

COMMISSIONERS MEETING MINUTES

STOWE TOWNSHIP MEETING

May 9, 2023 7:00 pm

STOWE TOWNSHIP MUNICIPAL BUILDING

555 BROADWAY AVENUE, MCKEES ROCKS, PA 15136

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

ATTENDEES WORKSHOP MEETING ONLY: - Police M. Preininger, Engineer J. Marcink; Fire M. Chapman

ABSENT: Commissioner Rugh and Public Works D. Burkhart (*both from workshop meeting*)

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.

COMMENTS FROM PUBLIC

Jean Mayes (*from workshop meeting*)– handed the commissioners a crime rate handout. Been living in her home on Woodward for 30 years, has remodeled etc. Is asking if there is a way of having landlords to run background checks before they rent to someone. Also, if there can be an ordinance made to that effect. Per Solicitor B. Matta: asking landlords to do background checks is fine, however the Township cannot enforce who they rent to. He also advised against the Township looking into creating an ordinance concerning this since it could potentially cause the Township to be involved in lawsuits.

Joy Hopwell (*from workshop meeting*)– requested that the speed bumps be put back on Woodward (at Lamont) due to excessive speeding. Also, if there is a way of placing from Fox's Pizza Den to Mancini's the possibility of flashing lights for speed. Per President Cropper-Hall, the Township has four (4) sets of bumps and will be doing traffic studies over the next few weeks to see where they will be going for this year.

Jeff Paul (*from voting meeting*) –He also stated that when President Cropper-Hall was doing the finance report, details were given, not just comments like “the finances are good” or “we are holding our own”. On the landslide from a year ago, keeps being brought up and the personal attacks. President Cropper-Hall states “Make no mistake that the landslide cost us \$200,000 and it directly affected what can get done in this Township. It's not an oops.” Mr. Paul states “that it is not an oops”. What I am saying is “at the time when it happened, Commissioner Parrilla was on the local news and he stated that, that saying “don't play with Mother Nature, this is Mother Nature.” President Cropper-Hall stated “that is before we realized that there was illegal dumping. Once the equipment got up there, it was able to determine that there was illegal dumping. I wasn't there.” Mr. Paul asked to be able to finish his statements and if anyone wanted to address it afterwards. He continued, “that it was determined it was from rain and erosion, did we obtain a Geo

technical report and is it no longer caused by rain and erosion or Mother Nature? Then also last night we heard about an affidavit. An affidavit is a written statement confirming by oath by a person who is authorized by law to do so. I don't believe this letter that came in the mail fits that criteria. President Cropper-Hall stated that it was not an anonymous letter. Mr. Paul continued, that if you do have someone that was dumping on the property, didn't that violate our dumping ordinance? President Cropper-Hall stated "sure". He continued "that I do not believe that you can obtain permission to break the law." President Cropper-Hall asked Mr. Paul to repeat that last sentence. Which he did. He continued "so if you do have evidence that somebody dumped, then we should immediately site that person or company they represent for violating the code. But we kind of know this is a frivolous personal attack." Commissioner Parrilla stated "it is not a personal attack." Mr. Paul continued "so instead of wasting time on nonsense (Commissioner Parrilla interrupted "nonsense, on \$200,000) Mr. Paul asked to continue, (Commissioner Parrilla stated "no"; President Cropper-Hall asked Commissioner Parrilla to please be quiet). Mr. Paul stated "that is what I mean, these are just personal attacks and no professionalism" "So instead of wasting time on nonsense, focus time on taxpayers and we deserve, a detailed report of our monetary resources. Thank you. So, my question is, did we do a geo technical report?" President Cropper-Hall stated "we did not. Here is what I am going to say, try to take this anyway you want, when you are commissioner, like myself, you are held to an integrity. We have under many months; did you know this man? Were you involved with authorizing the dumping? The answer was "no", by a sitting commissioner. So, the sitting commissioner has then said no, I didn't do it. You all said you're being attacked. We have a letter, it's not an affidavit, it's a letter from a gentleman who actually had the conversation and who actually states in letter, I am sure Ms. McDermott got a copy of it and she knows what it says and has shared it with you, that the gate was locked. Somebody had to authorize that gate to be opened. And that was a commissioner. Alright, so nobody so which way, can we say that the dump caused that landslide, no we can't, but what we can say that it definitely accelerated it. Because we had one (1) other landslide and it was from illegal dumping. And that is the exact same thing that happened. And so, what we are going to do is that this board how much further we want to go with the investigation. But \$200,000...\$200,000 (Mr. Paul stated he understood) is a huge amount of money to take from taxpayers, Jeff." Mr. Paul stated "but if you don't know who dumped, they are the ones who caused the landslide and we should go after them." President Cropper-Hall stated "they were given permission" Mr. Paul then stated "You cannot give permission to break the law. So then if I asked the chief, can I go shoot somebody and he says sure and I go shoot them, then I'm good cause he told me I could." President Cropper-Hall stated "Jeff, you can consort this anyway you want, it was a locked gate" Mr. Paul stated "whoever broke the ordinance to dump, that is who is responsible. If you want to say somebody else gave permission, that's great, but let's go after the dumper." President Cropper-Hall stated "you don't know what we are not going to do. I said (was interrupted by Commissioner Parrilla, who President Cropper-Hall asked to be quite; Mr. Paul then looked at Commissioner Parrilla as stated that he was not talking to him. Commissioner Parrilla stated that he is also sitting up here. Mr. Paul stated that he was speaking to Kelly). President Cropper-Hall stated that "we are done, we will decide what the next step is."

Ron Gallagher (from voting meeting) – stated that if there is going to be any type of an investigation the public needs to know and there is process that needs to be followed. Solicitor B. Matta stated that this is all a personnel issue and all is being discussed with the board at this time. Anything that is for public knowledge, will be given out at that time.

REPORTS

FINANCE – Commissioner Parrilla presented. Stated “we are holding our own”

PUBLIC WORKS – Commissioner Parrilla presented. Commissioner Chestnutt stated that Allegheny Cleanways also received some additional funds and will be cleaning up areas of the Township over the next few months. They did do work on May 8th.

POLICE – Chief M. Preininger presented.

FIRE DEPARTMENT – Chief M. Chapman presented. Stated that the bidding on a new fire engine has been sent out. Sealed bids are due into the Township Secretary before 10am on Thursday June 1st. Concerning the radios to be placed for vote (item G), the fire department received eight (8) radios through the county. The ones that were being used started to fail. The fire department purchased an addition eight (8) radios with batteries, microphones, etc. totally \$44,000. They are asking that these sixteen (16) radios be placed on the insurance.

ORDINANCE – Secretary R. Farls presented spreadsheet.

PLANNING COMMITTEE –Next meeting is set for Thursday, May 25th at 7pm.

SOLICITOR – Preparing for demo hearings the end of July. Per conversation with Atty Conley concerning 1400 Fleming, the business is able to come in without any zoning changes. Paperwork was received from a third party on a Township subpoena for 204-206 McCoy. All information the Township has is non-responsive, he will deal with issue. 30-32 Ohio fire the Township has under \$8,000 in escrow. A local business owner offered to tear it down. The Township will give that owner/demo company the escrow funds once complete, and the business owner will pay the rest.

ENGINEER – J. Marcink presented

OTHER BUSINESS – No additional business

OLD BUSINESS:

A. [**Approval** / Deny] regular Board Meeting Minutes from the April 11th meeting

Old Business to **APPROVE** item A - Motion made by Commissioner Rugh; 2nd by Commissioner Parrilla; all others approved all.

II. **NEW BUSINESS**

- A. [**Approve** / Deny] ratification to pay Rock Hard Hardscape \$15,500 for emergency demolition of 110 Caldwell
- B. [**Approve** / Deny] Ratification to pay Treewalker Tree Service \$1,400 for 2 trees removals on Shaw Ave
- C. [**Approve** / Deny] motion to increase Joseph Carlini, and all returning summer help from \$10 to \$12
- D. [**Approve** / Deny] motion to accept Development Agreement from Nichol Avenue McKees Rocks, LLC (Suncap)
- E. [**Approve** / Deny] motion to pay final payment on 2019 Elgin Street Sweeper in the amount of \$53,312.00
- F. [**Approve** / Deny] accept Resolution 02-2023 for Allegheny County Vacant Property Program for 73-R-343 (113 Harlem Ave)
- G. [**Approve** / Deny] add Fire Department portable radios onto insurance for \$98 per Year which is \$64,000 in coverage with a \$1,000 deductible
- H. [**Approve** / Deny] the **REMOVAL** or repairs of the parking meters. **
- I. [**Approve** / Deny] Consider hiring full time Jeffrey Dusch for Public Works to replace Thomas DeAngelis last year
- J. [**Approve** / Deny] Discuss 1117 Dohrman for Sheriff's sale, Keystone Collections requesting \$2,000 for filing fee from Township
- K. [**Approve** / Deny] donation to "Welcome to the Table Project" for \$300.
- L. [**Approve** / Deny] authorizing a "pop-up" event 7th & Broadway for an "Overdose Prevention & Resource"

New Business to **APPROVE** items A through G - Motion made by Commissioner Parrilla; 2nd by Commissioner Chestnutt; all others approved all.

** *New Business item H: An individual vote was made to whether remove or repair parking meters. All commissioners individually voted to **approve the removal** of the parking meters.*

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

RECEIPTS	SOURCE	DESCRIPTION
\$ 2,371.46	Allegheny County	DUIs
\$ 5,240.19	Keystone Collections	Delinquent Real Estate
\$220,395.01	PA Municipal Services	Utility Sewage
\$ 2,988.43	Creditech	Collections - Delinquent Sewage
\$643,380.15	Jordan Tax Service	Real Estate Taxes
\$ 2,245.01	Allegheny County	Motor Vehicle and Parking
\$ 1,918.87	Jordan Tax Service	LST
\$ 1,101.53	Jordan Tax Service	Mercantile

\$ 14,049.84	Jordan Tax Service	Business Privilege
\$ 600.00	Young's Towing	Public Works SUV for scrap

[Approve / Deny] motion to approve above receipt of April funds **Totaling \$894,290.49**
Motion by Commissioner Parrilla; 2nd by Commissioner Rugh; all others approved.

III. **LISTS OF BILLS**

A. Motion to approve payment of April, 2023 bills **Totaling \$59,406.54**

[Approve / Deny] motion to approve April, 2023 bills
Motion by Commissioner Rugh 2nd by Commissioner Parrilla; all others approved.

PRESIDENT COMMENTS

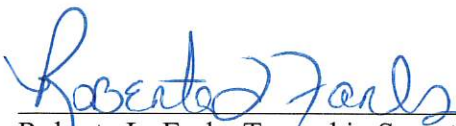
President Cropper-Hall welcomed new Public Works employee, Jeffrey Dusch.

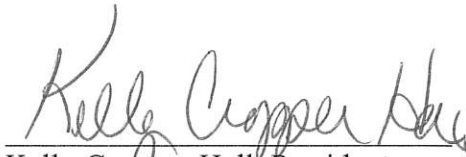
Thanked everyone for coming out for tonight's meeting

Workshop meeting: Commissioner Parrilla stated that he received an affidavit from a business concerning the dumping issue. Solicitor B. Matta stopped him. Workshop meeting ended at 8:00pm Motion to adjourn 1st by Commissioner Parrilla; 2nd by Commissioner Rugh, all approved.

VOTING MEETING ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made by Commissioner Parrilla; 2nd by Commissioner Chestnutt to adjourn. All approved. Meeting was adjourned at 7:18pm


Roberta L. Farls, Township Secretary


Kelly Cropper-Hall, President
Stowe Township Commissioners