

**ROCHESTER TOWNSHIP COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES
WORK SESSION MEETING
AUGUST 3, 2023**

Call to Order: Chairwoman Teams called meeting to order at 6:00PM

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call:

Present: Gina Teams, Chairwoman; George Bauer, Vice Chairman
Commissioners: Michael Mamone Jr., Michael Lucci, Dennis Iannini
Melissa Carpenter, Township Secretary

Via Zoom: Steve Chesney, Township Solicitor

Remarks of Citizens:

Member of the Beaver Valley Regional Police Department and Board attending the meeting.

Mr. Iannini had questions on the proposed costs for the Township for the remainder of this year and next year. Mr. Levenson stated that they are using the remainder of our budget for this year. Mr. Iannini asked if there are any grants available for the regional department. District Attorney Lozier stated Beaver County will have a grant for up to \$50,000.00 per regional department. Discussion on the other grants and how they will patrol for the Township. Beaver Valley Regional will have 4 cars out for most of the day and a supervisor that can respond to calls. Mr. Levenson stated their agreement is structured to add any municipality all the Township needs to do is pass a resolution tonight and we can have everything ready by September 1, 2023. Solicitor Chesney confirmed that if we pass a resolution then that would give Beaver Valley Regional the ability to cover shifts for us the rest of August.

Darla Lucas – stated that when we discussed regionalization before she was against it but she if for this regionalization since they have already worked out the issues.

Committee Reports:

All of July reports submitted.

Minutes:

Motion by Mr. Mamone to accept Regular Meeting Minutes of July 20, 2023 as submitted. Second by Mr. Bauer. Motion carried 5-0.

Work Session Issues:

Discussion on Police coverage- Sergeant Foltz- stated that we need someone to cover 3 shifts this weekend and next weekend. The State Police would be able to cover the open shifts.

Motion by Mr. Bauer to accept Jeff Robert's resignation effective August 6, 2023. Second by Mr. Lucci. Roll call vote: Mr. Lucci-yes; Mr. Iannini-yes; Mr. Mamone-yes; Mr. Bauer-yes; Mrs. Teams-yes. Motion carried 5-0.

Motion by Mr. Lucci to move forward with joining Beaver Valley Regional Police Department. Second by Mr. Mamone. Mr. Iannini questioned if there would be more negotiating and when we would start. Mr. Lucci stated that it would be effective September 1, 2023. Solicitor Chesney will have a resolution for them to review, and stated we should wait to vote until we review the resolution. Solicitor Chesney requested that District Attorney Lozier review the resolution also.

Motion by Mr. Iannini to approve payment of bills as reviewed by Township Board of Commissioners. Second by Mr. Mamone. Roll call vote: Mr. Iannini-yes; Mr. Mamone-yes; Mr. Bauer-yes; Mr. Lucci-yes; Mrs. Teams-yes. Motion carried 5-0.

Remarks of Officials:

Sergeant Lockhart asked if Officer Roberts could purchase his firearm and if he could use his vest until he can get a new one.

Motion by Mr. Iannini to allow Officer Roberts to use his vest until October. Second by Mr. Mamone. Roll call vote: Mr. Mamone-yes; Mr. Bauer-yes; Mr. Lucci-yes; Mr. Iannini-yes; Mrs. Teams-yes. Motion carried 5-0.

Motion by Mr. Iannini to hold off on a decision about the firearm until we have a chance to speak with the Solicitor. Second by Mr. Bauer. Motion carried 5-0.

Mr. Mamone said we do need to work on getting the VFD Agreement passed for each municipality and hope to be able to hire some part-time fireman.

Mr. Iannini asked is there would be a police substation in the Township. Lieutenant Shillingburg replied it would be nice to have a work station in the Township. Mr. Lucci said that they could use the office at the municipal building and move the VFD to the downtown station and get rid of the building.

Laura Hoffmeier asked if we needed to vote to amend the agenda to add a motion to vote on the resolution. Solicitor Chesney stated that it is already on the agenda and it implies that we are going to take action, he asked if DA Lozier agreed with his opinion. DA Lozier stated he agreed with Solicitor Chesney.

Motion by Mr. Bauer to adjourn to executive session at 6:42pm. Second by Mr. Mamone. Motion carried 5-0.

Motion by Mr. Bauer to adjourn out of executive session at 7:11pm. Second by Mr. Mamone. Motion carried 5-0.

Further Business:

Motion by Mr. Lucci to approve Resolution No. 02-2023 dissolving the Township of Rochester Police Department subject to the completion of integrating into the Beaver Valley Regional Police Department effective September 1, 2023. Second by Mr. Mamone. Roll call vote: Mr. Bauer-yes; Mr. Lucci-yes; Mr. Iannini-yes; Mr. Mamone-yes; Mrs. Teams-yes. Motion carried 5-0.

Sergeant Foltz asked who would cover the open shifts this weekend. Chief Johnston wanted to discuss it with them.

Motion by Mr. Bauer to adjourn to executive session at 7:15pm. Second by Mr. Mamone. Motion carried 5-0.

Motion by Mr. Lucci to adjourn out of executive session at 8:01pm. Second by Mr. Mamone. Motion carried 5-0.

Motion by Mr. Mamone to adjourn the meeting at 8:01pm. Second by Mr. Lucci. Motion carried 5-0.

Minutes prepared by Melissa Carpenter, Township Secretary
Minutes submitted to BOC for review on August 14, 2023.

_____ Date: _____
Gina Teams, Chairwoman
Board of Commissioners

Attest: _____
Melissa A. Carpenter