

## **July 27, 2020 Meeting Minutes- held at the Mahoning Township Building**

**Members of the Board present:** Chairman Bill Lynn, Supervisors, Larry Robertson, TS Scott, John Whelan, Solicitor Jon DeWald, Treasurer Ken Houck, Zoning Officer Dean VonBlohn, DSI Lead Lloyd Craig & Police Chief Fred Dyroff

**Present via Audio-Video** –, Fire Chief Leslie Young, Geri Gibbons - Press Enterprise, Secretary Carolyn Dragano & Zoning Officer Jim Dragano

ALL VOTING WILL BE CONSIDERED UNANIMOUS UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED.

The meeting started with the group saying the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **Police Chief Fred Dyroff gave his report and discussed:**

Chief Dyroff would like to make Officer Cody Clossen a permanent full-time police officer as of August 1, 2020. Cody was hired in August 2019 and has been on a probation since that time. By all accounts, Officer Clossen received laudatory comments and has proven he is worthy of being retained as a permanent full-time officer with the Mahoning Township Police Department. **Supervisor Scott motioned to retain Officer Codi Clossen. Supervisor Whelan seconded. Motion passed.**

Chief Dyroff said since the calls for defunding police, he would like to enhance public and officer safety by ordering Body-worn cameras from WatchGuard, the manufacturer of our in-car video cameras/system. He knows this was not in the 2020 budget but thinks it's extremely important. He contacted three other providers of Body-worn cameras. None of them could provide equipment compatible with our current system. Chief Dyroff said the WatchGuard Manufacturer software and licensing, server upgrades via MEPUSH and installation charges would not exceed \$17,815.00. He said the use of the BWC equipment enables the Department to accomplish many objectives including, but not limited to, the following:

- a. Enhance officer safety.
- b. Improved documentation of events, actions, conditions, and statements made during incidents.
- c. Documentation of evidence and scenes.
- d. Enhanced reports preparation and improved court testimony.
- e. Improved training capabilities.
- f. Protection against false accusations of misconduct.
- g. Improve accountability.
- h. Preserving documentation of member-citizen interactions

**Because of safety, Supervisor Whelan motioned to authorize the police chief to proceed with ordering the cameras at a cost not to exceed \$17,815.00. Supervisor Scott seconded. Motion passed.**

### **Engineer Drew Barton discussed:**

Drew opened bids at 5pm, for the Culvert removal behind the Galera Restaurant. After reviewing the bids, Drew would like to recommend awarding bid to the lowest responsible bidder, RC Young for \$239,239.00.

- Mitchell Knorr Contracting - \$114,033.82 – Contractor retracted his bid.
- Robert C. Young - \$239,239.00
- Columbia Excavating LLC – \$242,000.00
- Glen O. Hawbaker Inc. - \$267,000.00
- Sikora Brothers Inc. - \$458,325.00

**Supervisor Whelan motioned to accept the bid from RC Young for the culvert rebuild in the amount of \$239,239.00, conditional upon the engineer reviewing all the bidder's paperwork in conjunction with the bid requirements. Supervisor Robertson seconded. Motion passed.** Drew said the bonding, the certification and the acknowledgement are all there, but he will still make an itemized list calculation.

Drew discussed applying for the Flood Mitigation Grant for all the improvements at Whisper Hills Storm Water System. Drew said the grant application must include the cost estimate of \$446,762.17, along with the resolution, with a 15% match requirement. **Supervisor Robertson motioned to pass the resolution of Mahoning Township Montour County to request a Flood Mitigation Program Grant of \$446,762.17 (which includes 15% match from Mahoning Township), from Commonwealth Financing Authority to be used for Whisper Hills Water Shed Study, with Chairman Lynn and Vice-Chairman Robertson, to assist in obtaining the grant request. Supervisor Scott seconded. Motion passed.**

Drew discussed the Multimodal Grant he applied for that is still outstanding for PennDOT asked if we want to apply for the CFA Grant, for Bloom Road, which has a deadline of July 31, 2020. This grant does not require a match; however, it would be a good idea to match 20%. **Supervisor Robertson moved to apply for the Multimodal Grant for \$1,078,704.00 with a 20% match from Mahoning Township. Supervisor Scott seconded. Motion passed.**

Drew said everything is going well with the Bald Top project. They finished the nailing and are installing the Techno Mat across the front of the fencing. Everything falls in line with the schedule of completing on August 8<sup>th</sup>. The road reconstruction bids are in the paper today. Drew & Lloyd think it would be better to change the completion date of the Hydro Seeding to a later date, due to dry weather. **Supervisor Scott motioned to extend the milestone of the seeding to September 15, 2020. Supervisor Robertson seconded. Motion passed.**

**Zoning Officer Dean VonBlohn discussed:**

Zoning Officer Dean said he sent out a notice of violation and correction to the property owner of 722 Bloom Road across the culvert, for foundation and structure issues at 726 Bloom Road. The size has doubled from the last time they were in and took photos on the main part of the wall on the east side. There are two sections with similar cracks that are protruding out into the stream bed. Also, improper installation of the decking that was extended. They used the concrete structure as part of the foundation and built on top of it. Dean said he talked with Drew about getting a structural engineer in to inspect also, since he is seeing it from the zoning side and would prefer having it checked from the engineering side as well. Supervisor Scott said that although he agrees with Dean, that he wants to wait to see what happens first before involving a structural engineer. Solicitor Jon agreed.

**Treasurer Ken Houck gave his report at the last meeting but discussed:**

Ken talked with County Commissioner Ken Holdren, who said with the series of grants obtained, the county would pay the fire dept's bill for the new radios and asked if Mahoning would pay the police dept's bill in full now, rather than lease it for 10 years. We would also save \$8938 in interest. **Supervisor Scott motioned that we follow the recommendations of the treasurer and pay the police radios in full now to save the interest over time. Supervisor Whelan seconded. Motion passed.**

**Solicitor Jon DeWald discussed:**

Solicitor Jon said he has the signed easement agreements from the relevant landowners for the Bunker project. **Supervisor Scott motioned to authorize the chairman to execute the two Easement Agreements. Chairman Robertson seconded. Motion passed.**

Solicitor Jon said they will advertise for the Police Services Agreement Ordinance with Cooper Township, so this agreement can be formalized at the next meeting.

**Supervisor Whelan motioned to authorize Solicitor Jon to advertise the police services ordinance with Cooper Township. Supervisor Robertson seconded. Motion passed.**

**Supervisor Scott motioned that we make the Police Services Contract with Cooper township retroactive, once adopted, to July 30, 2020. Supervisor Robertson seconded. Motion passed.**

**Zoning Officer Dean VonBlohn** briefly discussed an angry resident at 136 Heather Hills, having issues with selling his home because of the slow construction progress of the home restoration, next door to him.

Dean said they were advised by the County Assessor's office that they aren't getting the zoning and building reports as quickly as they want. Dean said that his partner, Jim Dragano has been working with Jim Arms from Dallas Data Systems on the software, trying to resolve these report issues. Jim Dragano said they do have a format made up with Jim Arms and that it should be working in a day or two. He also thanked the supervisors for helping with the police support in Cooper Township.

Dean said there is a Joint Planning Commission meeting will be on August 3, 2020. There are two Cooper Township projects.

**DSI Lloyd Craig gave his report and discussed:**

Lloyd asked Drew if he was working with Liberty Township. Drew said they surveyed and videotaped the survey. Lloyd said this will change our sign placements in Liberty Township.

Lloyd questioned the permits for zoning. He wanted clarity on what the signs should read. Chairman Lynn said the signs should read "Permits Required".

Lloyd said Bloom & Academy camera & timing work will be done by mid-August.

Lloyd said there are cracked pipe issues near North Crestwood. He wants permission to get a contractor in to see what needs to be done and then to get prices. The supervisors approved Lloyd to proceed – no motion required.

Lloyd said they will fix the swale on Linden Lane.

Supervisor Scott wants Drew to survey for the rights-of-way for a possible extension of Linden Lane to Red Lane. Solicitor Jon said his office has copies of the deeds for the affected properties. There was a 50ft private road that was never dedicated to the township.

**Fire Chief Leslie Young - gave her report last meeting**

Chairman Lynn said they had one Special Emergency meeting on Saturday, July 18<sup>th</sup>, 2020, concerning cancelation of Dumpster Day, due to the Governor's new orders.

**Chairman Lynn asked for Public comment related to unfinished or new business: No comment.**

Chairman Lynn discussed issues with Yard Waste. He said the amount of brush can consist of only a maximum of 5 bag pile. No truck loads. Lynn said, no one should be calling in for an entire street, please call for your own residence.

Chairman Lynn discussed moving the No Parking Signs, near Ardmoo Ave, due to a site problem. Bill is going to look at this again and Solicitor Jon will review this issue more by reviewing the ordinance.

**Chairman Lynn asked for Public comment not related to new business: No Comment**

**Supervisor Whelan motioned to pay the bills and adjourn. Supervisor Robertson seconded. Motion passed.**

This meeting was recorded. These minutes reflect the events and dialog during the meeting but are not transcribed verbatim.

All Reports are available at the Township Building

Carolyn Dragano  
Secretary