting a recent grant for radios. He also thanked Chief Fisher for the Police Department assistance with Fire Department calls.

Charles Schachte thanked Roger Schwarz for his work. He also thanked the Fire Departments and Supervisor Morabito for their work on Community Days.

Lou Bertha questioned the need for a Township Manager and commented on publicly issued reports by the DCED showing the Township has operated at a deficit for several years. He also questioned why the report for 2022 was not available. Supervisor Korns stated that the Township cannot run a deficit and we will determine when the DCED will post the 2022 information and report that at the next meeting. Supervisor Morabito noted that it has been said that taxes have not been raised in 14 years and that taxes could not have been raised because we are at our maximum millage. Supervisor Korns said that, while he does not support a tax increase, it is possible to do so through other taxes, such as debt service.

Patrick Leyland thanked Susan Teagarden for her service to the Township. He also thanked Gregg Primm for his service. Mr. Leyland feels there is a need for a Township Manager in Allegheny Township.

Kathy Starr commented on the debt repayment of the Township.

John Framel commented on the need for a Township Manager.

Supervisor's Comments

Supervisor Korns asked supervisors for any updates on stormwater issues at Moreland Manor. Supervisor Morabito stated he spoke with Mr. Walker from PennDot and PennDot will not do anything with sediment under the 356 bridge unless the Township excavates the area next to Dairy Queen. Supervisor Korns shared a conversation he had with Mr. Forkey from PennDot who said the same thing. Supervisor Korns expressed his dissatisfaction with this situation and said that he will continue to work to get this situation resolved.

Supervisor Morabito suggested considering Mr. Dailey to work as interim Township Manager while searching to fill the position.

Supervisor Korns commented on the retirement of Susan Teagarden and the asset she was to the Township.

Adjournment

Seeing no further business or comments, a motion to adjourn was made by Supervisor Steele; second by Supervisor Morabito; motion carries.

Respectfully Submitted:

Gregory A. Primm
Township Manager

Michael Korns
Chairman, Board of Supervisors