

**TOWNSHIP OF RESERVE
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
November 21st, 2022**

CALL TO ORDER

Commissioner Neurohr called the meeting to order on November 21st, 2022, at 7:00 PM.

ROLL CALL

Indicated Commissioner Sharon Sweeney, Commissioner Ed Vincent, Commissioner John Kaib, Commissioner Dan Giebel, Commissioner Ron Neurohr, Manager Jan Kowalski, Solicitor Nate Boring and Engineer Gordon Taylor were all present. Also present were approximately 45 visitors.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – Commissioner Ron Neurohr reported the Board of Commissioners held an Executive Session tonight at 5:45 pm., wherein the following topics were discussed: employment and personnel matters, contracts and policies, actual and ongoing litigation as well as potential litigation and identifiable complaints. An Executive Session was held on October 25th, 2022 to discuss personnel issues regarding the hiring of the Township Manager.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

Commissioner John Kaib made the motion to approve the consent agenda as well as the meeting minutes for September and October, with a second by Commissioner Dan Giebel. All in favor. Motion carries.

RESOLUTIONS TO BE ADOPTED

Commissioner Sharon Sweeney made the motion to approve Resolutions 745-22 CDBG Year 49 Grant Application, 746-22 Appointments to Township Administrative Positions, and 747-22 Implementing the Property Tax Penalty Waiver Provisions of Act 57 of 2022, with a second by Commission Ed Vincent. All in favor. Motion carries.

Commissioner John Kaib made the motion to approve Resolution 748-22 COVID-19 ARPA PA Small Water and Sewer Program Grant, with a second by Commissioner Dan Giebel. All in favor. Motion carries.

ORDINANCES TO BE INTRODUCED

Commissioner Ed Vincent made the motion to approve advertisement of Ordinance 692: Codification of Reserve Twp. Ordinances, with a second by Commissioner Ron Neurohr. All in favor. Motion carries.

Commissioner Sharon Sweeney made the motion to approve advertisement of Ordinance 693: 2023 Budget and Millage rate, with a second by Commissioner Ed Vincent. All in favor. Motion carries. Manager Jan Kowalski informed the public that Reserve Townships 2023 Budget will be advertised in The Herald (Etna / Sharpsburg Newspaper) due to the Post-Gazette being on strike. This will be open for inspection for 20 days after November 30th.

ORDINANCES TO BE ENACTED

Ord. No. 692: Codification of Reserve Twp. Ordinances (To be enacted Jan. 16th, 2023)

Ord. No. 693: 2023 Budget and Millage Rate (To be enacted Dec. 19th, 2022)

COMMITTEE REPORTS

COMMISSIONER SWEENEY – Commissioner Sweeney brought up the upcoming event, Lunch with Santa, which will be held on December 11th at 1pm. Volunteers are much appreciated for any Township events.

COMMISSIONER VINCENT – None

COMMISSIONER KAIB – Commissioner Kaib extended thanks to Chief Etherington, the Police Department and the VFD for their participation on Halloween night.

COMMISSIONER GIEBEL – Commissioner Giebel asked Chief Etherington why there are 4 Police vehicles for the Township. Chief Etherington stated that it was best to keep the older Police vehicle since it was still in good shape, instead of putting miles on the newer vehicles.

COMMISSIONER NEUROHR - Commissioner Neurohr read the Police report. Commissioner Neurohr took a moment to re-introduce Mia Shores as the Secretary/ Treasurer and introduced the new Manager, Jan Kowalski.

MANAGER'S REPORT – Manager Jan Kowalski introduced herself to the Township residents and informed them of her finance background from Pine Township. Manager Jan Kowalski asked the Commissioners for approval to attend the North Hills Council of Governments Managers Holiday Luncheon with Mia, on December 2nd; all commissioners agreed. Manager Jan Kowalski asked the Commissioners for approval to make the lump-sum payment of \$36,994.34 to the Pittview Slide Loan from WesBanco to make it current; Commissioner John Kaib made the motion to approve the loan payment for WesBanco, with a second from Commissioner Dan Giebel. All in favor. Motion carries.

Manager Jan Kowalski informed the Commissioners of the ALOM Legislative Reception on January 19th, 2023, at the Grand Concourse and the PELRAS Annual Conference in State College, PA March 15th – 17th, 2023 and wanted to know if any Commissioners were interested in attending either event.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT - None

ENGINEER'S REPORT

1. Mr. Taylor was unable to get the Shields invoice for Paving on the agenda and stated that it will be on the agenda for next month.
2. Mr. Taylor brought to the Commissioners attention that Resolution 745-22 CDBG Year 49 Grant Application is based off income from Township surveys and requires 35% participation, which the Township may not qualify for. Mr. Taylor introduced Resolution 748-22 COVID-19 ARPA PA Small Water and Sewer Program Grant. Agenda was amended to reflect the new Resolution within 24 hours. Commissioner John Kaib made the motion to approve the amended agenda and adopt Resolution 748-22 COVID-19 ARPA PA Small Water and Sewer Program Grant, with a second by Commissioner Dan Giebel. All in favor. Motion carries.

GIRTYS RUN REPORT- None

COMMUNICATIONS AND RECOGNITIONS - None

OLD BUSINESS - None

NEW BUSINESS - None

PUBLIC COMMENTS—

Frank Miller – 12 Quail Hill – Mr. Miller raised concerns with what is going on with the Township and why the Police Chief could be possibly leaving.

Melinda Vincent – 200 Joyce Dr – Ms. Vincent, a first responder, spoke on Chief Etherington's behalf and disclosed that due to 25 plus years of service, Chief Etherington deserves respect.

Ronald Shipman Sr. – 3444 Spring Garden Rd – Mr. Shipman spoke of his concerns with the Township regarding previous staff members that left. Mr. Shipman stated that it would be in the best interest for the Commissioners to re-evaluate salaries for Township Departments.

Robert Stephens – 309 Faber St – Mr. Stephens wanted to know if there was still a third-party company helping the Township, or did that service go away? Solicitor Nate Boring stated that a third-party company was not needed since Mia stepped in when the previous staff left. Mr. Stephens raised concerns with where the Police Officers are required to purchase their gasoline for the Police Vehicles, since there is no requirement for Public Works. Mr. Stephens brought up Commissioner Giebel stepping down from Public Safety due to health reasons but heard the Commissioner state something else at the end of the prior meeting and was concerned.

Roger Rech – 2200 Straubs Ln – Mr. Rech informed the Commissioners about the violence and break-ins down by his home and is concerned that it will come up to the Township. Mr. Rech stands by the Police Department since they are knowledgeable of the Township.

Dan Cromeans – 2101 Lonsdale Street – Mr. Cromeans is concerned about paying the Shields invoice for the paving because they have not cleaned up or finished the projects they started. Mr. Cromeans heard that PWSA might be taking over the Township's water department. Solicitor Nate Boring informed Mr. Cromeans that it would only be a trial with PWSA and if they provide adequate service, it could potentially save the Township money with Budget costs. Mr. Cromeans raised his concerns regarding Chief Etherington stating that personnel issues should have been addressed months ago.

Kathryn Burks – 1966 Pittview Ave – Ms. Burks is very concerned with Reserve adopting PWSA, and states that we should not go through with the trial.

Shannon Lynch – 76 Allen Dr. – Ms. Lynch is concerned with PWSA due to the reputation in neighboring municipalities.

Darlene Caveney – 2996 Mt Troy Rd. – Ms. Caveney stated that she worked at the Township office years ago, and when West View was in consideration to take over the water department, nothing could come from it due to not being able to connect properly.

Mary Richard – 24 Fornof Lane – Ms. Richard stated that Reserve Township's Public Works Department has been doing a wonderful job maintaining the water breaks and asks that the Commissioners investigate neighboring communities with PWSA before deciding.

Dale McGlaughlin – Police Officer for Reserve Township – Mr. McGlaughlin spoke on behalf of the Police Chief, James Etherington. Mr. McGlaughlin commended Chief Etherington for his knowledge of the Township, expressing that he is a huge asset to the Community.

Robert Pugar – Police Officer for Reserve Township – Mr. Pugar also spoke on behalf of the Police Chief, James Etherington. Mr. Pugar reassured Mr. Rech that the Police Department will do what it takes to prevent crime from coming into the Township. Mr. Pugar stated that the Police Department operates efficiently, due to Chief Etherington.

Robert Bodnar – Works for local bank in the area – Mr. Bodnar expressed concerns regarding the Police Chief and Police Department and stated that since he works at a neighborhood Bank, he would feel more comfortable with an experienced Officer or the Chief if something were to happen.

James Corr – Police Officer for Reserve Township – Mr. Corr also spoke on behalf of the Police Chief, James Etherington.

Kathy Lynch – 75 Allen Dr – Ms. Lynch asked if the Manager could post the codes and ordinances on the website. Manager Jan Kowalski stated that there is a section up on the website that is current with codes, zoning, and ordinances, located on the left side of the home page.

Ron Neurohr – Commissioner – Mr. Neurohr asked Chief Etherington about their conversation back in March of this year when the discussion started about Chief Etherington possibly leaving the Township. Chief Etherington stated that due to the support of the Reserve Township residents, he has decided he wants to continue being the Chief of Police for Reserve Township.

EXT PUBLIC MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT – Mr. Neurohr announced the next public meeting would be on Monday, December 19th, 2022, at 7PM.

ADJOURNMENT – There being no further business to discuss, Commissioner Neurohr requested a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Dan Giebel motioned to adjourn with a second by Commissioner John Kaib. All in favor.

The meeting adjourned at 8:00 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Mia Shores, Secretary