

COMMISSIONERS MEETING MINUTES

STOWE TOWNSHIP MEETING

December 12, 2023 7:00 pm

STOWE TOWNSHIP MUNICIPAL BUILDING

555 BROADWAY AVENUE, MCKEES ROCKS, PA 15136

WORKSHOP MEETING ATTENDEES: Commissioners K. Cropper-Hall; C. McDermott; D. Rugh; Police Chief M. Preininger; Ordinance A. Marsh; Engineer J. Marcink; Secretary R. Farls; R. Stewart, Stowe VFD

ABSENT FROM WORKSHOP MEETING: Commissioners D. Chestnutt and R. Parrilla, Fire Chief M. Chapman; Public Works D. Burkhart

VOTING MEETING ATTENDEES: Commissioners K. Cropper-Hall, D. Rugh, L. Parrilla, C. McDermott; Township Secretary R. Farls; Solicitor B. Matta; Fire Chief M Chapman

ABSENT FROM VOTING MEETING: Commissioner D. Chestnutt

The commissioners' workshop 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. The voting meeting was called to order at 7:25pm after a pre-meeting executive session.

COMMENTS FROM PUBLIC AT WORKSHOP MEETING

Stanley "Stush" Papst – Asked if the budget was going to be voted on at Tuesday's meeting. Asked what the current milage is and was the CSX money touched. President Cropper-Hall stated that yes the budget will be voted on. The milage has not changed in the 12 years she has been in office and is at 10.48. The CSX money has not been touched in the accounts.

REPORTS

FINANCE – No report given.

PUBLIC WORKS – Presented by Commissioner Rugh. Continuing problem on Broadway where tenants will bring their garbage and put them in the cans or next to the cans on Broadway rather than place them in dumpsters behind their building, if applicable. Commissioner Rugh stated that public works is picking up the trash on Mondays, Thursdays and Fridays on Broadway. President Cropper-Hall stated that her recommendation is to remove the trash cans altogether but was discussed that the tenants would then just thrown their garbage on the sidewalk. Commissioner McDermott suggested pulling their occupancy permits and rental permits, evict the tenants, giving them seven (7) days to get out then padlock the building until all is cleaned up and any outstanding fees are paid. Hit the landlords/owners in their pockets for violating the ordinances. President Cropper-Hall stated that per B. Matta, our solicitor, legal advice is limited, and yes, it is frustrating. Commissioner McDermott stated that the McKees Rocks

Ordinance, B. Thompson, had sent out a letter that seemed to be effective and will call to see about getting a copy. Chief M. Preininger and Ordinance A. Marsh stated that citations were already written and are at the magistrate awaiting hearing dates. Not much more can be done at this point.

It was brought up about someone to clean the building. Lisa Adamatis, who also cleans the schools, is willing to clean /deep clean the township building for \$22 per hour. The last conversation was that public works was willing and able to clean the building. This conversation was tabled until public works as been talked to.

POLICE – Presented by Chief M. Preininger. Recapped that on his report the homicide on Benwood is not listed due to the Allegheny County Homicide taking over the case. They are also taking over the Hook Fish & Chicken case where the owner is being charged. He stated that the body cams are going into the full effect tomorrow December 13th, however the officers have been wearing them as a “soft wear” until all training and equipment has been completed. The electronic speed limit signs are in and will be placed on Broadway to start. Both the body cams and the speed limit signs were purchased by grants. We are also looking to get grant money for a drone.

Commissioner Rugh stated that at 712 Broadway (he believes that is the address) that the owner has outrageous kid parties Friday and Saturday nights with well over the occupancy limit, all underage and past the 10pm curfew. He stated he tried to call the OIC (officer in charge) phone with no answer. Chief Preininger stated that he has seen the issue and is looking into seeing what he is able to cite and what is legal. Commissioner Rugh stated that when these kids get out of the party they come into his store, take items off the shelves and walk out and something needs to be done.

FIRE DEPARTMENT – Presented by R. Stewart, Stowe VFD Board President. VFD is having talks of merging with the decertified McKees Rocks VFD. FEMA awarded Stowe VFD almost \$1 million ladder truck (practically for free) and air packs. A lot of people are joining and everything is going good over there. It was brought up about the fire marshal. R. Stewart stated that currently Chief. M. Chapman is in charge of the investigations. R. Stewart was sent down to Alabama to get certified and works with the Allegheny County Fire Marshal. He will also do some small investigations here. He also stated there are still some past investigations within the township that he is still working on with the County Fire Marshal.

Chief M. Chapman stated that there is a merger meeting in Crafton on Friday morning. Commissioner Rugh asked for the meeting information so he will be able to attend. Chief M. Chapman also stated that they were able to re-open the file from the original Stowe Township VFD merger and should receive a debt reduction from the Fire Commissioners office for 5 years of an additional \$20,000 (which would be \$40,000 total, which includes the current \$20,000 they are getting). M. Chapman also stated that after the McKees Rocks VFD merger, Stowe Twp VFD should also receive those funds as well, which would bring their amount to \$60,000 for either 4 or 5 years, depending on when this all goes through.

M. Chapman stated that there was an original contract with the McKees Rocks VFD and the McKees Rocks Borough since 1983 which they are working through at this time.

He stated that when they bring the McKees Rocks ladder truck to Stowe Township that they would like the Township to pay for insurance, gas and maintenance, as they do with the other fire vehicles. *(see new business item J)*

M. Chapman also stated that their air packs are expiring in 3 years and that they are only good for 15 years. He stated that 14 were purchased in 2012 then a couple years later 6 more were purchased to get to 20 total. There are 12 packs expiring in 2027.

ORDINANCE – Present by A. Marsh. Commissioner McDermott commended A. Marsh on his training and certifications and how he is working on making the township a better place.

It was asked by Commissioner McDermott if any additional information or escrow funds were received from the 717 Broadway fire in November in which the building was condemned. As of yet, nothing has been heard due to investigations still going on. President Cropper-Hall asked Secretary R. Farls to talk to Solicitor B. Matta on an update and about making sure we receive the escrow.

PLANNING COMMITTEE –No meeting was scheduled in November or December. President Cropper-Hall stated that there is an opening on the committee, and the possibility of several others, so if anyone is interested to see Secretary R. Farls

SOLICITOR – No report

ENGINEER – Presented by Engineer J. Marcink.

OLD BUSINESS:

A. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

- A. [APPROVAL / Deny] regular Board Meeting Minutes from the November 14, 2023 meeting

Motion to **APPROVE** Old Business item A – Motion made by Commissioner C. McDermott; 2nd by Commissioner R. Parrilla; all others approved

B. **NEW BUSINESS**

- A. [APPROVAL / **DENY**] the proposed 2024 budget
B. [APPROVAL / DENY] Motion to accept the completed 2022 audit from Turnley & Associates
C. [APPROVAL / **DENY**] Motion to acknowledge the new Valley Waste contract for 1-year (expires 12-31-2024) with an increase of \$8.53 per month
D. [APPROVAL / DENY] Motion to pay The Computer Guys for 1-year continued support and service of \$2,966.40

- E. **[APPROVAL / DENY]** motion to acknowledge PA Municipal Service’s fees for delinquent accounts for 2024
- F. **[APPROVAL / DENY]** motion to donate \$150 to Stowe Twp VFD for candy and stuffed animals for “Santa on the fire truck” on Sunday, December 17th.
- G. **[APPROVAL / DENY]** motion issue check in the amount of \$440 to Stowe Twp VFD for remaining 2023 rentals received (*at \$5 per unit collected*)
- H. **[APPROVAL / DENY]** Motion to grant Final Approval for the Penn Waste Services Pittsburgh Transfer Station Land Development Plan
- I. **[APPROVAL / DENY]** Reimbursement of LifeLoc for three (3) years to Public Works Supervisor (*who will present a receipt for the reimbursement*)
- J. **[APPROVAL / DENY]** To pay insurance of new ladder truck, once in possession of the Stowe Township Volunteer Fire Department with written confirmation (e.g. court order, etc)
- K. **[APPROVAL / DENY]** to remove chimney from 1107 Charles Street, an abandoned home, to prevent more falling bricks at a price, no more than \$1,200.

Each New Business Item was voted on individually. The results are as follows:

- A – DENY unanimous (President Cropper-Hall stated the numbers were incorrect and is going to re-do the budget, it will then be readvertised and voted on)
- B – APPROVAL unanimous
- C – 1 Abstain by Commissioner McDermott; 3 – DENY (President Cropper-Hall to call to schedule a meeting with Valley Waste)
- D – APPROVAL unanimous
- E – APPROVAL unanimous
- F – G – H – I – J – K (voted as a cluster) – APPROVAL unanimous

C. RECEIPTS

	<u>SOURCE</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>
\$ 3,200.00	West View Water	Street opening permits
\$ 2,646.25	Sto-Rox School	Crossing Guard Reimbursement
\$ 960.00	Sto-Rox School	Reimbursement for Police at football games
\$ 411.84	Allegheny County	DUIs
\$ 3,747.86	Allegheny County	Magistrate
\$ 2,380.00	Magistrate	Rental – multiple delinquent rentals
\$210,554.06	PA Municipal Services	Utility Sewage
\$ 1,417.46	Creditech	Collections – Delinquent Sewage
\$ 12,978.62	Jordan Tax Service	Local Services Tax
\$ 1,213.90	Jordan Tax Service	Real Estate Collections
\$ 10,033.57	Comcast	Franchise fee
\$ 125.00	KLH Code Enforcement	Zoning & Permit (1300 Island)
\$ 150.00	ARI Technologies	Narcan Training for remaining officers
\$ 55.00	United Code Consultants	Permit issued (338 Sarah)

[Approve/Deny] motion to approve above receipt of November funds Totaling **\$249,873.56**

Motion to **APPROVE** Receipts – Motion made by Commissioner R. Parrilla; 2nd by Commissioner C. McDermott; all others approved

D. LISTS OF BILLS

[**APPROVAL / Deny**] Motion to approve payment of November bills **Totaling \$124,222.63**

Motion to **APPROVE** Bills – Motion made by Commissioner D. Rugh; 2nd by Commissioner C. McDermott; all others approved

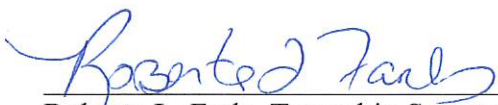
PRESIDENT / BOARD COMMENTS


- A. Commissioner McDermott wanted to do a shout-out to Jimmy Lind for purchasing the Christmas Tree on Broadway/Valley for the Township as well as toys for the police department to give out with Santa on December 17th with the fire department. A thank you will be sent to him from the Township. *(Thank you card was sent on 12/13/2023)*
- B. President Cropper-Hall at the Workshop meeting appreciates the current and past board members and always learned something from them. It was an honor to sit in the president's chair. She always did her job with integrity and is proud to be in Stowe Township. She thanked the Civil Service, Volunteer Fire Department, Police Department, and Public Works. Wished all a Merry Christmas.
- C. Thank you to Commissioners Kelly Cropper-Hall and David Rugh who will be ending their terms on December 31st.
- D. Commissioner Rugh stated he was at McKees Rocks for 16 years and here for 4 years and is not going anywhere. He wanted to thank everyone and congratulate Jeff and Tyler for coming on as new commissioners in January
- E. Commissioner Parrilla said kudos to everyone on the board, especially Kelly, who came on 2 years after he did. She definitely did a lot that people don't realize what all she did and is appreciated. Merry Christmas to all.
- F. Commissioner McDermott said she was very lucky to work along side everyone and to do what is best for the Township. She appreciates the opportunity to move on with Robin into the next year.

MEETING ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made by Commissioner C. McDermott; 2nd by Commissioner D. Rugh to adjourn. All approved. Meeting was adjourned at 8:00 pm

(Workshop meeting adjournment was at 7:45pm going into executive session not to return)


Roberta L. Farls, Township Secretary


Darrell Chestnutt, Vice-President
Stowe Township Commissioners