

**TOWNSHIP OF RESERVE MINUTES OF THE
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
MARCH 18, 2024**

CALL TO ORDER

Commissioner Neurohr called the meeting to order on March 18, 2024, at 7:00 PM.

ROLL CALL

Commissioner Neurohr asked Secretary Shores to call the roll as follows:

PRESENT: Commissioner Sharon Sweeney, Commissioner Rob Stephens, Commissioner John Kaib, Commissioner Ed Vincent VIA Zoom, Commissioner Ron Neurohr VIA Zoom, Manager Jan Kowalski, Solicitor Nate Boring and Engineer Gordon Taylor

ALSO, PRESENT: Approximately 10 visitors

Commissioner Neurohr asked that the Board open the meeting with a moment of silence for the passing of long-time resident, Al Hacke. Al Hacke was a long-time resident of Reserve Township and was well respected.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Commissioner Ron Neurohr reported the Board of Commissioners held an Executive Session tonight at 6:00 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.

PUBLIC COMMENTS—

Members of the public wishing to speak should indicate such on the sign-in sheet when entering the meeting room. Anyone speaking on a non-agenda item may do so during the public comment period. Anyone speaking on an agenda item will be recognized at the appropriate time.

Per Resolution 612:

- *Speakers are limited to five (5) minutes.*
- *If more than one member of the public is here to speak on a particular topic, please designate one individual to represent the group.*
- *All comments shall be directed to the presiding officer.*
- *Any person making offensive, insulting, or threatening remarks may be removed.*

Commissioner Neurohr announced that there were 2 representatives from Allegheny County, Brent Wasko Public Information Officer for the Department of Public Works, and Ken Urbanec Assistant Program Manager of Roads Engineering to speak during Public Comment to address any questions or concerns regarding the Mount Troy Road Construction.

Mr. Urbanec, the Engineer, stated that there are railroad ties (crib wall) holding up that part of Mount Troy Road and they are falling apart. Mr. Urbanec stated that they were unable to keep one lane open due to the activity of the heavy equipment, and they want to get this project done quickly.

Joshua Simon – 3214 Mount Troy Rd. – Mr. Simon stated that he is concerned about trash pick-up in the area. Manager Kowalski said that she spoke with the Vice President of County Hauling, and she stated that trash would have to be taken to Kinkura Dr., but Ridgelawn Cemetery would be closer.

The Vice President thought that the truck would be able to go through the construction zone, but Mr. Urbanec stated that the road will be getting a drain installed and there will be a gap in the roadway making it unsafe for anyone to travel over. Mr. Wasko stated that his initial thought was that the garbage truck would be able to turn around at the gravel drive at 3201 Mount Troy Road.

Mr. Simon stated that he had previously spoken with Mr. Wasko about moving the Road Closed sign due to traffic using his driveway as a turn-around and many people trying to go through the closure. Mr. Wasko stated that the Closed sign was placed there due to drainage being put in at some point during the project and that will be an active work site.

Mr. Simon asked why it took 4 years for Allegheny County to do something about issues and why the project couldn't wait until June when school was out. Mr. Urbanec stated that he had tried to get this project started for the past 2 years, but they were delayed with property acquisition issues and eventually had to use eminent domain. Mr. Wasko stated that it was a safety risk because the wall had deteriorated so much, the engineers didn't know if the wall would hold until June.

George Shelly – 2063 Pittview Ave. – Mr. Shelly asked Mr. Urbanec if they will be able to maintain the width of the road when the project is complete. Mr. Urbanec responded that all Allegheny County roads right of way are 33 feet wide and that will be maintained.

Ken Vybiral – 2439 Arlington St. – Mr. Vybiral expressed concern that the road closed sign at Spring Garden and Mt. Troy Rd. is blocking the view for drivers to see if a car is coming from the right and there is a car that is parked to the left, blocking the view to safely pull out of Spring Garden Rd. Mr. Wasko explained that the sign needs to stay due to PennDOT regulations. Mr. Wasko stated that he will investigate possibly removing the middle post, making it easier to see traffic coming from the right. Commissioner Stephens asked about possibly putting in a temporary 3-way stop sign at that intersection. Mr. Wasko stated that he will look into this and be in touch with Manager Kowalski.

Karen Krenn – 2044 E. Beckert Ave. – Ms. Krenn asked Mr. Urbanec if Allegheny County was doing the construction to Mount Troy Road or if a contractor was. Mr. Urbanec stated that a contractor was doing the construction work. Ms. Krenn asked if there was an incentive if they completed the work early. Mr. Urbanec stated that there is a fixed fee for the job, and they do not want to drag it out. Mr. Wasko added that they do have to finish the work by the contract end date, or there will be liquidated damages.

Paul Beck – 408 Kinkura Dr. – Mr. Beck stated that his issue is with a Halloween decoration that his neighbor hasn't taken down, despite his numerous requests. Mr. Beck is asking if there is an ordinance or anything that can be done to have them take it down. Mr. Boring stated that there is not anything that can be done. Unfortunately, since there is not a Homeowners Association, it is their right to put a decoration in their yard.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

Commissioner Sweeney made the motion to approve the Consent Agenda, with a second by Commissioner Stephens. All in favor. Motion carries.

RESOLUTIONS TO BE ADOPTED

Resolution #777 Update to Civil Service Rules and Regulations – Seeking motion to adopt Resolution #777 amending certain sections of the Reserve Township Civil Service Rules and Regulations. Commissioner Stephens made the motion to approve Resolution #777 Update to Civil Service Rules and Regulations, with a second by Commissioner Kaib. Manager Kowalski stated that a few of the changes are the applicant must live within 30 minutes of any Reserve Township border, an update to

the agility testing and for eligibility to apply for promotional rank, must be employed as a full-time Police Officer for 5 years, 3 of which are with Reserve Township, with no unpaid suspensions in the previous 2 years. All in favor. Motion carries.

ORDINANCES TO BE INTRODUCED – None

ORDINANCES TO BE ENACTED – None

COMMITTEE REPORTS

PUBLIC SAFETY CHAIR JOHN KAIB – Commissioner Kaib read the Police Report. Commissioner Stephens read the VFD Report. Commissioner Neurohr asked Chief Morgan if he had anything to add. Chief Morgan stated there was nothing more to add.

PUBLIC WORKS CHAIR ED VINCENT – Manager Kowalski read the Public Works report due to Commissioner Vincent not having access while in Zoom.

FINANCE CHAIR SHARON SWEENEY – Commissioner Sweeney stated that the Township is waiting for the results from the Audit in February.

RECREATION CHAIR SHARON SWEENEY – Commissioner Sweeney announced that the Easter event is next Sunday March 24, 2024. Commissioner Sweeney stated that the Recreation Committee has received many donations towards this event, and they are very appreciative.

PUBLIC RELATIONS/ INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS CHAIR RON NEUROHR – Commissioner Neurohr thanked Manager Kowalski for having Allegheny County Representatives Brent and Ken, at the meeting tonight to give updates on the Mount Troy Road construction.

MANAGER'S REPORT – Manager Kowalski stated that the Township had an opportunity to apply for a Community Economic Assistance Grant through Lindsay Powell's office in the amount of \$50,000 to pay for the Township's share of the Logan Street retaining wall and for 3 more speed signs for the Police Department to put on Pittview and throughout the Township. Manager Kowalski received notification Monday morning that the Township was awarded the Grant.

Manager Kowalski stated that Clean Up Day will take place on Saturday May 4, 2024, and there will be an online sign-up sheet for volunteers. Manager Kowalski said that Michael Brothers has agreed to do a special clean up project and asked the Township to choose a place and they will spend the day cleaning that area.

Manager Kowalski stated that she attended the 1st Tri-COG Landbank meeting, and the good news is they have already approved moving forward with Sheriff Sale Acquisitions for 4 properties in Reserve Township, that are vacant, delinquent and blighted.

Manager Kowalski announced that the Police holding cell is now complete and looks great. Manager Kowalski extended a thank you to Public Works for completing the project in house. Also, the old Police vehicle, 2014 Ford, is the new Code Enforcement vehicle and the old Code Enforcement vehicle, 2010 Ford, sold on Municibid for \$3,100.

Manager Kowalski added that she was asked by the Shaler Area High School Honors US Government Teacher to speak on Local Government on April 10th to the class, and she is honored to go and talk about Local Government.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT – None

ENGINEER'S REPORT – Mr. Taylor reported that authorization to advertise for bids on the upcoming projects in New Business (West Beckert Storm Sewer Improvement Project and 2024 Road Paving Program) is needed and the specifications for the 2024 Road Paving Program have been sent to Shaler Township and they will put the project out to bid. Mr. Taylor stated that the Township should see offers as soon as April for the project.

Mr. Taylor stated that the advertisement for bids for the Annual CCTV Inspection Work were scheduled to open late March, but that will be pushed back to April.

Mr. Taylor stated that speed bumps have been requested on Pittview Ave. and Logan Street to slow down traffic. Commissioner Kaib mentioned that there are removable speed bumps that would work best for the winter months with plowing the snow. Manager Kowalski stated that the speed bumps are in response to multiple requests for when Logan Street opens, and how the Township will control traffic on Pittview Ave. Manager Kowalski stated that it may be a good idea for the residents to get a petition together, showing that at least 70% of them are in favor of the speed bumps.

GIRTYS RUN REPORT – No representative from Girty's Run Joint Sanitary Authority was present.

COMMUNICATIONS AND RECOGNITIONS – Secretary Shores stated that Manager Kowalski received an email on Tuesday March 12, 2024, from Brent Wasko, the Public Information Officer with Allegheny County:

"Hi, Jan,

We saw the story on KDKA about drivers going around the signs and barriers.

Thank you again for being so patient and understanding about this project and for handling all of these media inquiries so well. We also are very appreciative of the immense help that the township has provided in keeping drivers and our contractor's crews safe during this closure.

To further help prevent drivers from reaching the work zone, we are going to place an excavator in the middle of the road after crews are finished working each day.

Hopefully, drivers will adjust to the closure soon and this won't be an issue much longer.

Let me know if you think there's anything more on our end we can do to improve the situation.

Brent Wasko

Public Information Officer"

OLD BUSINESS – None

NEW BUSINESS –

- Motion to approve Terms of Employment Agreement for new Chief of Police, Brandon Morgan, setting the annualized 2024 compensation at \$87,551. Commissioner Sweeney made the motion to approve the terms of Employment Agreement for new Chief of Police, Brandon Morgan, setting the annualized 2024 compensation at \$87,551, with a second by Commissioner Stephens. All in favor. Motion carries.

- Motion to direct the Civil Service Commission to begin the process of identifying and recommending a candidate for the position of Police Sergeant. Commissioner Stephens made the motion to direct the Civil Service Commission to begin the process of identifying and recommending a candidate for the position of Police Sergeant, with a second by Commissioner Vincent. All in favor. Motion carries.
- Motion to authorize advertisement for bids for West Beckert Storm Sewer Improvement Project. Commissioner Sweeney made the motion to authorize advertisement for bids for the West Beckert Storm Sewer Improvement Project, with a second by Commissioner Kaib. All in favor. Motion carries.
- Motion to authorize advertisement for bids for the 2024 Road Paving Program (to be bid jointly with Shaler Township). Commissioner Stephens made the motion to authorize advertisement for bids for the 2024 Road Paving Program, with a second by Commissioner Sweeney. All in favor. Motion carries.

NEXT PUBLIC MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT – Mr. Neurohr announced the next public meeting would be on Monday, April 15, 2024, at 7 P.M.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 7:49 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Mia Shores, Secretary