

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson, Tom Hubert, and opened with a Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag at 6:30 P.M.

Supervisors present: Jim Stewart, Scott Malenky, Tom Hubert, Mike Weiser, Dale Perry. Solicitor Ray Bogaty, Secretary Tara Johnson, Police Chief Jason Newton, Road Crew Supervisor Dan Rupert, Fire Chief Justin Barnes were also present.

**Comments from Residents/Taxpayers of Shenango Township:** Ann Coleman talked about PA 250. It is a group of people working to make a celebration of the Anniversary of Mercer County in 2026. They want to do a living history of Mercer County. They are also asking what their favorite thing is about their District. They are also looking for a spokesperson for each District. The information is needed in July of 2023. The township will receive a letter about it.

**Minutes of Previous Meeting:**

Motion by Mike Weiser, seconded by Dale Perry to approve minutes dated January 3, 2023 Organizational Meeting and January 19, 2023 Township Meeting. Dan Rupert found that Ray Bogaty was appointed for 2022 instead of 2023 in the Organizational Meeting. The mistake will be corrected. All votes yes. Motion carried.

**Staff Reports:**

**Treasurer's Report:** Tom Hubert gave the report. He went over the account balances. He will be transferring money from the General Fund Savings to the General Fund Checking for bills and payroll. Motion by Mike Weiser to accept, seconded by Jim Stewart. All votes yes. Motion carried.

**Police Report:** Chief Jason Newton gave the police report. There were 18 hang ups, 24 assists, 10 suspicious, 12 accidents with a total of 271 calls for the township. West Middlesex Borough had 99 calls. They have used 10.6 of the budget so far this year. Motion to accept by Jim Stewart, seconded by Dale Perry. All votes yes. Motion Carried.

**Fire Report:** Chief Justin Barnes gave the report for January. They had 51 calls total. They had 28 medical calls, 8 mutual aid, 8 vehicle crashes, 2 fire alarms, 2 brush fires and 1 tree down. Chief Barnes spoke about the accusation at the last meeting that he was not being transparent about the purchasing of property by the Fire Department. He explained that the Fire Department just made their offer to buy property, so it is new since last month. He was concerned about having his integrity called into question as he has been a police officer for 19 years. Tom Hubert supported Chief Barnes and wanted to acknowledge Chief Barnes for all that he does. Tom Hubert also thanked Chief Barnes for going above and beyond for the township and the residents. Motion by Scott Malenky to accept, seconded by Mike Weiser. Mrs. Lawhead asked why they do not buy the Antique Mall. Chief Barnes explained that it is priced too high, and it is in a flood zone which will be hard to insure. Dale Perry asked if West Middlesex Fire Department would call the Shenango Township Fire Department to aid in a fire. Chief Barnes answered that if there were a fire in West Middlesex, Hermitage is the first call that they would make. Bill Novak confirmed that Hermitage is the second Fire Department to be called after West Middlesex. All votes yes. Motion carried.

**Road Report:** Dan Rupert reported the following: He reported they worked 674 hours total. They had 10 hours on township and park maintenance and 78 hours vehicle maintenance. They had 218 hours of snow removal, 154 hours of cutting brush and 214 hours on road maintenance. Mike Weiser reported that in the future, Hog Back Run will need to be cleaned up. He is working on getting a grant to help in the cleanup. Motion by Dale Perry to accept, seconded by Jim Stewart. All votes yes. Motion carried.

**EMC Report:** Joe Varga sent the report. The heating unit has been placed in the shed. All construction for that room will be complete this month. He will continue to work on getting the ID's for the remaining employees. Mrs. Lawhead asked what the plan was to notify and evacuate residents if there was a chemical spill on Rt. 80. Tom Hubert answered that it would get turned over to the county. Chief Barnes said it would be door to door notification. Tom Hubert explained that there is a plan in a binder. Scott Malenky asked if we were affected by the East Palestine spill. Justin Barnes answered that they are doing air testing. Motion by Jim Stewart to accept, seconded by Dale Perry. All votes yes. Motion carried.

**Municipal Authority Report:** The meeting is February 21, 2023, therefore nothing to report.

**COG Report:** Dale Perry gave the COG report. Dale attended the COG Open House. While at the Open House, he asked the IT person to come and help with the speakers in the building. Mr. Novak said that is his area of expertise and that they can all be tied together. There is a meeting on March 13, at 6:00 P.M. regarding the swimming pool. Dale Perry will attend. A possible second person might go. Tom Hubert explained that we have agreed to pay what COG has asked for as part of the pool budget. Eric Lucich said that other communities had agreed to pay too but have not. They have had to go after them for the money several times before. Tom Hubert said that it needs to be equitable for the communities. Tom Hubert said that West Middlesex should take over the pool. Eric Lucich agreed. Dale Perry suggested that they ask for school money again. Tom Hubert corrected him and told him that he was the School Board President when they decided to stop providing them money. They did that because the pool had no educational programs. They would have kept providing financial support if the pool had added an educational component. Scott Malenky added that is the last true public pool in Mercer County. Jim Stewart asked what maintenance needed done on the pool. Eric Lucich answered that most of the maintenance was done last year. Mike Weiser commented that if West Middlesex and Shenango Township were one entity these decisions would be a lot easier to make. Motion Dale Perry to accept, seconded by Scott Malenky. All votes yes. Motion carried.

**Planning Commission Report:** Dale Perry reported there was one request for a property line being moved. There was incomplete information, so it was sent back. Motion to accept by Mike Weiser, seconded by Scott Malenky. All votes yes. Motion carried.

**MPO Report :** Dale Perry gave the report. There is a flyer saying that they want to put up charging stations and they will pay 80%. There are various levels of charging. Dale Perry would like to see the

charging stations in West Middlesex. Dale Perry explained his vision of charging stations in the township. Dale Perry made a motion that he continues looking into getting the charging stations. Tom Hubert said that there is a lot to the process, and it will probably cost around \$250,000. Right now, it will not fit in our budget. Dale Perry wants to see if it's financially feasible. He gave an example of state parks that received charging stations. Scott Malenky seconded Dale Perry's motion. Roll Call vote was Jim Stewart, No, Scott Malenky Yes, Mike Weiser Yes, Tom Hubert No, and Dale Perry Yes. Dale Perry agrees that the motion will not cost the township anything. Motion carried.

**Animal Shelter Report:** No report. Tom Hubert spoke with the director, and they discussed the cat issue on Besco. Three cats had to be euthanized. Fifteen were trapped and spayed or neutered. Our sympathies go out to Ken Wilson's family. He was an advocate for dealing with cats. Motion Tom Hubert. Seconded Scott Malenky. All votes yes. Motion carried.

**Recreation Board:** Tom Hubert gave a report. They have 3-4 days of work left. They are waiting to lay additional concrete. To add blacktop at the park would require adding a retention pond. They recommended making a permeable area for the ice rink. Scott Malenky asked if there is a time frame for the blacktop around the building. They are looking to do it all at once. Dale Perry asked who would be drawing up the bid. Tom Hubert is preparing the bid. Motion by Tom Hubert to accept, seconded by Mike Weiser. All votes yes. Motion carried.

**Zoning Permits:** One deck and one shed.

**Correspondence:** There are several flyers for recycling.

They are having a celebration for Mark Longetti. Dale Perry added Mark is going to work for the City of Hermitage. His celebration is at the VFW March 23, 6-8:30 P.M. All the proceeds will go to the animal shelter.

There is a NPDES application submitted by The Church of God Campground. They applied themselves.

**Old Business:** Ray Bogaty went over zoning ordinance revisions. The properties have been posted by the road department. The public hearing is on March 8, at 6:00 P.M. The public is welcome. One property owner on Executive Court had his property changed from R2 to Commercial. Ray Bogaty requested that we inform Matt Stefanik of the meeting. The ordinance can be posted on the website.

Motion to adopt Mutual Aid Agreement for police services with Pulaski Township and others and adopt Resolution Number 1-2023 regarding the Mutual Aid Agreement for Police Services. Motion Tom Hubert. Seconded Mike Weiser. All votes yes, Motion carried.

**New Business:** Approve lowest responsible bidder of Exhibit A for Police cruisers, trucks, motor/hydraulic oil, transmission fluid, road materials, and tire. Tom Hubert explained if there was an objection that they will do them all together through COG. Motion by Tom Hubert to accept, seconded by Mike Weiser. All votes yes.

Motion carried. Scott Malenky asked if this was the time to bring up the high visibility markings on the police cruisers. Tom Hubert answered no, noting that it has always been left up to the Police Chief.

Establish County Voting Delegates with Resolution to appoint Gina Smith with alternate Tom Hubert and Mike Weiser for Mercer County Tax Collection Committee. Motion by Tom Hubert to accept, seconded by Dale Perry. All voted yes. Motion carried.

Approve D & G Heating and Air Conditioning Maintenance Proposal. Jim Stewart questioned why Johnson Control needed to be called in to fix the unit. Mike Weiser explained some commercial units require a Johnson Control specialist to work on the equipment. The cost is \$1,920. Motion by Dale Perry to accept, seconded by Scott Malenky. All votes yes. Motion carried.

Tom Hubert opened the bid from Watson's. Their bid for a new tractor was \$154,490. The used one was \$36,900. Dan Rupert reported that he looked at the mower and it would serve the purpose of keeping them from having to switch over the decks and it should last a while. Tom Hubert made the motion to purchase the used Massey Ferguson from Stevenson Equipment using a portion from State Funds and the remaining from the General Fund. Scott Malenky wanted to know if there was a warranty on the new one. Tom Hubert said it was a one-year parts and labor. Scott Malenky seconded the motion. The vote was Scott Malenky-no, Dale Perry-no and Tom Hubert-yes, Jim Stewart-yes, Mike Weiser-yes. Motion carried.

Approve septic pumper renewal application for the following: R. Nesbitt Portable Toilets, Micky Excavating and Septic, and Homer's Sanitary Service. Motion by Tom Hubert to accept, seconded by Jim Stewart. All votes yes. Motion carried.

Accept resignation of Officer Riley Trodden effective March 6, 2023. Motion by Mike Weiser to accept, seconded by Scott Malenky. All voted yes. Motion carried. Dale Perry wanted to know why he was leaving. Mike Weiser said it was a better opportunity somewhere else. Dale Perry wanted to thank him for his service.

**Dates to Note:** None

**Payment of bills:** Motion by Mike Weiser, seconded by Scott Malenky to approve payment of bills from January 20, 2023 through February 16, 2023. All votes yes. Motion carried. Dave Pringle pointed out that the reimbursement for the plan "B" supplemental for those receiving Medicare went from \$170.10 to \$164.90.

Dale Perry wanted to know why he is not getting the same health insurance as Scott Malenky. Tom Hubert explained that he is getting Medicare supplemental costs. Dale Perry wants part B, C, and D covered. Tom Hubert explained that he agreed to the plan "B", and they cannot change midterm.

**Adjournment:**

Motion by Jim Stewart, seconded by Dale Perry. All votes yes. Motion carried.