

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

Minutes January 8, 2024

Jamie Morabito, Chairman

Jeff Pollick, Vice Chairman

Mike Korns, Supervisor

Meeting No. 1 of 2024

Jason Dailey, Interim Township Manager

Roger Schwarz

Dan Uncapher, Police Department

Craig Alexander, Solicitor

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

Good of the Order

Minutes of Meeting December 11, 2023

Motion by Supervisor Korns to Approve the minutes of the Board of Supervisors Meeting for December 11, 2023; seconded by Supervisor Pollick; motion carries.

Police Department/Public Safety

Police Report for December 2023 given by Chief Uncapher and is on file.

Fire Department Report

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

Public Works Department

Public Works Report for December 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.

Public Relations and Announcements

Supervisor Pollick expressed his interest in working with the Township to establish a monthly Farmers Market.

Public Comment for Agenda Items Only

1. Patrick Leyland addressed the item requiring the return of the body armor and suggested that all who separated with their body armor have it returned.

2. Jerry Frederick addressed the item requiring the return of the body armor and the request should be by the Board of Supervisors.
3. Liane Newell addressed the digital recorder item and requested it be further evaluated for repairs before replacing. She also expressed support for Raymond Painter for the Vacancy Board.
4. Gloria Mundy addressed the digital recorder item and discussed that a professional is needed.

Department Reports

Motion made by Supervisor Korns to approve the Department Reports for the month of December 2023; second by Supervisor Pollick; motion carries.

Treasurer's Report

Motion made by Supervisor Pollick to approve the Financial Reports for the month of December 2023; second by Supervisor Korns; motion carries.

Action Items

Motion by Supervisor Korns to approve Resolution 3-2024 authorizing the destruction of Administrative office records for the year 2016 in accordance with Records Retention Schedule, Act 248 of 1968; second by Supervisor Pollick; motion carries.

Motion by Supervisor Pollick to approve the auctioning of two police cars, a pickup truck, lights, inverters and pumps on Municibid.com beginning January 19 through February 11 and advertised appropriately as required by the Second Class Township Code; second by Supervisor Korns; motion carries.

Motion by Supervisor Pollick to authorize Chief Uncapher to compel the return of former Chief Fishers body armor; second by Supervisor Morabito; motion carried with Supervisor Korns dissenting.

Supervisor Pollick discussed the vest is new and has a long life that will benefit the Township and that Mr. Fisher is being issued his own vest from his current employer. Chief Uncapher was called upon to confirm the vendor stated the vest can be reused and they would confirm the fit. Supervisor Korns requested the vendor put this in writing. Solicitor Alexander stated the Township policy on the return of Township equipment should be followed for all employees.

Motion by Supervisor Pollick to approve S&T Bank as the lending institution, authorize Jason Dailey as the loan signer and to approve Resolution 4-2024 approving the Tax Anticipation Loan in the amount of \$250,000 at an interest rate of 5.25% per the banks commitment letter and authorizing the Interim Manager to seek DCED review and approval of the Note; second by Supervisor Korns; motion carries.

Motion by Supervisor Pollick to approve the replacement of the Township's video recorder and non functioning cameras at a cost of \$4,976.35 for work to be performed and paid no sooner than June 2024 second by Supervisor Korns. The Interim Manager provided some background on the

system and the issues observed being limited. Supervisor Korns questioned the need for added cameras. There was no vote taken.

Supervisor Korns began to make a motion to postpone the video recorder replacement item until the February meeting and was interrupted by Mr. Alexander, who stated that the proper motion is to table it until the February meeting. Mr. Morabito then made the motion to table the video recorder replacement item until the February meeting. There was no vote taken.

Motion by Supervisor Korns to appoint Raymond Painter to the one year term on the Vacancy Board which will expire on the first Monday of January 2025; second by Supervisor Pollick; motion carries.

Supervisor Morabito apologized to Mr. Painter for the confusion that was created at the Reorganization Meeting and that it was not meant to disrespect him. Supervisor Pollick discussed his being new to the process and apologized for his role in the confusion. Supervisor Korns expressed his continued support for Mr. Painter.

Motion by Supervisor Morabito to amend the agenda item to add a deadline of January 25, 2024. Second by Supervisor Pollick. Motion carries with Supervisor Korns dissenting.

Supervisor Korns expressed his concern with such a short deadline not allowing prospective Solicitors to adequately prepare a proposal. He expressed he would like to see a Solicitor from Westmoreland County.

Motion by Supervisor Pollick to authorize the Interim Manager to solicit proposals for Township Solicitor through January 25, 2024; second by Supervisor Morabito; motion carries with Supervisor Korns dissenting.

Supervisor Korns reiterated he did not believe this was enough time. Solicitor Alexander stated his office is located in Plum Borough.

Citizens Comments

1. Lou Bertha commented on the Township's finances and his continued concerns with the clarity of expenses, need for the TAN and requested an Independent Audit dating to 2018.
2. Jeanne Lewis expressed her support for new faces on the Board.
3. Michael Aftanas discussed an addressing issue they have been experiencing.
4. Patrick Leyland discussed new Supervisor training and the DCED Local Government Services site as a resource.
5. Charles Schacte discussed township development and the recycling program.
6. Raymond Painter requested the Board begin to work together to address the financial condition of the Township and suggested a public committee.
7. Gloria Mundy asked why the previous Solicitor was removed.
8. Jerry Frederick asked about meeting minutes not being made available to the public.
9. Kathy Starr addressed possible reasons for the Township's current finances being inflation, COVID, increases wages, costs of goods and no tax increase in many years.

Supervisor's Comments

Supervisor Korns discussed his work on the 2024 budget resulted in minimal increases and more cuts across the Township as a result of rising costs and no tax increase in 14 years. He further discussed that all three faces of the Board are new in the last 4 years. He stated that the Hyde Park Plaza development was underway years ago. He clarified that minutes are not public until after adopted and then posted to website. He further affirmed with Chief Uncapher that the Township's vest vendor stated the Township is not liable if a vest is refitted to another officer. He offered to provide any SRO grant information and fund distribution he has discovered to all members of the Board and encouraged more could be discovered working with the contracted bookkeeper.

Supervisor Pollick thanked Lou Bertha for his diligence pursuing clarity on the Townships finances. He stated that only since 2023 has the Township been billing for the SRO and questioned prior year billings. He thanked his supporters. Mr. Pollick expressed appreciation to DPW for work done routinely. He expressed his support for the Chief and the positive work environment he is seeing. He expressed the need for financial stability, encouraged community involvement.

Supervisor Morabito discussed his direct involvement working with Jeff Paul on the Hyde Park Plaza. He commended Lou Bertha for his diligence in pursuing financial clarity and discussed need for an independent audit. He commended concessions of the bargaining unit that were made during COVID. He discussed the SRO and requested information be provided to the Board as a whole that has not been provided through previous RTKR's prior. He addressed the need for revenue sources like the stormwater fee to be explored with the limited taxation ability of the Township.

Adjournment

Seeing no further business or comments, a motion to adjourn was made at 8:49 pm by Supervisor Morabito; second by Supervisor Pollick; motion carries.

Respectfully Submitted:

Jason Dailey
Interim Township Manager

Jamie Morabito
Chairman, Board of Supervisors