

The regular monthly meeting of the Board of Supervisors of Independence Township was held on Wednesday, December 15, 2022, at the Independence Township Community Center social hall. The meeting was called to order at 4:05 pm by Chairman Dan McLaughlin and the assembly stood for the pledge of allegiance to the United States flag.

ROLL CALL

Present were Supervisors Dan McLaughlin, Wayne Potts, and John Fratangeli. Secretary, Debra Shaffer, Police Chief Lance Malobabich and Solicitor, Curt McMillen were also present.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS

There was no public comment on any agenda item.

MINUTES

The Minutes of the November 9, 2022, meeting was approved with a motion by J. Fratangeli and second by W. Potts. Motion carried.

TREASURER’S REPORT

The Treasurer’s report and bill list were approved with a motion by W. Potts and second by J. Fratangeli. Motion carried.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

The Police, Road Department and Fire Department monthly reports were accepted with a motion by J. Fratangeli and second by W. Potts. Motion carried.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

NONE

NEW BUSINESS

A motion was made to add approval of a revised MMO sheet provided by PMRS. There was a clerical error in the original MMO so a new one was provided for informational purposes only. J. Fratangeli made a motion to execute/approve the revised MMO and D. McLaughlin second the motion. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION 8 OF 2022 – FINAL 2023 BUDGET

J. Fratangeli made a motion to adopt the 2023 final budget after the public review period as prepared. W. Potts second the motion. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION 9 OF 2022 – TAX LEVY

W. Potts made a motion to Adopt the 2022 Tax Levy which holds the township tax millage at 12.5. J. Fratangeli second the motion. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION #10 OF 2022 – WAIVER OF 5% PMRS CONTRIBUTION FOR LT. VILLA

W. Potts made a motion to Adopt Resolution #10 of 2022 which waives the required 5% contribution to PMRS for Lt. Villa’s pension. J. Fratangeli second the motion. Motion carried.

MOTION TO ACCEPT AND EXECUTE EMPLOYMENT AGREEMENTS

J. Fratangeli made a motion to accept and execute the employment agreements for the Police Department for 2023. The contracts remain the same with a 3.5% pay increase. W. Potts second the motion. Motion carried.

MOTION TO ACCEPT AND EXECUTE FIREWORKS CONTRACT

W. Potts made a motion to accept and execute the 2023 IDC fireworks contract. The contract will have a slight increase and will be approximately \$6,000. The 2023 Independence Day of Celebration will be held on Saturday, July 8, 2023, from 5 – 10 p.m. J. Fratangeli second the motion. Motion carried.

DISCUSSION ON PROPERTY COMPLAINTS

Secretary Debra Shaffer has received several property complaints from residents. Each complaint was discussed and the complaints at 180 Swiontek Road, 120C Village Road and 130 Rose Lane all violate the nuisance ordinance, and it was agreed that a certified letter should be sent to each resident giving them the opportunity to correct the issue. The complaint regarding a resident that has numerous dogs that were kept outside and barked constantly was discussed. Chairman McLaughlin stated that these are coon hounds that the owner regularly uses to hunt, the owner has lived in the same premises for 33 years and has always had these dogs and although he understands that they do bark constantly, he does not want to start regulating animal behavior in an agricultural zone. Supervisor Potts stated that he has been on both sides of a situation similar, and animals are a part of living in the country. It could be any other animal also and he does not want to open a can of worms that he believes will have a domino effect. All supervisors understood the resident that complained agreed to send the dog owner a letter seeing if there can be any resolution without passing laws. Solicitor McMillen did that that the Township would need to update its nuisance ordinance to add dogs for there to be any recourse if that is what the Board wanted to do. He has seen some townships have the ordinance and some do not, but mostly rural townships do not. D. McLaughlin made a motion to send the letters out and W. Potts second the motion. Motion carried.

DISCUSSION ON DIGITAL COACH PROGRAM AND THE INDEPENDENCE TOWNSHIP COMMUNITY CENTER

Secretary Debra Shaffer gave the Board an overview of what this program would entail. Primarily it would be part of a network of publicly accessible spaces to host a digital navigator program called “Digital Coach” to help residents gain the skills and confidence necessary to benefit from the many resources and opportunities the internet provides. This will be solely run by the County and Independence would only provide the space that residents of Beaver County could go to receive this benefit. The board agreed that

this would be okay. D. McLaughlin made a motion to approve and W. Potts second the motion
Motion carried.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The following public announcements were made:

- Office Closed December 26 - Christmas
- Office Closed January 2 – New Years
- Reorganization Meeting – Tuesday, January 3rd @ 4 p.m.
- Auditor Reorganization Meeting – Wednesday, January 4th @ 5 p.m.
- Recycle weekend is Fri., Jan. 6th & Sat., Jan. 7th

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 4:35 pm with a motion by J. Fratangeli and second by W. Potts.
Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Debra J. Shaffer, Secretary/Treasurer