

# COMMISSIONERS MEETING MINUTES

## STOWE TOWNSHIP MEETING

March 14, 2023 7:00 pm

## STOWE TOWNSHIP MUNICIPAL BUILDING

555 BROADWAY AVENUE, MCKEES ROCKS, PA 15136

**ATTENDEES BOTH MEETINGS:** Commissioners K. Cropper-Hall; D. Rugh (*on phone for voting meeting*); C. McDermott; L. Parrilla; D. Chestnutt; Solicitor B. Matta; Township Secretary R. Farls

**WORKSHOP MEETING:** - Police M. Preininger, Engineer J. Marcink; Ordinance E. Snyder; Fire President R. Stewart

**ABSENT:** Fire M. Chapman; Public Works D. Burkhart

The commissioners' meeting was called to order at 7:00pm by President Cropper-Hall with the pledge of allegiance and a moment of silence for police, fire, EMS, military as well as for Nick Radoycis (McKees Rocks Councilman).

### COMMENTS FROM PUBLIC

**Dave Longwell** – anything new concerning the trash and parking issues. President Cropper-Hall that the trash is an ongoing issue and any new suggestions would be greatly welcomed. At this point the Township is willing to try anything to get the trash issue cleaned up. Ordinance is to check out the trash issue on the corner of Woodward and 12<sup>th</sup> St (it is the last house on 11<sup>th</sup>).

President Cropper-Hall also stated that the Township with Public Works have been looking for parking areas for semi-trucks and other vehicles to park. Since nothing is really available, they are going to start being cited. Chief Preininger was directed by President Cropper-Hall to send an officer to site the semi that is on Woodward.

Commissioner Rugh brought up that 711-719 Broadway has a Mr. Biggs dumpster; however, it cannot be emptied due to Marathon Paul parking their U-Haul trucks in the area so the garbage trucks cannot get to the dumpster. Ordinance and Police will also be looking into that as well.

### REPORTS

**FINANCE** – Commissioner Parrilla stated that finances are good at this time.

**PUBLIC WORKS** – Commissioner Rugh presented. President Cropper-Hall stated that she met with the public works employees to see if they had any suggestions or solutions to the outstanding issues. Also thanked them for the jobs that they do.

**POLICE** – Chief M. Preininger presented. President Cropper-Hall stated that she like the additional information, however would like a list with all the dates, times and calls so she can review everything herself. Commissioner Chestnutt thanked Chief and officers for all they do and was amazed that over the past week with the bullets flying that no one was hit or got hurt.

President Cropper-Hall met with the police officers to discuss the speeding issues, equipment and continuing education. Public Works will be painting new (or updating) current vascar speed lines. The police cars got new vascar equipment. Also, several officers signed up for some continuing education courses which will benefit the department.

It was brought up about the Jabby Joe LED signage, which after review, Chief Preininger stated that there are no signs of correlation between the sign and the accidents. Commissioner McDermott also spoke to PA DOT who was going to reach out to Jabby Joe's since the signage is very bright and very moving to see about toning it down. It was also brought up about the yellow line parking in front of the restaurant/bar and how difficult it is to get out of Glenn Way. Chief Preininger is looking into the "pipes" which are on the Neville Island bridge to place in that area so no one is able to park there.

Commissioner Rugh made comment that he asked D. Burkhart, Public Works to check on speed humps for all year speed control rather than the bumps, since they are seasonal and can be broken. It was stated that there needs to be 25 feet from one hump to another. When asked how high they need to be, J. Marcink, stated that he will look into finding out. R. Stewart asked that there be a collaboration between Public Works and the fire department stating that if there is able to be a cutout in the humps for the fire truck tires. The humps (and/or bumps) show down their responses to incidents.

**FIRE DEPARTMENT** – Fire Board President R. Stewart presented.

**ORDINANCE** – E. Snyder presented

**PLANNING COMMITTEE** – Did not meet in February or March. Next meeting is tentatively set for Thursday, April 27<sup>th</sup> at 7pm.

**SOLICITOR** – B. Matta presented. Asked that a motion be placed on an emergency demolition on 110 Caldwell due to partial collapse.

Commissioner Chestnutt asked about 30-32 Ohio Street which we hold a fire escrow on. States that the one side is all burnt and the other, no one is living in it. Talked about possibly trying to force his hand to remodel, as he has stated he was going to do or to condemn. B. Matta and J. Marcink will look into this and report back at the April meeting.

**ENGINEER** – J. Marcink presented. Discussion was brought up concerning other demo houses and stated that that list is an inclusive list to review and will look at the short list

for properties for a new grant. President Cropper-Hall stated that the list she received from her meeting with KLH is inaccurate with the properties on it. B. Matta stated that the ones highlighted in yellow have already been approved for demolition. All of the other properties listed would need to go through the investigations, advertising, etc. steps to verify that they are cleared to be demo'ed.

**CIVIL SERVICE** – Commissioner Rugh asked who gives the test, in which Ray Cook responded that a panel of police chiefs do. Chief Preininger is securing the chiefs needed for the exam and will let R. Cook know at Thursday's Civil Service meeting at 3 pm here at the Township Building.

**BUILDING CLEANING** – Commissioner McDermott asked if the position for a cleaning person was advertised. Commissioner Parrilla stated that it was not. Commissioner McDermott then asked about the rate of \$30. Commissioner Parrilla stated that the going rate nowadays is between \$30 - \$55. The first month would be a deep cleaning that could be 5-8 hours. After that would be 1-2 times a month. Public Works would still continue to do their cleaning and garbage.

Commissioner McDermott stated that the carpet in the elevator needs to be replaced. It was brought up that the carpeting in the police department also needs to be lifted and some other type of flooring be placed that is more durable.

**VFW 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Veterans Support Day** is being held on March 26<sup>th</sup>. President Cropper-Hall stated a donation of \$100 be given to them. Commissioner McDermott stated that she went last year and it was very nice. She stated that a donation of \$200 should be considered. Commissioner Chestnutt agreed that either \$200 or \$250 be given. President Cropper-Hall recommended \$200 donation for vote.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

- A. [**Approval** / Deny] regular Board Meeting Minutes from the February 14<sup>th</sup> meeting
- B. [**Approval** / Deny] *Tabled from February meeting* - Cyber Insurance Proposal through MGI Risk Management. Annual premium \$2,394.80 +/- . Per President Cropper-Hall, add this to the motion to vote.

Old Business to **APPROVE** items A&B - Motion made by Commissioner McDermott; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Commissioner Rugh; all others approved all.

Prior to vote, Commissioner Parrilla asked Commissioner McDermott for the record: has she ever allowed or granted/approved anyone permission to go up to and enter old Fleming Road / Coles Row in the area of the landslide. Commissioner McDermott stated she did not and she did not have keys in order to let anyone in either.

Commissioner Parrilla thanked her and stated that was for the record only. The vote for old business was then completed.

II. **NEW BUSINESS**

- A. [**Approve** / Deny] Civil Service Commission to create eligibility list for the position, Deputy Chief of Police

- B. [**Approve** / Deny] Advertise the Erie Street and Glenn Way milling and resurfacing project
- C. [**Approve** / Deny] Consider hiring Tammy R. Brewer for building cleaning at \$30/hr.
- D. [**Approve** / Deny] Allow purchase of computer for caucus, amount under \$1,000
- E. [**Approve** / Deny] Focus on Renewal is requesting their budgeted funds for 2023 of \$500
- F. [**Approve** / Deny] VFW requesting a donation for 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Veterans Support Day on Sunday, March 26<sup>th</sup> in the amount of \$200
- G. [**Approve** / Deny] Emergency demolition on 110 Caldwell due to collapsing
- H. [**Approve** / Deny] Advertise ordinance changes for sewage bills moving from quarterly to monthly with PA Municipal Services (Ordinances 547-14, 547-16, and 547-38)
- I. [**Approve** / Deny] Ratification to pay ORM \$15,000 for 133 & 135 Orchard demolitions

New Business to **APPROVE** items A through I - Motion made by Commissioner McDermott; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Commissioner Chestnutt; all others approved all.

Prior to voting, Commissioner McDermott asked the commissioners to consider bringing in Bactronix to clean the police department especially due to everyone they have entering/exiting that area of the building. President Cropper-Hall asked to table that until next month's meeting. Secretary R. Farls will work on getting prices for April meeting presentation. The vote for new business was then completed.

**RECEIPTS**

	<u>SOURCE</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>
\$ 9,823.78	Alcosan	2022 Reimbursement
\$ 733.59	Keystone Collections	Delinquent Real Estate Taxes
\$ 6,522.20	PA Municipal Services	Utility Sewage
\$ 4,140.14	Creditech	Collections - Delinquent Sewage
\$ 1,000.00	Gallagher Bassett	Deductible Reimbursement
\$ 76,229.20	Jordan Tax Service	Real Estate
\$ 5,729.83	Jordan Tax Service	Mercantile Tax
\$ 18,533.27	Jordan Tax Service	Local Services Tax
\$ 766.44	Allegheny County	DUIs
\$ 2,549.84	Magistrate	Fines
\$ 600.00	West View Water	Street openings
\$ 52,569.89	PA Municipal Svc	Sewage Utilities

\$ 12,375.00          Stowe Businesses          Mechanical permits  
\$ 27,568.00          PA Economic Develop.          Reimbursed-Tunnel Way Expired grant  
**[Approve/deny] motion to approve above receipt of February funds Totaling \$219,141.18**

Motion made by Commissioner McDermott; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Commissioner Chestnutt; all approved

**III.      LISTS OF BILLS**

A. Motion to approve payment of February, 2023 bills... **Totaling \$123,952.55**

**[Approve/deny] motion to approve February, 2023 bills**

Motion made by Commissioner Rugh; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Commissioner McDermott; all approved

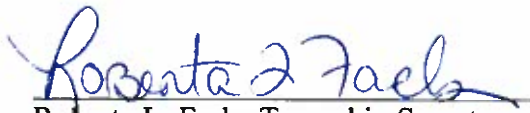
**PRESIDENT COMMENT(S)**

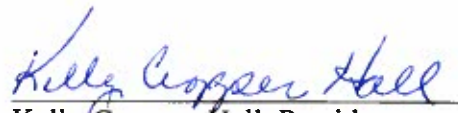
- A. President Cropper-Hall stated that she wants to begin spotlighting military veterans and it was recommended that instead of giving a gift card, that a small plaque or monument be placed at the Township building. Also, if possible, get a photo of the veteran in his/her uniform as well as a current photo to frame and display.
- B. Thank you letter received for \$100 donation approved at last month's meeting to Athletes of Action Memorial Scholarship Fund.
- C. Next department head meeting is March 20<sup>st</sup> at 8am.

*Workshop meeting ended at 7:54pm with Commissioners going into an Executive session not to return. Motion to adjourn 1<sup>st</sup> by Commissioner Parrilla; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Commissioner Chestnutt, all approved.*

**VOTING MEETING ADJOURNMENT**

Motion was made by Commissioner Chestnutt; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Commissioner Rugh to adjourn. All approved. Meeting was adjourned at 7:06pm

  
Roberta L. Farls, Township Secretary

  
Kelly Cropper-Hall, President  
Stowe Township Commissioners