

COMMISSIONERS MEETING MINUTES

STOWE TOWNSHIP MEETING

February 14, 2023 7:00 pm

STOWE TOWNSHIP MUNICIPAL BUILDING

555 BROADWAY AVENUE, MCKEES ROCKS, PA 15136

ATTENDEES: Commissioners K. Cropper-Hall, D. Rugh; C. McDermott.; Solicitor B. Matta; Engineer J. Marcink; Township Secretary R. Farls.

ABSENT: Commissioners L. Parrilla, D. Chestnutt; Public Works D. Burkhart; Ordinance E. Snyder; Police M. Preininger (*workshop meeting only*); Fire M. Chapman (*workshop meeting only*)

The commissioners' meeting was called to order at 7:03pm by President Cropper-Hall with the pledge of allegiance and a moment of silence for police, fire, EMS, military.

CIVIL SERVICE – Ray Cook asked to give his 2022 Civil Service Report. After reading the report, there were no questions. President Cropper-Hall stated that they have a \$2,000 budget, however sometimes have to go over that amount if the attorneys are in communication with one another. She also thanked Ray, Dave and Mark from the Committee for all of their hard work). The changes made were state mandated and veteran preferred also to recognize the spouse, disabled and/or diseased veteran. This also includes the military reserves and National Guard. The Township ordinance in 2003 listed the chief, deputy chief, sergeant, etc. This change is for future hires, however the change was mandatory and to add and update now was the most cost effective.

COMMENTS FROM PUBLIC

Stanley Papst – asked if the Township will be hiring anymore officers. Per President Cropper-Hall, the landslide was very expensive however we are going to try. Mr. Papst's recommendation is to hire a traffic officer only.

President Cropper-Hall also stated that the Township with Public Works will be looking for parking areas for semi-trucks and other vehicles to park. There was also concern about how the truck in mention is getting to Main Street and that we have to look out for our roads as well.

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS CHANGED for Finance. It will now be Chaired by Commissioner Parrilla and Co-Chair by Commissioner Chestnutt. Commissioner Rugh asked to be taken off of that committee.

It was asked by Commissioner McDermott about what Lester Burkholder, the new Township grant writer what he was being paid. President Cropper-Hall stated he will be receiving 10% for all approved grants. She then asked B. Matta to draw up paperwork so that this agreement is clear.

REPORTS

FINANCE – President Cropper-Hall stated that Lester is also an accountant and is assisting with reconciling the 2022 General Account with Secretary R. Farls.

PUBLIC WORKS – Commissioner Rugh presented. Stated that approximately 40\$ of the businesses have dumpsters. Also stated that the electrical boxes under the trees on Broadway should be considered for removal since they can be a hazard as well as people are plugging in their electrical devices receiving free electricity. The Public Works department meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 1st at 9:00am

POLICE – Chief M. Preininger presented. Also added that on February 1st the Allegheny County Sheriff's Dept did a mini-roundup in Stowe and McKee Rocks. They had 86 bench warrants; 25 physical arrests; 18 arrangements for people who will be turning themselves in and also found two (2) stolen vehicles.

Commissioner McDermott stated that Jabby Joes LED sign has caused accidents and feels that the signage should be reversed where the white blinking light should be at the top of the sign rather than the bottom. There have been four (4) accidents to date. Discussion was made where, since Jabby Joe's has an adequate parking lot that there should be no parking on that side of the road since it is hard to get out of the Glenn Way. She also stated that it is a state road and it was suggested that she and B. Matta work together to see what can be done. It was discussed, since it is next to a state road if there is an obstruction of view. KLH to assist with this. Also reviewing if this signage went through the Zoning board and/or Ordinance.

FIRE DEPARTMENT – Chief M. Chapman presented. Also stated that there was a joint operating guideline training recently with Whitehall, Sewickley, Crafton and Ross Fire Companies. The department also has two (2) firefighters currently going through their fundamental training and are currently on Module 2.

ORDINANCE – President Cropper-Hall presented. 212 McCoy was brought up about their trash. She stated that after speaking with Mr. McWilliams of Valley Waste, that no residential home will not be picked up, whether they pay or not, according to our contract. Also stated that one (1) bulk object will be picked up each week and mattresses do not need to be wrapped unless stained or contains fluids, bugs, etc.

Commissioner McDermott had a Quality-of-Life Ordinance which was copied and distributed to all.

PLANNING COMMITTEE – Did not meet in January or February. Next meeting is tentatively set for Thursday, March 30th at 7pm.

SOLICITOR – B. Matta presented. Stated that the residents on Dohrman Street will be out by the end of February and will not have another home in the Township in the future.

ENGINEER – J. Marcink presented. Stowe Ave wall will be looked at and, if it has shifted, possibly add some reflectors or whatever is needed.

82-84 Ohio both for demolition, showed that 84 is owner occupied. Will be re-reviewing the demo list to verify that the structures are unoccupied. It was asked that all houses are owned by someone so why can we not go after the owners and, if needed, place a lien against the property for reimbursement if not cleaned up. Looking into different options.

Historic landmarks were also brought up. Stowe Township has two (2). Musmanno's 1321 Island Ave and the 2nd is at Presston Park, Ohio & Center Streets. Information found on PHMC (Pennsylvania's Historic Museum Commission site)

Concerning the code enforcement company change, it was suggested that E. Snyder move into doing the rental inspections so that Stowe Township will get those funds. Once the weather breaks someone will need to be hired to handling the grass and weeds.

Code Enforcement Agency (CEA) will be sent a letter, should the company change be approved giving a 30 day notification of the termination of their agreement with Stowe Township.

OLD BUSINESS:

- A. [Approval / Deny] re-organization meeting minutes from the January 9th meeting
- B. [Approval / Deny] regular Board Meeting Minutes from the January 10th meeting
- C. *Tabled until further notice* - Cyber Insurance Proposal through MGI Risk Management. Annual premium \$2,394.80 +/-

Old and New Business - Motion made by Commissioner Parrilla; 2nd by Commissioner Rugh; all approved

II. NEW BUSINESS

- A. [Approval / Deny] reappointment of Howard Jones and Michael Harsh to the Stowe Township Zoning Board for another three (3) years (expires 12/31/2025).
- B. [Approve/ Deny] Civil Service Commission Rules and Regulations Amended
- C. [Approve / Deny] to retain KLH Engineers, Inc. as the Township Building Code Official and assist with code enforcement / zoning services on an as needed basis, accept the written proposal.
- D. [Approval / Deny] donating \$100 to Athletes of Action Memorial Scholarship being held April 1st at the VFD Banquet Hall, 1242 Chartiers Ave

Old and New Business - Motion made by Commissioner Parrilla; 2nd by Commissioner Rugh; Commissioner McDermott abstained on "B" and approved "A, C, D"; all others approved all.

RECEIPTS

<u>SOURCE</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	
\$ 11,167.21	Jordan Tax	Real Estate Tax Collection
\$ 1,401.49	Keystone Collections	Delinquent Real Estate Taxes
\$359,027.43	PA Municipal Services	Utility Sewage
\$ 2,624.08	Creditech Collections	Delinquent Sewage
\$ 15,000.00	PA Small Water Sewer	Expired Grant reimbursement
\$ 73,242.31	Jordan Tax Service	Real Estate
\$ 203.02	Allegheny Cty Court	Criminal Division
\$ 1,639.23	Allegheny Cty District	Vehicle Crime Codes, Misc fees

[Approve/deny] motion to approve above receipt of funds **Totaling \$464,304.77**

Motion made by Commissioner McDermott; 2nd by Commissioner Rugh; all approved

III. LISTS OF BILLS

A. Motion to approve payment of January, 2023 bills List **Totaling \$169,188.61**

[Approve/deny] motion to approve January, 2023 bills

Motion made by Commissioner McDermott; 2nd by Commissioner Parrilla; all approved

PRESIDENT COMMENT(S)

The department heads met on February 1st to discuss items within the departments. With Chief Preininger discussions were concerning speed radars, him reaching out to Rep. Stephen Zappella’s office. These radars are around \$5,000+/- and will be able to purchase a couple after the new car has been purchased.

Public Works discussion was concerning paining “STOP” at the intersections due to some of the stop signs being covered by trees. Also hoping to help drivers see and stop at intersections.


Permit parking on Valley, upper Broadway (12, 13 14th streets), the ordinances need to be reviewed since they were written in the 1990’s and are outdated and not feasible in today’s community.


Talking to fire department about a “Wellness Day” with CPR, AED, blood drive, etc. possibly sometime in April.

Next department head meeting is March 1st after the public works staff meeting at 9am.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made by Commissioner Rugh; 2nd by Commissioner Parrilla to adjourn and go into executive session. All approved. Meeting was adjourned at 7:35pm


Roberta L. Farls, Township Secretary


Kelly Cropper-Hall, President
Stowe Township Commissioners