

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

Minutes December 11, 2023

Michael Korn, Chair
Ren Steele, Vice Chair
James Morabito, Supervisor

Meeting No. 12 of 2023

Jason Dailey, Interim Township Manager
Roger Schwarz
Dan Uncapher, Police Department
Bernie Matthews, 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

Motion by Supervisor Morabito to amend a single item on the agenda. Seconded by Supervisor Steele. Motion carried.

Motion by Supervisor Morabito to amend the effective date of the Sgt Rank motion to 12/12/23. Seconded by Supervisor Steele. Motion carried.

Minutes of Meeting November 13, 2023

Motion by Supervisor Steele to Approve the minutes of the Board of Supervisors Meeting for November 13, 2023; seconded by Supervisor Morabito; motion carries.

Police Department/Public Safety

Police Report for November 2023 given by Sgt Uncapher and is on file.

Fire Department Report

Fire Department Reports were read by Matt Johnston and are on file.

Lower Kiski EMS

Lower Kiski EMS provided their report for November 2023 was not read but is on file. Mr. John Framel commented on the continued funding shortfall of the EMS.

Public Works Department

Public Works Report for November 2023 given by Roger Schwarz and is on file.

Zoning Report

The Zoning & Codes compliance report was included but not read and is on file.

Correspondence

The Board was provided with the minutes of the MAAT.

A letter of appreciation was provided to the Board for the good work of the Public Works Department on the Tredway Trail.

Public Relations and Announcements

Supervisor Korns provided an update on the property at 62 Ridge Ave. Solicitor Matthews indicted this is an ongoing issue of finding active family members to grant permission to demo.

Supervisor Korns provided a recap of the Light the Season event which raise \$3,930. Volunteers were recognized for their assistance as well as DPW for their work on the building and grounds.

The Interim Township Manager provided an update on the Manager Search who stated a targeted ad for the position was made. An estimated timeline of February or March was provided for when a new Manager could be seated.

Public Comment for Agenda Items Only

1. Lou Bertha commented on the Tax Anticipation Loan item and general concern of the Township's finances.
2. Joe Ferguson commented on the 2024 budget work done, expressed his support for the Tax Anticipation Loan, and commented on the School Resource Officer program and historic grant funding/ and school financing of the program.
3. John Framel discussed the 2024 budget and requested the Board reconsider the proposed stormwater fee.
4. Kathy Starr commented on the 2024 budget and how the debt condition of the Township improves by the end of 2024 with the DPW debt expiring.

Department Reports

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

Treasurer's Report

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

Action Items

Motion by Supervisor Morabito to appoint Robert Polczynski to the Kiski Valley Water Pollution Control Authority for a five year term expiring 12/31/28; second by Supervisor Steele; motion carries.

Motion by Supervisor Steele to approve the Westmoreland County Transit Authority 2024 local share of \$1438.50; second by Supervisor Morabito; motion carries.

Motion by Supervisor Morabito to promote Coporal Hollis and Coporal Junod to the rank of Sergeant effective December 12, 2023; second by Supervisor Steele; motion carries.

Motion by Supervisor Steele to hire Jacob Zepeda as a part-time Police Officer according to the Part Time Police Salary Policy Schedule pending the successful completion of a background investigation, psychological, medical and fitness for duty exam, along with a financial background check; second by Supervisor Morabito; motion carries.

Motion by Supervisor Morabito to hire Richard Pechin as a full-time School Resource Officer Police Officer according to the terms and conditions of the Collective Bargaining Agreement pending the successful completion of a background investigation, psychological, medical and fitness for duty exam, along with a financial background check; second by Supervisor Steele; motion carries.

Motion by Supervisor Steele to approve the 2024 Budget of the Municipal Authority of Allegheny Township; second by Supervisor Morabito; motion carries.

Motion by Supervisor Morabito to approve Resolution R-17-23 appropriating specific sums estimated to be required for Allegheny Township Budget for the year 2024 . General Fun \$4,349,780; Fire Tax Fund \$53,716; and Debt Service Fund \$316,215. Second by Supervisor Steele. Motion carries.

Motion by Supervisor Morabito to approve Resolution R-18-23 establishing tax rates and levies on Real Property for the 2024 year within Allegheny Township. Tax rate for General Purposes 13.35 mills, for Fire Purposes 1.15 mills, and for Deb Service 2.0 mills. Total millage set at 16.50 mills; second by Supervisor Steele; motion carries.

Motion by Supervisor Morabito to accept the quote for the Tax Anticipation Loan by S&T Bank in an amount of \$250,000 at a rate not to exceed 5.6% and for the resolution to be prepared for adoption at the January 2024 Legislative meeting; second by Supervisor Steele; motion carries.

Motion by Supervisor Morabito to adopt Resolution R-19-23 adopting the flag design as the official design for Allegheny Township; second by Supervisor Steele; motion carries.

Motion by Supervisor Steele to advertise the Reorganization meeting for Tuesday January 2, 2024 and Auditors meeting on Wednesday January 3rd 2024. Second by Supervisor Morabito. Motion carries.

Citizens Comments

1. Maryanne Johnston commended Supervisor Steele for his public service and recognized his work on the Tredway Trail, recycling program, volunteer work with the fire company on their can trailer collection and his providing art and culture through his theater.
2. Joe Ferguson commented on the land use application of Supervisor Elect Pollick and that payments for that work have not been paid as required.
3. Jerry Frederick recognized Mr. Wasson's passing and the work he did for the Township. He further discussed the body armor issue and formal policy that is in place for it to be returned.

4. Patrick Leyland commented on the 2024 Budget and the impact the County's lack of updating the property assessments has on it. He further commended Supervisor Steele on his years of public service.
5. Tom Iseman thanked Supervisor Steele for his public service.
6. Lou Bertha commented on the Township's finances and his observations of grants not being transparent if they were received.

Supervisor's Comments

Supervisor Morabito addressed comments made earlier in the meeting concerning the SRO grants that were to have alleged been received. He questioned if the school district had been reimbursing the Township since the inception of the program aside from 2023.

Supervisor Korns addressed comments made earlier in the meeting concerning the return of the body armor by the former Chief, and that the policy had not been followed that was brought up. He further addressed the concern of the Township's revenue not keeping pace with expenditures. Lastly, he congratulated Supervisor Steele on his public service and encouraged his continued involvement in public service.

Supervisor Steele recalled his 12 years as Supervisor and the great leadership he has served with in Kathy Starr, Joe Ferguson and Mike Korns, along with Manager Primm. He expressed his gratitude in having been instrumental in the work on the Tredway Trail and the major road construction project, and the amount of businesses that have come to the Township since he has been in office. He wished the new Board well in their future.

Adjournment

Seeing no further business or comments, a motion to adjourn was made at 8:46 pm by Supervisor Morabito; second by Supervisor Steele; motion carries.

Respectfully Submitted:

Jason Dailey
Interim Township Manager

Michael Korns
Chairman, Board of Supervisors