

HICKORY TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
March 6, 2023

The regular monthly meeting of the Hickory Township Board of Supervisors held at the Hickory Township Municipal Building was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Chairman, Michael E. Hall.

Supervisors Present: Michael R. Hall
Christopher J. Fabian
William W. Dean

Staff Present: Jason Medure, Esquire – Solicitor
Lisa Schlemmer - Secretary/Treasurer
Randall A. Cook, Jr., Police Chief

Other Attendees: Dave Stanford Tom McCormick, Jr.
Josh Latore Rich Alley
Kathy Abranovich

Supervisor Dean made a motion to accept the February 6th regular meeting minutes without correction. Motion was seconded by Supervisor Fabian. All in favor. Motion carried.

The February Treasurer's Report was read. Supervisor Dean made a motion to pay the current bills, payroll and all regular and incoming bills. Motion was seconded by Supervisor Fabian. All in favor. Motion carried.

Report of Police Activities for February was offered by Chief Cook. There were 28 total incidents noted which were comprised of the following: 5 administrative; 3 false alarms; 1 animal complaint; 2 medical assists; 1 assist other police department; 1 domestic disturbance (non-violent); 1 overdose death; 1 patrol; 5 property checks; 1 road conditions; 5 traffic warnings; 1 vehicle maintenance; 1 welfare check

Building Permits:

Applicant	Address	Proposed Improvement
Michael Goddard	2407 Eastbrook Road	Solar panel array on garage roof
Angelic & Brandon Manifrang	632 Rich Drive	New home construction w/attached garage

Announcements: The SR 168 bridge replacement project over Hottenbaugh Run in Eastbrook is underway. The bridge will be closed from March 6, 2023 through September 14, 2023 or completion. Drivers are encouraged to use the actual detour route consisting of state routes. Truck traffic is prohibited on Devil's Elbow Road due to the compromised pipe. The Hickory Township Police Department has been directed to increase patrol activity in the area to mitigate issues such as speeding and traffic.

East Palestine, OH train derailment: Please see the PEMA Train Derailment Dashboard online at <https://www.pema.pa.gov/derailment> for information and updates.

Spotted Lantern Fly: Lawrence County has been officially named a quarantine county. Residents and business should be aware that there are restrictions on transporting many materials across county and state lines. Permits are required. Please visit the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture or Penn State Extension websites for detailed information.

Public Comments: Dave Stanford complained about the condition of the Venasco/Doneluck properties located on Harlansburg Road and inquired about condemning the rental house. Stanford stated that racoons and cats are getting into his garbage and he believes they are coming from those lots. Supervisor Hall advised of the steps that have been taken by the Township and provided insight about the future of the commercial lot. The Zoning Officer touched upon the options being explored to take further action.

Tom McCormick complained about VFD coverage for the annual Lights Fest held at the Lawrence County Fairgrounds. The lanterns used by the event organizers are totally biodegradable. However, rather than buy a ticket to attend the Lights Fest, people are flooding the Laurel School District parking lot on the night of the event to set off their own non-biodegradable lanterns that contain metal framing. The remnants land on the school roof, in fields, lawns and all over Laurel School District property. The Hickory VFD wants this stopped. McCormick was advised to contact the Laurel

School District about public trespassing during the Light Fest event. The Township has no control over this matter. McCormick also asked if the Township could shut down S.R. 108 during the Lights Fest event. Supervisor Fabian stated that S.R. 108 is a PennDOT road under the control of the Commonwealth, not the Township. McCormick would need to submit a request to PennDOT to secure a proper permit for any road closure.

Tom McCormick asked if the Hickory Township Police Department had a standard operating manual for active shooters. Chief Cook confirmed that they have the standard operating manual for active shooters as provided by the Lawrence County District Attorney's Office. McCormick stated that he has decided to undertake writing a standard operating manual for the Hickory Township VFD. He requested a copy of the standard operating manual from the Hickory PD to incorporate. Solicitor Medure offered guidance on drafting a manual.

Tom McCormick asked if the Township had a standard operating manual for a pandemic response. Supervisor Fabian advised that the Township follows and is under the direction of the County. The Supervisors advised McCormick to contact Tina Marshall at Lawrence County LEOC with any further questions in that regard.

Old Business: Quotes for roadside tree trimming were received from Marshall Tree Experts Inc., Richardson Tree & Landscape and Fagan Tree Service. Trees will be trimmed back to the edge of the Township right-of-way in a 90° angle with the sky, up to 62 feet high. All brush will be clipped. All cut wood will be left along the roadside. Supervisor Fabian made a motion to accept the bid of Marshall Tree Experts Inc. in the amount of \$18,000.00 to trim Section 3 of Lakewood Neshannock Falls Road. Motion seconded by Supervisor Dean. All in favor. Motion carried.

New Business: Supervisor Dean made a motion to continue participation in the annual COSTARS Sodium Chloride Contract for period of August 2023 – July 2024 with an estimated salt order of 100 short tons. Motion was seconded by Supervisor Hall. All in favor. Motion carried.

The Finley Lot Consolidation Plan was reviewed as submitted. Said Plan had been reviewed and approved by the Planning Commission on February 16, 2023. Supervisor Dean made a motion to accept The Finley Plan. Supervisor Fabian seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion carried.

Supervisor Dean made a motion to approve the tax exoneration of Matthew and Sharon Reeher in accordance with Lawrence County Tax Assessment Resolution #37111 dated February 1, 2023. Motion was seconded by Supervisor Hall. All in favor. Motion carried.

Supervisor Fabian made a motion to appoint Jeff Hardy to fill the vacancy of Marlene Stewart on the Hickory Township Planning Commission. Motion was seconded by Supervisor Dean. All in favor. Motion carried.

The Lawrence County Fair requested letters of approval for Special Occasion Permits to sell alcohol at various events held at the Lawrence County Fairgrounds in 2023. Supervisor Fabian made a motion to issue letters of approval for the following events: Monster Truck Live on Saturday, May 13th; Lights Fest on Saturday May 20th; and the Lawrence County Fair from August 14th–19th. Motion was seconded by Supervisor Dean. All in favor. Motion carried.

The Coachmen Club requested a letter of approval to secure a Special Occasion Permit to sell alcohol at their annual gun raffle event at the Lawrence County Fairgrounds on June 24, 2023. Supervisor Dean made a motion to issue the approval letter as requested. Motion was seconded by Supervisor Fabian. All in favor. Motion carried.

Supervisor Hall advised that the Township building had experienced issues with the internet and security systems, both of which had been serviced within the past week.

The Township continues to await delivery of the 2023 dump truck that was ordered in September 2021. Supervisor Hall was advised that the truck has finally been placed in line for production. Estimates on chassis completion are July 2023. Upon the dealership's receipt of the chassis, it will be transported to US Municipal to be outfitted for municipal use.

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:26 P.M. was made by Supervisor Hall and seconded by Supervisor Fabian. All in favor. Motion carried.