

LAWRENCE PARK TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING
December 11, 2024

6:00 p.m.

4230 Iroquois Avenue

In Attendance: Commissioner B. Rodemaker, Commissioner D. Williams, Commissioner T. Buchleitner, Commissioner T. Benovic, Commissioner J. Golden Chief J. Morell, Secretary C. Cunningham

~Commissioner Rodemaker called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was performed.

Weather Reports:

~Commissioner Rodemaker commended Commissioner Williams and the Maintenance crew for all the hard work during the storm. Many people abandoned their cars in the street which made trying to plow and clear the way an impossible situation. They worked hard in an extreme situation and did an awesome job~

~Commissioner Williams stated that the Maintenance crew was just amazing, and he is very proud to work with them. There were a lot of residents that were kind to the men. Some of the issues that were encountered by the Township were that once the emergency was declared, people should not have been out and driving. Another issue is that people were parking illegally that being on both sides of the street and our equipment could not even get down the very first street out the door. Because of the heavy accumulations we had several break downs of the equipment as well. The total fleet has since been repaired by our crews. People also are leaving their garbage cans in the street causing issues for the plows. The reason why the streets had to be scraped down is that there was a lot of ice and then 4-5 inches of snow on top of that, causing very hazardous driving conditions. The main streets need to be cleared first and side streets are secondary to these. There were many people who were praising the maintenance staff, the police dept. as well as office staff. However there has been an abundance of people using very abusive language, threats, and negative comments. As a Commissioner I will not stand for this behavior toward our employees. I stand behind all our employees to the fullest and if the abuse is severe enough, I will proceed with legal charges. Commissioner Williams stated that he responded to every phone call that had not been abusive and degrading, those that spoke with respect were given that courtesy back. If neighbors could come together during such an emergency disaster as this was and help each other with things that need attention it would make us a community above and beyond all others.

~Commissioner Buchleitner also wanted to state that he is also very proud of the crew as well as the office staff fielding calls. The amount of snow and the rate that it came down was unprecedented. This presented a problem with not only moving the snow from the streets but then where to place it. Some of the streets that run through our town are state owned and they had not been out to take care of them for 3-4 days. Once the state of emergency was put out it took several days for them to get help to us. Many people did step up and offer whatever help they could. As a Township we feel that we did an exceptional job regarding the situation. In the coming days we plan to sit down and look at a few things such as what was done and what we can do better in the future (if anything).~

REPORTS:

Police Report:

- Chief Morell stated this past month the police department answered 825 calls resulting in numerous investigations. We issued 159 parking tickets. During the snow storm the police officers offered to spend the night and help however they could. Parking fines have been raised but illegal parking is still taking place. The 8 am change over time period will be strictly enforced with no exceptions. Township equipment along with first responders, fire trucks, garbage trucks - none of these are able to get down a street with people parked on both sides. If you see your neighbor parked illegally, please reach out and give them a call and let them know. Commissioner Williams asked that you not switch until 6 am but not after 8 am. Going forward if you are not moved at the designated time, you will be ticked and or towed and this will be strictly enforced to try to remedy these situations.

~Commissioner Buchleitner motioned to approve all reports as presented. Commissioner Golden seconded the motion; the motion carried~

Visitors: Jim VanDyne, Charles Curtis, Chris Buchleitner, Cheryl Smith, Kim Marini, Dale Durst, Drew Kramer, Joe Michalegko, Kate Griffin

Signed in to speak: Jim VanDyne, Chris Buchleitner

~Jim VanDyne stated that he and his wife would like to have a party for the Maintenance Crew. When the leaf machine came out this year, we noticed an upgrade to it but was told that Gary had painted and detailed it himself during the time leading up to leaf season, and it looks amazing. But things kept on happening and the amount of snow that piled up at one time is incredible and he said the Maintenance Crew has been just amazing through the whole event. We have gotten 65% of our total snow fall

for the year in 3 days, getting snow plowed at the bottom of your driveway is just part of a storm and people need to accept that. Jim feels that some kind of party or something should be done for this crew as they are just amazing. Commissioner Buchleitner said the Commissioners are having an employee appreciation dinner in the near future. Jim wanted to report the storm drain in front of his house is covered with snow and Commissioner Williams said the guys are going around trying to unblock them, the Township has well over 600 storm drains to care for and when people blow their leaves into them it clogs them causing backups into resident basements and also into the street where that water will then freeze and we have another big issue to deal with. The crew has taken the jetter out to unclog some of these drains as they have seen them during the storm~

~Chris Buchleitner also wanted to say that the crew did an awesome job. She also wanted to say that in their neighborhood they all came together to help each other out. If you make connections with your neighbors all year long, when a situation like this occurs everyone pulls together and can help each other out.

Bills:

Commissioner Benovic made a motion to pay bills as presented, Commissioner Buchleitner seconded the motion; the motion carried.

Minutes & Resolutions:

- Commissioner Williams made a motion to approve BOC Minutes from November 11, 2024, and Budget/Wesleyville Joint Mtg. 11/11/24, Commissioner Buchleitner seconded the motion; the motion carried.
- Commissioner Rodemaker read aloud Resolution 2024-27 the 2025 Sewer Rates, with the roll call VOTE taken by Secretary C. Cunningham; Commissioner Buchleitner; "aye"; Commissioner Rodemaker; "aye"; Commissioner Williams; "aye"; Commissioner Benovic; "aye"; Commissioner Golden; "aye"; with all in favor, Resolution 2024-27 was duly approved.
- Commissioner Rodemaker read aloud Resolution 2024-28 the 2025 Budget, with the roll call VOTE taken by Secretary C. Cunningham; Commissioner Buchleitner; "aye"; Commissioner Rodemaker; "aye"; Commissioner Williams; "aye"; Commissioner Benovic; "aye"; Commissioner Golden; "aye"; with all in favor, Resolution 2024-28 was duly approved.
- Commissioner Rodemaker read aloud Resolution 2024-29 the 2025 Tax Rates, with the roll call VOTE taken by Secretary C. Cunningham; Commissioner Buchleitner; "aye"; Commissioner Rodemaker; "aye"; Commissioner Williams; "aye"; Commissioner Benovic; "aye"; Commissioner Golden; "aye"; with all in favor, Resolution 2024-29 was duly approved.
- Commissioner Rodemaker read aloud Resolution 2024-33 the years of 2026-2029 Tax Collector Wage, with the roll call VOTE taken by Secretary C. Cunningham; Commissioner Buchleitner; "aye"; Commissioner Rodemaker; "aye"; Commissioner Williams; "aye"; Commissioner Benovic; "aye"; Commissioner Golden; "aye"; with all in favor, Resolution 2024-33 was duly approved.

Old Business: N/A

New Business:

- Commissioner Golden motioned to approve advertisements for the 2025 Lawrence Park Township meetings, Commissioner Williams seconded the motion; the motion carried.

~Commissioner Buchleitner motioned to adjourn the meeting at 6:28 p.m., Commissioner Benovic seconded; the motion carried. ~

Respectfully Submitted:

Cindy Jo Cunningham
Board of Commissioner's Secretary