

Rochester Township Commissioners

Regular Meeting

August 17, 2023

Call to Order: Chairwoman Teams called the meeting to order at 6:00pm.

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call:

Present: Gina Team, Chairwoman; George Bauer, Vice-Chairman
Commissioners: Michael Mamone Jr., Michael Lucci, Dennis Iannini,
Dave Kovac, Township Engineer; Melissa Carpenter, Township Secretary

Also Present: Myron Rajter, Public Works; Kevin Foltz, Sergeant

Via Zoom: Stephen Chesney, Solicitor

Remarks of Citizens:

Millard Sarver – wanted to know about the 3 strikes ordinance on rental properties. Mr. Sarver stated that rental property in front of his house had US Marshals there to arrest a felon and the police have been called there 23 times in the last year. Mr. Sarver stated that they verbally abuse the children. Solicitor Chesney asked if the owners started the eviction process? Mr. Chesney said there is only so much we can do, and they should continue to call the police and CYS for the children. Mr. Chesney needs to data on the police calls if there wasn't enough evidence for the police to arrest or file charges then we don't have enough for them to be evicted. Mr. Sarver said they are also parking in a fire lane and he can't get his vehicle out and they are parking at Ray's Garage.

Ben Moll-Ray's Garage – stated when the US Marshals were there monitoring the house, they had his whole parking lot blocked off and they tased a guy in front of his customers. Solicitor Chesney told him as a business owner if you can show a loss of business, he should contact his attorney and go after the landlord for loss of business.

Millard Sarver said the grass is 2' high there. Nathan Sarver – asked how the Township doesn't know what is going on. Mrs. Teams replied that we do receive a police department report with the type of call but not where they occur. Mr. Lucci replied that we are just finding out about this now. The code violations will be turned into our code enforcement officer. Mr. Chesney suggested the residents call the DA's office on why someone that was arrested keeps getting out on bond. Sergeant Foltz stated that most of the calls there are domestics and the charges are usually dropped at the preliminary hearing. Mr. Chesney even if we can force them to evict the tenant that could take up to a year.

David DiBiasi – they have been coming here regarding the alley behind 610 California Ave., the Township did do some work there but was very ineffective and some rains came and washed away the work they did. Mr. DiBiasi said they pay taxes and it is embarrassing he presented pictures that show what our work did that caused damage to his car.

Terri Terrazzano – stated the last time we asked for the alley to be repaired it was approved and that was 380 days ago and still hasn't been taken care of. Mr. Iannini stated we did approve fixing the alley and we need to do something about the water run off from another property that keeps washing out the alley. Mr. Lucci stated they are saying it is our fault the alley keeps washing out, he asked how many times public works fixed the alley. Mr. Rajter replied they filled the alley in at least 3 times, but every time there is a heavy rain it washes it back out again. Mr. Lucci asked if they can fix the alley. Mr. Rajter stated that in addition to the water issue you can't drive a truck through the alley there are bushes hanging out and there is a tree past their property that blocks the alley and for 2 years a recliner sat in the middle of the alley. Mrs. Teams stated that up until 380 days ago everyone

parked on California and when you put a car port in and that is when there was an issue with the alley. Mr. Rajter said prior to the car port the alley was a dead alley and wasn't used. Mr. Iannini asked Mr. Kovac is there is anything we can do about the water run off for the other property. Mr. Kovas said we could cite them for erosion of the alley but that is a grey area because the building was constructed before the stormwater ordinance. Mr. Rajter stated there is a catch basin at the end of the alley. Mr. Abbott said he spoke with the owner of the property and he is willing to fix the problem he just needs a solution to the problem. Mr. Abbott asked if we are allowed to let him connect to the storm drain in the alley. Mr. Kovac replied we can allow it but we need to make sure there isn't an increase in the flow rate to the catch basin. Mr. Iannini suggested Mr. Kovac meet with the owner and see what can be done to correct the problem.

Minutes:

Motion by Mr. Mamone to approve the minutes of the August 3, 2023 Work Session Meeting. Second by Mr. Bauer. Motion carried 5-0.

Committee Reports:

Motion by Mr. Bauer to accept July committee reports. Second by Mr. Lucci. Motion carried 5-0.

Solicitor's Report:

Solicitor Chesney is reviewing the ordinances for the police department to join the regional department. Mr. Chesney will move forward with the easements for Sturm Lane and Fox Ave. since they have been reviewed by Mr. Kovac. Mr. Chesney will review the rental ordinances.

Engineer's Report:

Mr. Kovac gave the Board another sample street opening ordinance for them to review. Mr. Kovac discussed what would be required if they want to move forward with a PA Infrastructure Loan; you would need to have the scope of work with a plan on what streets and how much you want to borrow to apply. Mr. Iannini asked if we can make any changes once, we apply for the loan. Mr. Kovac said you can make some minor changes. Mr. Kovac said he could go out and rate the roads and make a spreadsheet of every road. Mrs. Teams asked if he can do this for the next meeting. Mr. Lucci asked if he looked at the sidewalk at the YMCA. Mr. Kovac did go look at it and isn't sure why the Township is responsible for it and although it was included in the CDBG grant. Mr. Lucci asked if we are responsible to fix it. Mr. Bauer asked how much it would cost to fix it? Mr. Kovac estimated the cost to be around \$5,000.00 if we don't want to include that in the CDBG grant.

Mr. Kovac stated we can apply for the LSA Grant again starting next month.

Mr. Kovas said they reviewed the easements and they are ready to be signed.

Old Business:

Mr. Mamone said the Daugherty Twp. wants to know if we are interested in continuing discussing a regional VFD. The Board and the Fire Chief are interested in continuing discussing.

Mrs. Teams appointed Mr. Bauer and Mr. Iannini as alternates on the Beaver Valley Regional Board.

Sergeant Foltz was able to cancel the order for firearms, but he needs to know how many we want to order. Mr. Lucci will ask at the next Regional meeting to see how many we should order. Mrs. Teams suggested we purchase 3 new guns since we have 3 officers joining. Mr. Lucci stated that they requested at least 4 guns. Secretary Carpenter stated we need to spend the rest of the Beaver County Public Safety ARPA Grant funds.

Mr. Lucci said Beaver Valley Regional will be purchasing the officer's new vests, uniforms and badges. Mr. Lucci said they asked if we had any computers to give them. Sergeant Foltz said we can give them the 3 computers that are at the station. Mr. Lucci said they asked if they could use our fuel for the vehicles and we would bill them for the fuel costs. Discussion on upgrading the fuel pumps and it is only a 1000-gallon tank. Mr. Lucci stated they are still working on the vacation time and longevity pay.

Mr. Iannini asked Solicitor Chesney what he thought about allowing Officer Roberts purchasing his firearm. Mr. Chesney asked what the firearms are worth. Sergeant Foltz stated between \$250-\$300 a firearm. Solicitor Chesney said there wouldn't be a problem, but we would have to sell it to them for fair market value. Mr. Mamone would like to give the 3 full time officers their firearms. Once we get the fair market value, we can make a motion. Sergeant Lockhart asked if the part-time officers can hold onto their firearm until we decide on the purchase price. Mr. Iannini said they should turn in their firearm and then they will have the option to purchase it.

New Business:

Sergeant Foltz said the Township will still be required to complete the quarterly reports and close out the PCCD Body Camera Grant, but the equipment can be transferred to Beaver Valley Regional.

Remarks of Officials:

Mr. Rajter said a resident on Wack Drive put in a driveway and damaged the road in front of the house. We will have the code enforcement officer go out and look at it.

Discussion on any police paperwork that needs to be disposed of. Mr. Lucci asked if we can burn it. Sergeant Foltz stated that until the evidence is out of the building no one except a police officer is permitted to be in there. Sergeant Foltz said they can be shred or burned. Solicitor Chesney said we should take it to a company to incinerate it. Mr. Iannini would like to budget it for next year.

Mr. Mamone said they should find out if the VFD is awarded the grant for air packs.

Remarks of Citizens:

Sergeant Lockhart wanted to thank the Board and community he has worked here for almost for 20 years he has enjoyed working here.

Motion by Mr. Bauer to adjourn the meeting at 7:56pm. Second by Mr. Lucci. Motion carried 5-0.

Minutes prepared by Melissa Carpenter

Minutes submitted to BOC for review on August 24, 2023.

Gina Teams, Chairwoman
Board of Commissioners

Date

Attest: _____
Melissa A. Carpenter, Secretary