

**Donegal Township
Supervisors Monthly Minutes
Monday, February 17, 2020**

Donegal Municipal Building - Meeting Room
34 N. Liberty Street
West Alexander, PA 15376

The regular January meeting of the Donegal Township Board of Supervisors was called to order at 7:00 p.m. in the Meeting Room at the Donegal Township municipal building by Chairman Richard Fidler. Resident Kathleen Miller offered an opening prayer.

Mr. Fidler led the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance. It was announced that the meeting was being recorded.

PRIOR EXECUTIVE SESSIONS

Mr. Fidler read the following announcements regarding executive sessions held by the board:

The Board of Supervisors held an Executive Session on Friday, January 24, 2020 from 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. @ the township building for the purpose of Interviewing for Secretary/Treasurer & Manager positions previously advertised.

The Board of Supervisors held an Executive Session on Monday, January 27, 2020 from 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. @ the township building for the purpose of Interviewing for Secretary/Treasurer & Manager positions previously advertised.

The Board of Supervisors held an Executive Session on Wednesday, January 29, 2020 from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. @ the township building for the purpose of Interviewing for Secretary/Treasurer & Manager positions previously advertised.

The Board of Supervisors held an Executive Session on Thursday, February 13, 2020 from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the Hilton Garden Inn, Canonsburg, PA for the purpose of Personnel and Labor Litigation

(ADDED TO WHAT WAS READ) An additional Executive Session was held at the solicitor's office, Washington, PA on Wednesday, February 12, 2020. Supervisors Martin, Fidler, and Iams attended 2:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. Supervisor Croft met with the solicitor later the same day at 4 p.m. for the purpose of Labor Litigation.

MOTION TO AUTHORIZE PERSON TO TAKE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING

Motion by Mr. Fidler, second by Mrs. Tammi Iams for Mr. Douglas Teagarden to take the minutes. Motion carried 3-2. YES: Fidler, Iams, Martin. NO: Shingle, Croft.

ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS

The roll was called with all supervisors being present: Tammi Iams, Kathleen Croft, Richard Martin, Richard Fidler, and Edward Shingle. Also attending was Solicitor Lane Turturice.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

The board adopted the meeting agenda for February 17, 2020. Motion by Mr. Fidler. Second by Ms. Iams. Motion carried 3-2. YES: Iams, Martin, Fidler. NO: Shingle, Croft.

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APPROVAL OF ADDITIONAL PUBLIC COMMENT TIME

Mrs. Croft made a motion to approve additional public comment time to be held at the conclusion of the meeting. Second by Mr. Shingle. Motion carried 3-2. Fidler, Shingle, Croft. NO: Iams, Martin,

PERSONS REQUESTING TO ADDRESS THE BOARD

Resident Dr. Kathleen Miller addressed the board in regards to unreliable practices in regards to the board and community not working together.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION ON AGENDA ITEMS ONLY

Several residents addressed the board, including: Frank Archambault, Tom Greaves, Kathy Prescott, Sheri Laird, Eric Graham, Robert Wright, James D. Martin, Betty Shingle, Steve Antoinette, and Julie Graham. No official board action resulted.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Following extensive discussion, Ms. Iams made a motion to approve the minutes from the January 20, 2020 Board of Supervisors Regular Monthly meeting. (There were no motions to amend the minutes of any prior meetings.) Seconded by Mr. Martin. Motion carried 3-2. YES: Fidler, Iams, Martin. NO: Shingle, Croft.

APPROVAL OF TREASURER'S REPORT

Ms. Iams made a motion to approve the treasurer's report dated January 21, 2020 through February 17, 2020. Second by Mr. Fidler. Motion carried 5-0. YES: Fidler, Iams, Croft, Martin, Shingle

APPROVAL TO PAY THE BILLS

Ms. Iams made a motion to approve the bills as listed on the unpaid bill list with the Hunter bill being pulled for review. Seconded by Mr. Martin. Motion carried 3-2. YES: Fidler, Iams, Martin. NO: Shingle, Croft.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

1. Code Enforcement - No report.
2. Fire Department-11 calls.
3. Fire Marshall - Discussion regarding Knox box for new church and replacement keys for the municipal building.
4. Office & Water – DEP findings being addressed. Fire Chief Eric Graham discussed flow testing for the new water line on Waynesburg Road, prior to the installation of a booster pump. Ms. Iams reported that a temporary office worker was hired, but quit.
5. Parks & Rec – vacancy on the board exists
6. Police Department – 82 calls
7. Road Department – Heard road report from crew leader. Heard complaint from a resident and a road department employee in regards to berm drop off on Waynesburg Road.

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AUTHORIZE MR. FIDLER TO CONTACT TUNNEL RIDGE IN REGARDS TO #8 ABOVE.

Motion by Ms. Croft to have Mr. Fidler contact Tunnel Ridge in regards to issues with Waynesburg Road. Second by Mr. Shingle. Motion carried 5-0. YES: Shingle, Croft, Martin, Iams, Fidler.

BIDDING OF ROAD MATERIALS

Mr. Fidler made a motion to join with the Co-Op for the purpose of bidding road repair items (70,000 gal of E-3 emulsion, 1500 ton of #67, and 2000 ton of #8). The township will pay their share of the cost to advertise for bids. Second by Ms. Iams. Motion carried 5-0. YES: Iams, Fidler, Croft, Shingle, Martin.

There were no bids for other materials.

MOTION TO GRANT A STIPEND

Mr. Fidler made a motion to grant the road crew leader a \$150 monthly stipend for additional duties taken on in regards to increased duties performed. Ms. Iams seconded. It was decided to hold the matter for executive session. No further official action was taken or reported.

8. Solicitor – No report.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Tabled Motion: Range Cut & Bore permits and escrow – Left on table.
2. Tabled Motion: Police Wages – Left on table.

TO REMOVE ITEM POLICE WAGES (#2 above) FROM THE TABLE

Ms. Croft made a motion to remove “Police Wages” from the table. Second by Mr. Shingle. Motion Approved 4-1. YES: Croft, Shingle, Martin, Fidler. NO: Iams.

MOTION TO PAY POLICE WAGES IN ACCORDANCE WITH 12/30/2019 CONTRACT

Ms. Croft made a motion to set police employee wages at the rates in the contract dated 12/30/2019. Motion seconded by Mr. Shingle. Motion failed 2-3. YES: Croft, Shingle. NO: Fidler, Iams, Martin.

3. Tabled Motion: Planning Commission Ordinance – Left on table.
4. Tabled Motion: Township Internet use & Social Media Policy – Left on table.

NEW BUSINESS

APPROVED DESIGNATED PROJECT FOR LSA FUNDS

Ms. Croft made a motion to assign \$25,000.00 LSA Project funds (due to the Donegal-West Alexander merger) from 2020 allocation to use towards a police vehicle. Seconded by Ms. Iams. Motion carried 5-0. YES: Croft, Shingle, Martin, Iams, Fidler.

CLEAN UP DAYS

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Ms. Iams made a motion to have Donegal Township Clean Up Days on Friday, May 8, 2020 and Saturday May 9, 2020 from 7:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. each day. Four small truck or automotive tires per household will be accepted. Seconded by Mr. Fidler. Motion carried 5-0. YES: Croft, Shingle, Martin, Iams, Fidler.

DRIVEWAY PERMIT APPROVAL

Ms. Iams made a motion to approve the driveway permit for 76 Waynesburg Road (for Gino Delbert) with the 40' of 15" pipe installed and upon payment of \$25.00 received within the township office. Seconded by Mr. Fidler. Motion approved 5-0. YES: Single, Croft, Iams, Martin, Fidler.

RESIGNATION OF POLICE OFFICER

Mr. Fidler made a motion to accept with regret the resignation of Edwin C. Schell as a Donegal Township Police Officer. Seconded by Mr. Martin. Motion carried 3-2. YES: Martin, Fidler, Iams. NO: Shingle, Croft.

RESIGNATION OF AUDITOR

Mrs. Iams made a motion to accept with regret the resignation of Marcie Wright as Donegal Township Elected Auditor. Seconded by Mr. Martin. Motion approved 5-0. YES: Martin, Shingle, Croft, Wright, Iams.

APPOINTMENT OF AUDITOR

Mr. Martin made a motion to appoint Larry L. Rodgers as Donegal Township Auditor until the next municipal election. Seconded by Ms. Iams. Motion carried 3-2. YES: Fidler, Iams, Martin. NO: Croft, Shingle.

APPROVAL OF MARK WEST HEAVY HAULING PERMIT

Ms. Iams made a motion to approve Mark West Heavy Hauling Permits for Hicks & Backbone Road with the proposed recommendations of *Any significant road damage resulting from use of the road should be repaired immediately by Mark West and *Adequate traffic control should be provided during use of the road by Mark West due to the relatively narrow width of the road in accordance with Twp. Engineer's specifications. Seconded by Mr. Fidler. Motion carried 5-0. YES: Martin, Shingle, Croft, Wright, Iams.

RELEASE OF MARK WEST ESCROW AND ROAD BOND TABLED

Mr. Shingle made a motion to table the release for Mark West escrow & road bond for Buck Run Road .80 miles. Seconded by Mr. Fidler. Motion carried 5-0. YES: Shingle, Fidler, Croft, Iams, Martin.

APPROVAL OF HEAVY HAULING PERMITS FOR COLUMBIA GAS

Ms. Iams made a motion to approve Columbia Gas Transmission, LLC Heavy Hauling Permits for Delshawn Rd (T377), Old National Pike (T904), & Waynesburg Road (T425) with the proposed recommendations of *Any significant road damage resulting from use of the road should be repaired immediately by Columbia Gas Transmission, LLC and *Adequate traffic control should

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be provided during use of the roads by Columbia Gas Transmission, LLC. In accordance with Twp. Engineer's specifications. Seconded by Mr. Martin. Motion carried 5-0. YES: Shingle, Croft, Iams, Martin, Fidler

APPROVAL TO HOLD DISCUSSION AND REVIEW ACTION REGARDING THE PURCHASE OF A NEW TRUCK.

Mrs. Croft made a motion to table discussion pending review and/or action regarding the potential purchase of new truck for use by the road department. Several quotes were discussed. Second by Mr. Shingle. Motion approved 5-0. YES: Shingle, Croft, Martin, Iams, Fidler.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. Fidler made a motion to go into Executive Session at 9:27 p.m. for personnel, and/or litigation or potential litigation. Second by Mr. Shingle. Motion carried. 5-0. YES: Shingle, Iams, Croft, Martin, Fidler.

MOTIONS FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION

Ms. Iams discussed the board's process for seeking a township manager and/or a township secretary/treasurer. She said it was the board's belief the township's budget would not support the hiring of a township manager at this time.

EXTENSION OF EMPLOYMENT OFFER TO A POTENTIAL SECRETARY/TREASURER

Ms. Iams made a motion to extend a written employment offer to Judy Taylor as township secretary/treasurer at a salary of \$45,000 as a confidential employee. The position would have five sick days, 2-weeks vacation, and the offer of 30-percent opt-out for health insurance. In addition, Ms. Taylor, a resident of North Bethlehem Township, would have to undergo background checks and a drug screening. In addition, she must be bondable for \$1.3 million. Her hiring would be subject to a 90-day probationary period. Ms. Taylor has extensive municipal experience, Ms. Iams reported. Mr. Martin seconded the motion. The motion carried 4-1. YES: Shingle, Iams, Martin, Fidler. NO: Croft.

APPROVAL OF PERSONNEL ITEM AS HANDLED IN EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. Martin made a motion to accept the findings and recommendation of a personnel item, a confidential matter handled by the board in executive session. Second by Mr. Fidler. Motion carried 4-1. YES: Croft, Martin, Iams, Fidler. NO: Shingle

ADDITIONAL PUBLIC COMMENT:

A number of people from the audience addressed the board, including Frank Archambault, Suzanne Simms, Darrin Iams, Bob Wright, Ed Krashaur, James D. Martin, Betty Shingle, Julie Graham. No official board action resulted.

Upon a comment by former supervisor Douglas Teagarden, the Board acknowledged the township does not have minutes for the regular or the special Board of Supervisor meetings held in December.

ADJOURNMENT:

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Ms. Iams made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 10.45 p.m. Seconded by Mr. Martin. The motion carried 3-2. YES: Martin, Fidler, Iams. NO: Croft, Shingle.

Next Meeting Date: March 16, 2020 Time: 7:00 p.m.

THESE MINUTES ARE RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED.

****NOTE: In the absent of the Secretary/Treasurer the minutes were taken on February 17, 2020 and transcribed on February 21, 2020 by Douglas Teagarden, 52 Highland Avenue, West Alexander, PA 15376**