

COMMISSIONERS MEETING MINUTES

STOWE TOWNSHIP MEETING

June 13, 2023 7:00 pm

STOWE TOWNSHIP MUNICIPAL BUILDING

555 BROADWAY AVENUE, MCKEES ROCKS, PA 15136

ATTENDEES AT BOTH MEETINGS: Commissioners K. Cropper-Hall; C. McDermott; D. Chestnutt; D. Rugh; Solicitor B. Matta; Township; Secretary R. Farls; Detective C. Wilker

ATTENDEES ONLY AT WORKSHOP MEETING: - Engineer J. Marcink; Fire M. Chapman

ATTENDEES ONLY AT VOTING MEETING: Police M. Preininger

ABSENT FROM BOTH MEETINGS: Commissioner L. Parrilla and Public Works D. Burkhart

The commissioners' meeting was called to order at 7:01pm by President Cropper-Hall with the pledge of allegiance and a moment of silence for police, fire, EMS.

Engineer J. Marcink asked to amend the agenda to include El Grande final payment and completion of paving project (*Item D*).

COMMENTS FROM PUBLIC

Joseph Jacobs (*from workshop meeting*)– re: 204 William Street to build a garage and what he would need to do since his property has two (2) front streets (Memorial and William). He will be presenting plans to the zoning board to have a variance drawn up. B. Matta to contact C. Conley, Esq to discuss further.

Stanley “Stush” Papst (*from workshop meeting*)– stated that he heard the Township was hiring a deputy chief. He feels that a small community like ours does not warrant that position. President Cropper-Hall stated that rank is important and the chief asked for this. Since the police department does not have an administrative assistant and the Township does not have an ordinance officer, those salaries are not being used. We have enough money to fund this position for five (5) years. It was also asked about the budget for the adult entertainment which the fee was \$25,000. When was it voted on to be cut in half (\$12,500)? Was there an ordinance or resolution for this change? President Cropper-Hall stated that this was just a stipend to this business only due to their past with overdoses, fights, shootings, etc.

Jean Mays (*from workshop meeting*)– Asked if we are getting an ordinance officer and questioned the outsourcing to KLH Code Enforcement or another company is too expensive.

Matt Morella (*from workshop meeting*)– for Nancy Sigmund at 165 William Circle to be able to build an overview deck onto paper alley. He stated that the hillside is steep,

ungraded and she would like the Township to give permission to build onto the paper alley only. The structure would be 4ft 6in into the paper alley. B. Matta stated that in executive session several options will be discussed and he will be contacted.

Joe Mansfield (from workshop meeting)– re: 1300 Island Ave to be able to build over Right of Way old footbridge. The freezer will be 70ft x 70ft on their currently owned property. A site plan is currently in the works and he is working with KLH.

Ricky Stewart (Stowe Twp VFD) (from workshop meeting) – President Cropper-Hall asked for an update on the merger. R. Stewart stated nothing at this time. They do not want to get residents involved in legal issues, however the VFD is holding firm on their position. He mentioned that there is a debt reduction check that goes directly to the VFD for \$15,000 yearly and there are talks about raising it to \$20,000. The VFD feels with a merger they will receive 40,000 for both departments (these funds are through the State Fire Department Commissioner Grant). They would like to move forward with purchasing a new engine. President Cropper-Hall stated that once a meeting with McKees Rocks Solicitor, Kim Houser, has been setup, then the commissioners will decide on whether to move forward or not. Commissioner D. Chestnutt stated that he has reached out to K. Houser but has not heard back from him. R. Stewart gave some figures on a new engine for the commissioners to consider (VFD pays \$20,000 down payment; 2% loan of \$270,000 for VFD to pay; \$367,000 Township responsibility). President Cropper-Hall stated that the VFD would also be taking over all maintenance of all of their vehicles. R. Stewart stated that this would be another item that would need to be discussed before moving forward with anything.

REPORTS

FINANCE – Presented by President Cropper-Hall

PUBLIC WORKS – Presented by Commissioner Rugh. In addition, to be added to the agenda, to recognize Scott Gregory as 2nd in charge when Dan is not available. All parking meters have been taken down as well as the electrical boxes. There is currently limestone in the holes but will be filled with concrete. The catch basins on Hober and Stowe Ave have collapsed and needs fixed. Bids will be requested, if over \$10,000.

(Item M)

POLICE – Detective C. Wilker presented. Discussed the officer involved shooting at Hays Manor the other day. Stated that an officer's car got hit by the suspect's car. Stowe officer exchanged fire. The officer is in good spirits. Working on psychiatric counseling for this officer as well as the County Housing officers involved. Allegheny County Homicide is now handling and arrests have been made. R. Farls presented May's statistics. Commissioner McDermott stated that McKees Rocks had their spaghetti dinner fundraiser for the K-9 they are trying to get. She stated that Stowe would be able to have access to the dog once they get it. It was also brought up that the police department is in need of new flooring and a paint job. Bids will be requested *(Item N)*.

FIRE DEPARTMENT – Chief M. Chapman presented. Wanted to thank the community for water donated to the VFD, especially now, since the weather is getting warmer. For the first half of the year, the VFD had 186 calls dispatched. On average from dispatched to on scene was under a five (5) minute response time.

ORDINANCE – Secretary R. Farls presented.

PLANNING COMMITTEE –Next meeting is set for Thursday, July 27th at 7pm.

SOLICITOR – B. Matta presented. Stated that the Township should consider doing demolition hearings in blocks to be proactive when grants or other funds are available. President Cropper-Hall stated that she would like to consider putting away some money for private demolitions. Also stated that 212 McCoy filed for bankruptcy and what can the Township do? B. Matta stated he will look into their filing and possibly send a letter to the owner.

ENGINEER – J. Marcink presented. Stated that with the demolition grants, the COG will not give grants for properties that have their taxes paid. Requesting to make payment to El Grande for \$389,210.80. The grant amount was \$125,000. The final payment was five (5) percent totaling \$20,484.78. At the end of the project, it was \$27,000 under budget. Commissioner McDermott asked if there are any grants available for the Benwood retaining wall and also that any meetings that pertain to Stowe Ave, she would like to be present for.

OLD BUSINESS:

- A. [Approval / Deny] regular Board Meeting Minutes from the May 9th meeting

Minutes were held and will be done by email voting due to additional information President Cropper-Hall wanted added.

II. NEW BUSINESS

- A. [Approve / Deny] motion to accept estimate for replacing fire department lights totaling \$13,650 from Sciullo Electric
- B. [Approve / Deny] motion to estimate for replacing 16 recessed can non-working lights in lobby of township building totaling \$2,327.60 from Sciullo Electric
- C. [Approve / Deny] Motion to accept Eisler Landscapes quote in the amount of \$15,711.00 for completion of GROW Fleming Ave grant project
- D. [Approve / Deny] motion to approve El Grande Industries Pay Application No. 1 and No. 2– Final, in the total amount of \$52,466.73
- E. [Approve / Deny] motion to adopt the Concurring Resolution and Slums and Blight Resolution for the Act 152 Round 3 Grant Application
- F. [Approve / Deny] motion to approve repair of elevator for \$850 per PA Labor & Industry

- G. **[Approve / Deny]** motion by Resolution to have no objection to allow Mansfield to move forward using property over the right of way at 1300 Island Ave for a 70ft x 70ft freezer (changed from a 50ft x 70ft)
- H. **[Approve / Deny]** motion to dissolve the paper alley (known as Green Street), to Advertise Ordinance for property located at 165 William Circle. Advertised for a 30-day notice, to be voted on at August meeting. Alley to be split with Ms. Sigmund with one (1) portion and the adjacent owner on the other side
- I. **[Approve / Deny]** motion to approve overtime for public works during the summer Months
- J. **[Approve / Deny]** motion to recognize Scott Gregory as second in charge in Public Works
- K. **[Approve / Deny]** motion to approve **[The Wilson Group OR AmCom OR Toshiba]** for new copies/printers' contract
- L. **[Approve / Deny]** motion to approve Allegheny Grow Program to start new Community Food Gardens
- M. **[Approve / Deny]** motion to authorize to receive bids for Hober and Stowe Ave catch Basins that need repaired
- N. **[Approve / Deny]** motion to seek bids for new flooring and paint in Police Department
- O. **[Approve / Deny]** motion of conditional offer of employment to Andrew Bigger: Conditioned upon a review, pursuant to Act 57 of 2020, MPOETC TACS. After appointee passes the separation record review, the appointee will then undergo a physical/drug and psychological medical examination in compliance with the MPOETC regulations. After passing all requirements, the newly hired police officer shall serve a twelve (12) month probationary period which will begin on the first day the officer reports for work.
- P. **[Approve / Deny]** motion for Officer Charles Wilker, for Promotion, from Full Time Police Officer to Deputy Chief of Police, and shall serve a twelve (12) month probationary period which will begin on the day he is sworn in by Magistrate as Deputy Chief.
- Q. **[Approve / Deny]** motion to approve advertising for all demolition properties including Race and Ohio Streets.

New Business to **APPROVE** items A through J - Motion made by Commissioner D, Rugh; 2nd by Commissioner Chestnutt; all others approved all.

*** New Business item K: An individual vote was made to approve The Wilson Group and new copier contract. All commissioners individually voted to approve The Wilson Group and new copier contract.*

New Business to **APPROVE** items L through P - Motion made by Commissioner Chestnutt; 2nd by Commissioner McDermott; all others approved all.

<u>RECEIPTS</u>	<u>SOURCE</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>
\$ 2,561.36	Allegheny County	Magistrate
\$ 1,352.04	Allegheny County	Criminal Division

\$ 150.00	Allegheny County	Reimbursement – Election Rental
\$ 37,980.17	Keystone Collections	Delinquent Real Estate
\$ 51,941.28	PA Municipal Services	Utility Sewage
\$ 4,159.98	Creditech	Collections - Delinquent Sewage
\$416,249.56	Jordan Tax Service	Real Estate Taxes
\$ 11,245.15	Comcast	Franchise Fee
\$ 14,134.91	Jordan Tax Service	LST
\$ 4,903.52	Jordan Tax Service	Mercantile
\$ 7,821.88	Jordan Tax Service	Business Privilege
\$ 1,073.07	PA Office of the Budget	Transportation
\$ 500.00	Sto-Rox School	Reimbursement for winter salt usage

[Approve / Deny] motion to approve above receipt of May funds **Totaling \$554,070.92**

Motion by Commissioner McDermott; 2nd by Commissioner D. Rugh; all others approved.

III. LISTS OF BILLS

A. Motion to approve payment of May, 2023 bills **Totaling \$25,552.48**

[Approve / Deny] motion to approve May 2023 bills

Motion by Commissioner D. Rugh; 2nd by Commissioner Chestnutt; all others approved.

PRESIDENT COMMENTS


1. Thank you for \$300 donation to Welcome to the Table from last month
2. Thanks to Anita DiFratti and Eddie Carter for working on the parks over Memorial Day weekend
3. Retirement Party for Dorothy Bennett celebrating 50 years of service as a crossing guard on June 25th from 2-6pm at McKees Rocks VFW

VOTING MEETING ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made by Commissioner Chestnutt; 2nd by Commissioner McDermott to adjourn. All approved. Meeting was adjourned at 7:13pm

(The workshop meeting was adjourned at 8:40pm with the commissioners going into executive session; Motion by Commissioner Chestnutt; 2nd by Commissioner Rugh. All approved.)


 Roberta L. Farls, Township Secretary


 Kelly Cropper-Hall, President
 Stowe Township Commissioners