

**LAWRENCE PARK TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS/COUNCIL MEMBERS JOINT MEETING**

5:00 p.m.

November 11, 2024

4230 Iroquois Avenue

In Attendance:

Lawrence Park Commissioners: President B. Rodemaker, Vice President T. Buchleitner, D. Williams, T. Benovic, J. Golden
Township Secretary C. Cunningham

Wesleyville Borough Council: President R. Julius, Vice President F. Petrini, P. Bills, S. Alfieri, J. Wilder, S. Morrow, C. Kolesar
Borough Manager M. Jacobs

~Commissioner Rodemaker called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was performed~

Lawrence Park Business:

- Commissioner Buchleitner made a motion to advertise Ordinances 2024-03, Tax collector wage, 2024-04 the 2025 tax millage, 2024-05 the 2025 preliminary budget, 2024-06 the 2025 sewer rates, Commissioner Williams seconded the motion; the motion carried.

Introductions:

Lawrence Park Township Officials introduced themselves followed by introductions by the Wesleyville Borough Officials.

Mission of the Joint Council:

Vice President Buchleitner presented the mission of the joint meetings. Buchleitner mentioned that the two Municipalities to work together as many other Municipalities are attempting. There are several items that we will address individually. Both Communities are in the Strategic Management Program. The Program looks at the various aspects of the Municipality and makes recommendations on how to improve your communities. When Communities come together there is a much greater chance of getting funding for your Municipality because the government likes to see this type of cooperation between neighboring Communities. Our goal is to see how we can improve both our communities in joint effort. Much of this is ergonomic, financial, economical needs with funding coming from the state, we have a much greater chance of getting grant money if we pull together. The biggest Community project that is being worked on involves the footbridge, sidewalks, and various other enhancements along that corridor. We are looking at multiple grants involved with this project. Commissioner Buchleitner asked that comments be held until the end of the meeting because we have many items to cover and would like to keep things streamlined.

New Business:

- Main Street Matters Program: Manager M. Jacobs spoke about this brand new program it targets our type of Communities. The program has façade, streetscape improvements, and provides a great deal of money. A plan will be put together regarding our business Districts and would entail recommendations on how to proceed with such improvements. The grant has a 25% grant match but since we are both involved in the STMP Program and are at a disadvantage financially. we have the potential to have this reduced to 10% and from there the amount would be split between the two Communities. Since we are both This program will most likely get a Main Street Manager that would be fully funded.
 1. The Resolution 2024-001 that will need to be voted on this evening is a joint Resolution regarding the Main Street Matters Program. Commissioner Buchleitner made a motion to approve Resolution 2024-001, Commissioner Golden seconded the motion; the motion carried. Council member Wilder made a motion to approve Resolution 2024-001, Council member Bills seconded the motion; the motion carried.
- Police Regionalization Study: Commissioner Buchleitner spoke to the Boards regarding the STMP Program and one of the recommendations they are looking at and recommending is Police Regionalization which would entail combining both police departments. DCED has told us that being under the STMP program and being financially stressed, the amount of funding you will receive is greater and the amount that you have to pay for a study is greatly reduced. The first step is to get a Letter of Interest to them. Both municipalities have submitted to the State for the technical assistance, which is moving forward, and our next step will be a survey. Both Police Departments will be contacted and will be asked to help with gathering information to help with the study. Nothing in the study states that anything will be done this is merely a study at this point.

- Joint Comprehensive Plan: The last Comprehensive Plan was done in 2004 which was done jointly. The STMP program has recommended that we need to update that plan which should have been done about 10 years ago. The application for this update will probably be done in the spring of 2025. Working together on this again will be saving us money overall. The hope is that within the next year we will be able to have this completed together. Commissioner Buchleitner has been looking for volunteers to serve on Lawrence Park Township's Planning Committee because right now it is the Board of Commissioners due to lack of interest.
- Water Street Improvement Project: Water Street is the only connection between Lawrence Park and Wesleyville. Jacobs said there is much need for improvement of the area. PennDot has recommended that the walkway be made accessible from route 5 to Buffalo Road. Wesleyville has applied for two grants one being with CDBG for a multimodal pathway on the east side of Water Street from Dollar Tree down to Bell Street bridge. The other grant is a PennDot Multimodal Transportation grant at 1.5 million for the Bell Street bridge. There is a lot of regional interest regarding all of this. There is a match of 30% but we have made it very clear that there is no way we can complete this project at a 30% match and the hope is that we will get support this match will be waved. Commissioner Benovic asked if there has been contact with Fish and Boat, DEP, and all the entities involving water ways have been contacted for permitting.
- Pavement Management Plan: Manager Jacobs discussed the Seal Coating (Tar & Chip) program. Trying to pave streets yearly is very costly and the amount of Liquid Fuels money given to Communities has gone way down. Tar and Chip helps the life of the road until it can get completely paved. Participating in joint bid process produces relatively good rates.
- Community Events Coordination: With each Community having residents going back and forth it would be great if we could coordinate some of our events. Commissioner Benovic asked if they had any music venues. Benovic asked if they needed to use any of our parks for events they would like to have. She also stated that we do have venues that do not require electricity or stages. Jacobs also said that if there is anything that they can help concerning advertisement of events that Wesleyville would do whatever is needed to help get the word out. Commissioner Williams asked about using "Savy Citizen" and Jacobs spoke about the Boroughs use of the application.

Public Comments: Ed Rickrode spoke to the Boards of the importance regarding regionalization of the police departments. Rickrode feels that combining police departments would be advantageous for both Communities. This would help with the burden of expenses incurred by both Municipalities in having such large departments.

Joint Municipal Meetings:

- 1st Quarter 2025 – January 6, 2025, 6 pm at Lawrence Park Township
- 2nd Quarter 2025 – April 7, 2025, 6 pm Wesleyville Borough
- 3rd Quarter 2025 – July 7, 2025, 6 pm Lawrence Park Township
- 4th Quarter 2025 – October 6, 2025, 6 pm Wesleyville Borough

~Council Member P. Bills motioned to adjourn the meeting at 6:20 p.m., Commissioner Williams seconded; the motion carried.~

Respectfully Submitted:

Cindy Jo Cunningham
Board of Commissioner's Secretary