

**SOUTH STRABANE TOWNSHIP  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS REGULAR MEETING**

**November 21, 2023**

**APPROVED MEETING MINUTES**

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The November 21, 2023, Regular Meeting of the South Strabane Township Board of Supervisors (“Board”) came to order at 7:00 p.m. in the Meeting Room of the Municipal Building (550 Washington Road, Washington, PA 15301).

The following were present:

Board of Supervisors	Mark Murphy, Vice Chair; Russell Grego; Richard Luketich; and Bob Weber.
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Absent	Bracken Burns, Chair
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Also Present	Township Manager Jeff Ziegler; Fire Chief Jordan Cramer; Township Solicitor from Dennis Makel’s office and Township Engineer Rob Horvat.
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**2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Vice-Chair Murphy led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**3. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Vice-Chair Murphy stated the Board allocates a period of time during this item for those individuals who would like the opportunity to address the Board. Each person addressing the Board of Supervisors is asked to limit their comments to a maximum of three (3) minutes.

Mr. Jeff Bull, resident of Main St., stated that he wanted to make one last plea to the Board of Supervisors to change the zoning of the Laboratory school property before it is too late. He also stated that he heard a rumor that Bracken Burns had resigned from the Board of Supervisors, and he asked if this is true. Vice-Chair Murphy stated that is a personnel matter and the Board would not be commenting on the matter.

Spencer Dietrich, resident of Eastpointe requested that the Board help him with a drainage project that he wants to undertake in his back yard. Specifically, he stated that he would like to pipe in the drainage swale in his back yard. He stated that two (2) of his neighbors have already done this in recent years. Township Engineer Horvatz stated that he did a site visit with Troy Lucas of the Building Department. He stated that the swale under discussion is part of the approved stormwater plan for the development and he does not recommend “piping it in.” Discussion followed. Mr. Dietrich stated he will assume the cost of the work and will be willing to have his engineer design something. The Board directed Mr. Dietrich to get a hold of the Township Manager at the office to discuss.

#### **4. CONSIDERATION OF MEETING MINUTES**

Mr. Luketich moved to approve the October 19, 2023, Meeting Minutes Mr. Weber seconded the motion. The motion passed on a unanimous voice vote.

Mr. Luketich moved to approve the October 24, 2023, Regular Meeting Minutes. Mr. Weber seconded the motion. The motion passed on a unanimous voice vote.

#### **5. FINANCIAL BUSINESS**

- Payroll: \$ 128,938.84 (pay date of October 20, 2023)
- Payroll: \$ 132,461.59 (pay date of November 3, 2023)
- General Fund: \$ 196,920.09
- Liquid Fuels Fund: \$ 11,011.96
- Escrow \$ 13,120.41
- Sewage Enterprise: \$ 273.87

**Total Expenditure: \$ 482,726.76**

- Overtime costs for the period include:
  - Police: \$ 4,007.25
  - Fire: \$ 2,063.97
  - Public Works: \$ 323.44

**Total OT: \$ 6,394.66 (pay date of October 20, 2023)**

- Police: \$ 5,306.75
- Fire: \$ 219.87
- Public Works: \$ 0.00

**Total OT: \$ 5,526.62 (pay date of November 3, 2023)**

General Fund:

- KS State Bank - John Deere 524L Wheel Loader      \$ 45,970.99
- Municipal Employees Insurance Trust                      \$ 55,896.16

Reports and Documents Attached:

- Expenses by Vendor Summary and Detail for the Period; and
- Police, Fire and Public Works Overtime Analysis for pay October 20, 2023 and
- Police, Fire and Public Works Overtime Analysis for pay November 3, 2023.

Mr. Luketich moved to approve the payroll for the periods October 1, 2023, through October 14, 2023, and October 15, 2023, through October 28, 2023, and bills for the period October 21, 2023, through November 17, 2023. Mr. Grego seconded the motion. The motion passed on a unanimous voice vote.

#### **6. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND RECOGNITION**

Vice-Chair Murphy announced that the Board met in Executive Session on October 21, 2023, to obtain advice of legal counsel.

## **7. TOWNSHIP REPORTS & PRESENTATIONS**

### **Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) Report**

Vice-Chair Murphy stated the Board of Supervisors allocates a period of time during this item for comments regarding the topic of stormwater. Each person addressing the Board of Supervisors is asked to limit their comments to a maximum of three minutes.

There were no comments at this time.

### **Township Manager's Report**

Mr. Ziegler reminded everyone that the December Township meeting will take place on December 12th due to the Christmas holiday. Mr. Ziegler wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

### **Secretary/Treasurer's Report**

Mr. Ziegler noted that the following was transmitted to the Board through the Secretary/Treasurer's Report:

### **Minutes and Agendas:**

a) N/A

### **Reports and Publications:**

- a) Finance Report - October 2023;
- b) Building Department/Code Enforcement Report – October 2023;
- c) Police Department Report – October 2023;
- d) Tax Collector's Report & Interim Collection Only – October 2023;
- e) Township Engineer's Report – October 24, 2023;
- f) Animal Control Monthly Report – October 2023;
- g) OR, Article "Arrive Alive" – October 8, 2023;
- h) DODGE Data & Analytics – October 2023; and
- i) Newsletter, PAWC replacing water line on Wren Way. – November 2023;
- j) PSATS Education and Training for PA's Municipal Leaders – November 2023; and
- k) PennDOT, Moving Forward – Fall 2023.

### **Correspondence:**

- a) Letter dated October 23, 2023, from Sara Rose, Deputy Legal Director of ACLU of PA, regarding Resolution 21-23 about the Public Comment at Public Meetings;
- b) Letter dated October 25, 2023, from Jeff Ziegler to Senator Bartolotta, regarding support for Senate Bill 210 and SB 525;
- c) Letter dated October 27, 2023, from 46th District, Senator Camera Bartolotta to Robert Griffin, Ex. Director of the RAWC regarding their full support on the Berry Road Eval. Project;
- d) Letter dated October 27, 2023, from Jeff Ziegler to Jodi Derrow regarding the upcoming Annual Pancake Reunion;
- e) Email dated October 27, 2023, from Nicole Baculik of Tanger Outlets thanking the Township for the Property Beautification Award;
- f) Memo dated November 2, 2023, from Sgt. Ryan Hoffman regarding the request for Financial Reimbursement on Commercial Treadmill;

- g) Letters dated November 3, 2023, from Jeff Ziegler to the six appointed Park and Recreation Commission members;
- h) Letter (w/o attachment) from EQT regarding a permit application to drill the proposed X-Men 3H in Amwell Township;
- i) Memo dated November 8, 2023, from PA American Water, regarding rate change; and
- j) Email dated November 15, 2023, from Dennis Makel, Esq., regarding the Additions to the Agenda Act 65 of 2021.

**Township Solicitor's Report**

The solicitor from Township Solicitor Dennis Makel's office stated that he had nothing to report.

**Township Engineer's Report**

Township Engineer Rob Horvat reported that all construction at Burkett Manor is stopping until spring 2024.

**8. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

None

**9. NEW BUSINESS**

**9A: Motion to Approve the Hire of Timothy J. Morse to the Position of Laborer / Truck Driver with the Public Works Department per the Recommendation of the Township Manager.**

Mr. Grego moved to approve the hire of Timothy J. Morse to the position of Laborer / Truck Driver with the Public Works Department. Mr. Luketich seconded the motion. The motion passed on a unanimous voice vote.

**9B: Resolution for Plan Revision for a Proposed Small Flow Treatment Facility on the Godley Property Located at 370 Rankin Road in South Strabane Township.**

Mr. Grego moved to pass a resolution approving a Resolution for plan revision for a proposed small flow treatment facility on the Godley property located at 370 Rankin Road in South Strabane Township. Mr. Weber seconded the motion. The motion passed on a unanimous voice vote.

**9C: Motion to approve hire of former full-time Police Officer Cody Kusluch to the position of part-time police officer per the recommendation of the Police Chief.**

Mr. Grego asked the Chief if he thought it would be a good idea to try and bring in more part-time officers. Chief Hilk stated that Cody Kusluch is coming on as part-time to help out the Township until the two new officers are hired and it will not be a permanent arrangement. Mr. Luketich asked if we could put out a list for part-time officers. Chief Hilk stated that a special meeting should be set up because this is a complicated topic. Mr. Luketich stated he thinks it would be a good idea to talk about coming up with a policy that requires officers that move on to another job in a certain period of time that they would be required to reimburse the Township for their uniform, paid leave used, etc.

Mr. Weber moved to approve hire of former full-time Police Officer Cody Kusluch to the position of part-time police officer per the recommendation of the Police Chief.

Mr. Luketich seconded the motion. The motion passed on a unanimous voice vote.

**9D: Motion to Appoint Craig Rumbaugh to serve on the Traffic Impact Advisory Committee.**

Mr. Weber moved to appoint Craig Rumbaugh to serve on the Traffic Impact Advisory Committee.  
Mr. Grego seconded the motion. The motion passed on a unanimous voice vote.

**10. ADJOURNMENT**

As no further business came before the Board, Mr. Weber moved to adjourn. Mr. Luketich seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 7:23 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeffrey L. Ziegler  
Township Manager