

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson, Thomas Hubert, and opened with a Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag at 6:45pm.

Supervisors present James Stewart, P.J. Giardina, Thomas Hubert, Michael Weiser and Dale Perry. Also present were Solicitor Brett Stedman, Secretary Gina Smith, Police Chief Jason Newton, Road Supervisor Dan Rupert, Tax Collector David Pringle, EMC Director Joe Varga, and Fire Chief Donald Hoover.

Comments from Residents/Taxpayers of Shenango Township: None

Minutes of Previous Meeting: Motion by Supervisor P.J. Giardina, seconded by Jim Stewart, all votes yes, motion carried. David Pringle brought to the attention of the Chairperson, Tom Hubert, that in the minutes on the Police Report, dated February 13, 2024, he stated “many” tax billings are returned not “most”. Supervisors P.J. Giardina and Jim Stewart agreed on the change.

Staff Reports:

Treasurer’s Report: Chairman, Tom Hubert gave the report. Mr. Hubert read all bank balances as of 3-11-2024. The income statements will reflect to the end of the months going forward as our meetings our the first of the month. Mr. Hubert explained that at the beginning of the year, we have some large expenses so the line items will look like the township has spent a lot of money. We will be getting in Real Estate funds beginning April 10, 2024. Motion by Tom Hubert to approve the treasurer’s report, seconded by Jim Stewart. All votes yes. Motion carried.

Police Report: Police Chief, Jason Newton gave the report. There were 9 alarm activations, 27 Assists, 9 Motor Vehicle Accidents, 8 Suspicious calls, for a total of 221. The West Middlesex Boro had 68 calls for a grand total of 289 calls for the month of February. Budget wise, they used 7 percent, year to date is 19.23, with 80.7 left over. The dollar amount for the worker’s compensation bill comes out at the beginning of the year so the amount looks large. Motion by Mike Weiser, seconded by P.J. Giardina to approve the police report. Supervisor P.J. Giardina questioned Chief Newton about his plans for the two police cruisers that are sitting on the property at this point. Chief Newton explained that one of them will be going to the Fire Department, and the other one had two different inquiries, but those fell thru so he explained that there is an out of state company that buys retired police cruisers and refurbishes those and pays a very good price on those automobiles. Mr. Hubert said that they planned to meet with Fire Chief Justin Barnes after the meeting to discuss information regarding the cruiser going to the Fire Department. All votes yes, motion carried.

Fire Report: Fire Chief Donald Hoover gave the report. There were a total of 61 calls, 40 medicals, 9 vehicle crashes, 5 building fires, 1 motor vehicle fire, 1 carbon monoxide alarm, 1 police assist, 1 odor investigation and 1 vehicle lockout. Motion by Mike Weiser seconded by Jim Stewart to approve the fire report. All votes yes, motion carried.

EMC Report: EMC Director Joe Varga gave the report. Mr. Varga emailed Supervisors the updated EOP Plan, which he hopes to have it voted on at the next meeting in April 2024. Mr. Varga stated that he would like to have it updated every two years, which is what the County recommends. Mr. Varga did have the bridge outage on Rt. 18 included but because it is only going to be a short while before it is repaired and replaced, Mr. Varga removed that from the plan. All emergency services are aware and he felt that it was not necessary to include it. Mr. Varga also shared with Police Chief Jason Newton and Fire Chief Justin Barnes as they will need to know what is in the plan. Supervisor P.J. Giardina came in for his ID and Mr. Varga said he was having printer issues, so he is looking into getting that repaired by calling IDVILLE. The Sky Warn training will be April 7, 2024 from 6:30PM to 8:00PM at the Mercer County 911 Center. That course is free and anyone wanting to take that can contact Debbie Hartley at the 911 center to sign up. Motion by Jim Stewart, seconded

by P.J. Giardina to approve the EMC Report. Mr. Hubert stated to the supervisors that Joe Varga's email is on the information sent for the EOP Plan, and if there are any questions it would be helpful for them to email vs calling. Joe Varga explained that the plan is a basic plan outlined by the State, so it is not that detailed but allows us to have a guideline. The plan allows us to be able to function and gives us details of what we need to do. All votes yes. Motion carried.

Road Report: Road Supervisor Dan Rupert gave the report. For the month there were 640 hours worked. 428 hours of road maintenance, 90 hours of vehicle maintenance, 38 hours of snow removal and 84 hours of township and park maintenance. Supervisor Mike Weiser stated that they are planning to take down the Ice Rink and will be getting the park ready for baseball. They will also be working at the COG fields to get them ready for summer play. Motion by Mike Weiser, seconded by P.J. Giardina to approve the road report. All votes yes. Motion carried.

Municipal Authority Report: No report

COG Report: Dale Perry gave the report. Mr. Perry stated that COG is still in need of drivers. Mr. Perry read off the total trips for Shenango Valley Shuttle Service, 36759 and Mercer County Community Transit, 36675. The Mercer County Prison was added to the list of stops with 1900. They went thru a Waste and Abuse Policy and the first two sections of Municipal Law training modules were completed. Motion by Dale Perry, seconded by P.J. Giardina to approve the COG report. All votes yes. Motion carried.

MCRPC report: Dale Perry gave the report. The 19 year old Comp Plan is getting revised by Anne Coleman. That plan directs where they want the County to go within the next 5 to 10 years with Ordinances, screenings and solar screens. Mr. Perry explained that there are Solar panels going up and they are required to install screens over the panels. Motion by Dale Perry, seconded by P.J. Giardina to approve the MCRPC report. All votes yes. Motion carried.

Planning Commission Report: No report, the meeting was cancelled.

MPO Report: Dale Perry gave the report. The 318 Bridge project is going to be totally funded through the Federal Highway Administration. No money will come out of the Transportation Fund from the Mercer County Projects. There will be a bid opening on March 14, 2024. Motion by Dale Perry, seconded by P.J. Giardina. All votes yes. Motion carried.

Animal Shelter Report: Tom Hubert gave the report. The animal shelter has hired a new manager. They are waiting on one more permit for the building and they have also hired an architect. There is a vendor/craft show coming April 21, 2024 from 12p.m. to 3p.m. at the Sharon American Legion. Local Business Owner, Nancy's Tavern made a donation to the shelter along with help from Shenango Township. Motion by Tom Hubert, seconded by Jim Stewart to approve the Animal Shelter Report. All votes yes. Motion carried.

Recreation Board Report: Tom Hubert has not had a meeting with the board but they will soon be getting up to the park to take care of any maintenance needed at the park. Mr. Hubert said there were four more advertising liners that people donated money for around the ice rink. No liner will be purchased for the ice rink as it will last another year. Motion by Tom Hubert, seconded by P.J. Giardina to approve the recreation report. All votes yes. Motion carried.

Zoning & Building Permits issued: Detached garage & a Single Family Residence

Correspondence: Sewage Facility Planning Module for Mark and Lori Wansack whereby parcel # 27 183 027 004 will be sub-divided into 5 acres each. Both lots are being created for two residential lots.

Tom Hubert announced that the 2023 State Audit of the Township has been completed.

Tom Hubert discussed the Flag that was created for Dale Perry to take to Hershey PA Conference, April 14th, 2024, to represent Shenango Township. Dale Perry responded with a slight change to add the Big Bull Thistle.

Old Business:

Mike Weiser, and Tom Hubert met with the road department and worked out details of the road contract. The union helped to rewrite the contract, which is mostly the same wording and few changes. Tom Hubert commended the road crew on the good job that they do and explained some of the changes. The contract will be for four years. Salary increases of 3.5% the first two years and 4.0% the last two years. They also increased uniform allowance and there will also be a CDL reimbursement. There is a clause in the contract going forward for anyone who fights forest fires that they are able to leave without termination of their job. The contract will start June 1, 2024. Motion by Tom Hubert, seconded by Dale Perry to approve the Road Contract. All votes yes. Motion carried.

Mike Weiser and Road Foreman, Dan Rupert has a second inspection with the Army Corp of Engineers on March 21, 2024 by recommendation, to excavate Hog Back Creek. The Township received a quote from Martuccio's on what it would cost to have the excavation done which resulted in \$19,500.00. Roadmaster Mike Weiser would like to replicate the previous grant to help in the cost of the excavation therefore needing a few other quotes to apply for the grant. No decision was made to approve the the current quote and will be working to get two other quotes.

Solicitor Brett Stedmen explained the current LERTA Ordinance and what the ammended LERTA Ordinance 191-2024 will state. It will be a 10 year abatement or 100% of the tax revenue and will add additional area. The tax abatement will only apply to improvements. The tax abatement will need applied for by the developer when the building permit is applied for. Motion by Jim Stewart, seconded by P.J. Giardina, to approve Ordinance 191-2024. The ordinance was voted on with a 4-1 vote and a role call was taken. Jim Stewart-yes, P.J. Giardina-yes, Tom Hubert-yes, Mike Weiser-yes and Dale Perry-No. Motion carried 4 to 1.

Supervisor, Dale Perry explained the meaning of the bull thistle on the Flag for the Hershey Conference. The bull thistle has an Indian term meaning "Chenango" which explained the Native American Heritage that came from our area.

An update was given on the inspection of Oak Leaf Estates, by Chair Tom Hubert, reading from a letter from the Zoning Officer Jeff Richardson. Pictures were taken and shown to the residents at the meeting. The park was considered to be in deplorable condition with extreme violations and multiple unsafe structures. Rather than pursuing individual cases for each structure the owner will have 60 days to correct and remove each unit. If the owner is non-compliant within the 60 day order, the zoning officer will file with the magistrate for each individual unit and pursue fines for each. Mr. Hubert showed pictures taken by the zoning officer of several units within the park that were deplorable that needed removed or repaired. Road Foreman, Dan Rupert received 10 PA One Calls for gas shutoffs, and David Pringle, Tax Collector received 24 returned tax cards with no forwarding addresses. Tax Collector David Pringle questioned if the structures will be removed from the tax cards. Solicitor, Brett Stedman explained that it should be removed but it is a process.

The Supervisors are giving the West Middlesex School District, grades 4, 5, and 6 a chance to come up with a name for the COG fields on Wheatland Road, giving the Supervisors a chance to vote on the top 3 names and the class that wins the vote will receive a pizza party by the Township. April 4, 2024 will be the deadline to collect the names from the school for the next meeting.

New Business:

Roadmaster, Mike Weiser stated that the lights in the maintenance department need replaced and outlets are not working as well. We received 1 quote that was pretty high. Tom Hubert motioned to give Roadmaster, Mike Weiser authorization to spend up to \$9,280.00 on the lighting and electrical with the stipulation that he will get two more quotes. P.J. Giardina seconded the motion. All votes yes. Motion carried.

Tom Hubert stated that Walt Novosel (Shenango Valley Ironmen LLC) contacted the township about coming in and helping with the COG fields as he has traveling baseball teams. Tom Hubert wrote up an agreement whereby Walt Novosel (Shenango Valley Ironmen LLC) will help with repairing of the fields in exchange for using the fields. A representative from the Ironmen attended the township meeting. Mike Weiser will be contacting Walt Novosel on dates that will be scheduled. Tom Hubert motioned to accept the contract between Shenango Valley Ironmen LLC and Shenango Township, seconded by Dale Perry. Votes were 4 to 1 with Jim Stewart being no. Motion carried.

Chief Jason Newton explained the interviewing and hiring process of the new officer. Zachary Steines, 23 years old, who has worked for the city of Sharon for a little over two years. The officer interviewed well, tested well, and went thru the background check. Motion by Tom Hubert to hire Zachary Steines to a full time officer with wages to be \$47,216.00 per year with benefits as per contract, seconded by P.J. Giardina. All votes yes. Motion carried.

Tom Hubert and Mike Weiser previously discussed Wheatland Road ball field pricing and availability. The pricing is set to be \$25.00 per field for a two hour slot. Secretary Gina Smith is to forward all calls for rent of the fields to Supervisor Mike Weiser and then the time slot will be set per Mike Weiser. Liability for the fields will need to be signed for anyone renting the fields and they will need to be put as a rider on our insurance company. More to follow over the next few meetings regarding any new details regarding the renting of the COG fields.

Dates to note:

- Tax Collector collection dates will be March 13, 20, & 27, 2024 & April 3, 2024 from 1pm to 4pm at the Shenango Township Bldg.
- The Township Office will be closed on March 29, 2024 for Good Friday.

Payment of bills: Motion by Jim Stewart, seconded by P.J. Giardina to approve payment of bills from February 14, 2024, through March 12, 2024. All votes yes. Motion carried.

Tom Hubert, P.J. Giardina and Fire Chief Justin Barnes previously met to talk about the EMS and the Fire Department issues that have come up and the Supervisors did not have the answers. The discussion was to take place this evening but Chief Barnes was out on a call and they decided to make it another evening for the discussion with the Supervisors.

Supervisor Dale Perry stated that Senator Fetteroff was in the area to let people know that there was grant money to apply for up to a 20% match for qualifying projects. Dale Perry also attended an LTAP presentation regarding safe streets whereby residents should be able to walk to work or ride a bike to work and there is grant money with a match to come up with a study to see if that would be available in our area for the residents. Dale Perry turned that information over the West Middlesex Borough.

Adjournment: Motion by Dale Perry, seconded by P.J. Giardina to adjourn the meeting. All votes yes. Motion carried.

