

SOMERSET TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
REORGANIZATION MEETING

January 3, 2023

The Reorganization meeting of the Somerset Township Board of Supervisors was held on Tuesday, January 3, 2023, at 7:00 p.m., at the Township Municipal Building. Mr. Bockstoce called the meeting to order with the following in attendance:

SUPERVISORS

Mr. Robert F. Bayer
Mr. James R. Bockstoce
Mr. Joseph J. Cole

Pledge of Allegiance

Public Comment

Paul Myers provided the Supervisors with a salary worksheet detailing the road department employee's salary and benefits. He stated that they are overpaid compared to similar positions elsewhere. Mr. Myers also advised the Supervisors that although the crew is present during their scheduled work hours, they are not necessarily working their entire shift as there is a lot of downtime, the crew comes in late or leaves early, and is provided paid breaks.

Chairman of Board of Supervisors

Motion Cole, Second Bayer, to appoint James R. Bockstoce as Chairman of the Board of Supervisors. On a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

Vice-Chairman

Motion Bayer, Second Bockstoce, to appoint Joseph J. Cole as Vice-Chairman of the Board of Supervisors. On a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

Secretary/Treasurer

Motion Bayer, Second Cole, to appoint Julie Ann Dotson as Secretary/Treasurer. On a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

Solicitor

Motion Cole, Second Bayer, to appoint Attorney James Liekar as Township Solicitor at the rate of \$135.00 per hour. On a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

Resolution 1 of 2023 – Schedule of Fees

Motion Cole, Second Bayer, to adopt the fee schedule as set forth in R1 of 2023. On a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

Resolution 2 of 2023 – Volunteer Fire Relief

Motion Bayer, Second Cole, to set distribution for Volunteer Fire Relief funds by R2 of 2023. On a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

Appointment of CPA for 2022 Audit

Motion Cole, Second Bayer, to appoint Mark Turnley, CPA, to perform the 2022 annual audit. On a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

Diesel Fuel

Motion Cole, Second Bayer, to award C.R. Augenstein as provider of Diesel Fuel for 2023. On a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

Anti-Skid Material

Motion Bayer, Second Cole, to award Morgan Paving as provider of Anti-Skid Material for 2023. On a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

REORGANIZATION

Director of Public Works and Assistant Road Master

Motion Bayer, Second Cole, to appoint James R. Bockstoce as Director of Public Works and Assistant Road Master. On a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

Roadmaster and Assistant Director of Public Works

Motion by Bockstoce, Second Bayer, to appoint Joseph J. Cole as Roadmaster and Assistant Director of Public Works. On a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

Code Enforcement/Zoning Officer

Motion Cole, second Bayer, to appoint Municipal Consulting Services as Code Enforcement/Zoning Officer. On a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

Building Code Official

Motion Cole, Second Bayer, to appoint Municipal Consulting Service as Building Code Official. On a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

Emergency Management Coordinator

Motion Bayer, second Cole, to appoint Allison Yeckel as EMC at the rate of \$500.00 per year. On a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

Animal Control

Motion Bayer, Second Cole, to appoint Kym Secreet as Animal Control at the rate of \$225.00 per month. On a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

Act 511 Tax Collector

Motion Cole, second Bayer, to appoint Joseph G. Malisky as Tax Collector. On a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

EIT/LST Collector

Motion Cole, second by Bayer, to appoint the Keystone Collection Group to collect Earned Income/Local Services Tax. On a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

Vacancy Board

Motion Cole, second Bayer, to appoint Eric Stackowitz as Vacancy Board Member. On a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

Zoning Hearing Board (3-year term 2023 to 2025)

Motion Bayer, second Cole, to appoint Rodger Rainey to a 3-year term to the Zoning Hearing Board. On a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

Planning Commission (4-year term 2023 to 2026)

Motion Bayer, second Cole, to appoint Darrin Javornicky to a 4-year term to the Planning Commission. On a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

Engineer

Motion Bayer, Second Cole, to appoint KHL as Township Engineer. On a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

Washington County Sewage Council

Motion Bayer, Second Cole, to appoint Julie Ann Dotson as representative to the Washington County Sewage Council. On a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

Depository

Motion Cole, second Bayer, to appoint Charleroi Federal and Slovenian Savings as bank depositories. On a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

Meeting Dates

Motion Cole, Second Bayer, to approve holding regular monthly meetings on the 2nd Wednesday of the month at 7:00 pm and on the 4th Monday of the month at 2:00 pm; and to authorize Public Notice of 2023 meeting dates. On a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

Fire Protection

Motion Bayer, second Cole, to continue contracts with Bentleyville VFD, Ellsworth VFD, Fallowfield VFD, North Strabane VFD and Valley Inn VFD. (Contracts expire 12/31/24). On a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

Office Hours

Motion Bayer, Second Cole, to set the office hours to 7:30 am – 3:30 pm, with allowances for trips to bank, post office, etc. On a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

WAGES & COMPENSATION

Motion Cole, Second Bayer, to set the Full Time Employees wages at \$27.00 per hour effective 1/1/23. On a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

No motions made to set the Director of Public Works/Asst Roadmaster and Roadmaster/Asst Director of Public Works wages.

Motion Bayer, second Cole, to set the Administrative Assistant wages at \$16.00 per hour. On a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

Motion Cole, second Bayer, to set the Zoning Hearing Board Members compensation at \$25.00 per meeting. On a voice vote the motion passed unanimously.

Motion Cole, Second Bayer, to set the Tax Collector's commission at 4% Discount, 5% Face. On a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

Employee Benefits

Motion Bayer, Second Cole, to continue the State Aid Non-Uniform Pension at 9% of gross wages. On a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

Business Mileage

Motion Bayer, Second Cole, to set mileage at 2023 IRS rate of 65.5 cents per mile for use of personal vehicle for Township business. On a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Minutes

Motion Bayer, Second Cole, to approve the minutes of the December 14, 2022 meeting. On a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Checks, Warrants & Transfers

Motion Cole, Second Bayer, to approve the payment of checks, warrants & transfers and to approve payment of invoices due prior to next scheduled meeting. On a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

Any Other Business**ADJOURNMENT**

Motion Cole, Second Bayer, to adjourn the meeting at 7:15 p.m. On a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,
Julie Ann Dotson
Secretary

A regular meeting of the Somerset Township Board of Supervisors was held on Thursday, February 9, 2023, at the Township Municipal Building. The Chairman called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. with the following in attendance: Supervisors Robert Bayer James Bockstoce Joseph Cole

Please be advised that the Board of Supervisors met in Executive Session on January 13 from 11:15 to 12:30 with the Township Solicitor to discuss litigation matters.

1. PUBLIC COMMENT

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion: Bayer, 2nd: Cole, to approve minutes of the January 3, 2023 Reorganization Meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

3. APPROVAL OF CHECKS, WARRANTS & TRANSFERS.

Motion: Cole, 2nd: Bayer, to approve the payment of the following checks:

CFS General Fund# 1884-1949 SHA Fund # 1701-1714

Procurement Card 2-10-23 and any other necessary transfers. Motion passed unanimously.

4. NEW BUSINESS

Ordinance 1-2023 – Knox Box Installation

Motion: Cole, 2nd: Bayer, to approve ordinance regarding Knox Box Installation. Fire Chief Siccitano of Bentleyville Volunteer Fire Department explained the implementation process requiring businesses to install a Knox Box allowing the fire companies to gain entry to the property in case of emergency. Bockstoce advised new businesses will be required to install the Knox Box, while existing businesses are residents will have the option to participate.

Authorize Ad for Planning and Zoning Coordinator Position

Motion: Bayer, 2nd: Cole, to authorize advertisement. Motion passed unanimously.

Authorize Supervisors to attend PSAT's Conference April 23-26 in Hershey

Motion: Bayer, 2nd: Cole, to authorize Supervisors to attend PSAT's Conference. Motion passed unanimously.

Approve Employee Cellular Phone Stipend

Motion: Cole, 2nd: Bayer to approve stipend for Supervisors and Secretary equal to \$40/mo. Motion passed unanimously.

Run for Alex Road Closure June 3

Motion: Bayer, 2nd: Cole, to approve road closure. Motion passed unanimously.

5. REPORTS

Road Department

Cole advised crew is trimming trees. Bockstoce advised the Supervisors met with Washington County Conservation District this week regarding dirt and gravel program for Spud Drive. Bockstoce also advised Lovett Road water fill station is progressing and he also met with PA American Water again regarding public water installation. He also stated he met with Washington County Association of Public Officials, of which he is a member, along with the county commissioners to discuss improvement of home internet service in the Township. He advised fiber optic is currently being installed on several roads to improve home internet for residents.

6. ANY OTHER NECESSARY BUSINESS

Motion: Bayer, 2nd: Bockstoce, to appeal 2023 hourly wage set by Board of Auditors for Public Works Director/Assistant Roadmaster and Roadmaster/Assistant Public Works Director. Cole voted no. Motion passed.

Mr. Bayer stated that Bockstoce and Cole have done a good job in improving the Township. He said they have expanded the number of fire companies, the roads are in good shape and we are getting public water. Mr. Bayer advised 32.50 is a reasonable hourly rate in line with local townships and he himself received an 8.7% increase in social security. Mr. Cole stated that Jim Bockstoce should be compensated and he will put his raise towards Bockstoce's raise.

A regular meeting of the Somerset Township Board of Supervisors was held on Wednesday, March 8, 2023, at the Township Municipal Building. The Vice Chairman called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. with the following in attendance: Supervisors Robert Bayer Joseph Cole Absent James Bockstoce

PUBLIC COMMENT

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion: Bayer, 2nd: Cole, to approve minutes of the February 27, 2023 Meeting. Motion passed.

APPROVAL OF CHECKS, WARRANTS & TRANSFERS.

Motion: Bayer, 2nd: Cole, to approve the payment of the following checks:

CFS General Fund# 1951-1977 SHA Fund# 1715-1720

Procurement Card 3-10-23 and any other necessary transfers. Motion passed.

NEW BUSINESS

Authorize Engineer to Advertise Bids for 2023 Paving Project

Motion: Bayer, 2nd: Cole, to authorize township engineer to advertise bids for 2023 Paving Project to be opened during March 27 meeting. Motion passed.

Authorize Engineer to advertise bids for 2023 Tar and Chip Project

Motion: Bayer, 2nd: Cole, to authorize township engineer to advertise bids for 2023 Tar and Chip Project to be opened during April 24 meeting. Motion passed.

Authorize Donation to Bentleyville Public Library

Motion: Bayer, 2nd: Cole, to authorize 2023 donation to library in the amount of \$3000.00. Motion passed.

Added Item – Loeffert Agreement

Motion: Cole, 2nd: Bayer, to approve the agreement with Matthew and Angela Loeffert concerning the subdivision of their land into one parcel for the construction of a 40' x 100' post and beam building. Motion passed.

REPORTS

Road Department

Cole advised crews are trimming trees, repairing drains, performing ditch work and replacing cross pipe on Azzo Road.

ANY OTHER NECESSARY BUSINESS

ADJOURNMENT

Motion: Bayer, 2nd: Cole, to adjourn the meeting at 7:05 p.m. On a voice vote, the motion passed.

Respectfully Submitted,
Julie Ann Dotson
Secretary

A regular meeting of the Somerset Township Board of Supervisors was held on Wednesday, April 12, 2023, at the Township Municipal Building. The Chairman called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. with the following in attendance: Supervisors Robert Bayer James Bockstoce Joseph Cole

PUBLIC COMMENT

Tim Hamstra of 84 Bandel Road advised the board that he opposes closing Bandel Road as this would prevent emergency vehicles from responding to calls.

John Ulgiati of Johnston Road advised he rescinded his application for a variance to open an eatery and asked the board for direction in the matter, to which they replied, no comment.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion: Bayer, 2nd: Cole, to approve minutes of the March 27, 2023 Meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

APPROVAL OF CHECKS, WARRANTS & TRANSFERS

Motion: Cole, 2nd: Bayer, to approve the payment of the following checks:

CFS General Fund# 1978-2020 SHA Fund# 1721-1733

Procurement Card 4-10-23 and any other necessary transfers. Motion passed unanimously.

REPORTS

Road Department

Cole advised crews are trimming trees along roads in preparation for tar and chip, and prepping roads for paving.

Secretary

The Secretary read the treasurers report.

Planning and Zoning Coordinator

The Planning and Zoning Coordinator provided an update of permits and applications.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion: Bayer, 2nd: Cole, to adjourn the meeting at 7:05 p.m. On a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Julie Ann Dotson
Secretary

A regular meeting of the Somerset Township Board of Supervisors was held on Monday, April 24, 2023 at the Township Municipal Building. The Vice Chairman called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m. with the following in attendance: Supervisors Robert Bayer, Joseph Cole Absent James Bockstoce

PUBLIC COMMENT

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion: Cole, 2nd: Bayer, to approve minutes of the April 12, 2023 Meeting. Motion passed.

NEW BUSINESS

Reeg Allen Subdivision

Motion :Cole, 2nd: Bayer, to approve the Reeg Allen Subdivision. Motion passed.

Ordinance 2-2023 - Somerset Township Grease Remediation Ordinance

Motion: Cole, 2nd: Bayer, to approve ordinance 2-2023. Motion passed. The ordinance defines, regulates, and restricts the discharge of grease, oil and fat by restaurants and food preparation facilities.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion: Cole, 2nd: Bayer, to adjourn the meeting at 2:05 p.m. On a voice vote, the motion passed.

Respectfully Submitted,
Julie Ann Dotson
Secretary

A regular meeting of the Somerset Township Board of Supervisors was held on Wednesday, May 10, 2023, at the Township Municipal Building. The Chairman called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. with the following in attendance: Supervisors Robert Bayer James Bockstoce Absent Joseph Cole

PUBLIC COMMENT

Pennsylvania State Trooper Visit

A trooper provided the Board with an Incident Statistics Report.

CJ and Sally Seliga of Ridge Road asked about the subdivision application process. Peter Grieb was present and continued the discussion with Mr. and Mr. Seliga following the meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion: Bayer, 2nd: Bockstoce, to approve minutes of the April 24, 2023 Meeting. Motion passed.

Ordinance 1-2023 – Knox Box Installation

Motion: Bayer, 2nd: Bockstoce, to approve ordinance. Motion passed.

Mark and Melissa Ulgiati Subdivision

Motion: Bayer, 2nd: Bockstoce, to approve subdivision. Motion passed.

Asphalt Estimates

Motion: Bayer, 2nd: Bockstoce to award lowest bidder, Affordable Asphalt Services, to seal township parking lot in the amount of \$3,800.00. Motion passed.

REPORTS

Supervisors

Bockstoce advised that the public water project is still in process.

Secretary

The Secretary read the treasurer's report.

Planning and Zoning Coordinator

The Planning and Zoning Coordinator provided an update of permits and applications.

Road Department

Bockstoce stated that the road crew is prepping roads for paving and tar and chip.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion: Bayer, 2nd: Bockstoce, to adjourn the meeting at 7:10 p.m. On a voice vote, the motion passed.

Respectfully Submitted,

Julie Ann Dotson
Secretary

A regular meeting of the Somerset Township Board of Supervisors was held on Monday, May 22, 2023 at the Township Municipal Building. The Vice Chairman called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m. with the following in attendance: Supervisors Robert Bayer, Joseph Cole Absent James Bockstoce

PUBLIC COMMENT

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion: Bayer, 2nd: Cole, to approve minutes of the May 10, 2023 Meeting. Motion passed.

APPROVAL OF CHECKS, WARRANTS & TRANSFERS

Motion: Bayer, 2nd: Cole, to approve the payment of the following checks:

CFS General Fund# 2023-2054 SHA Fund# 1734-1740

Procurement Card 5-10-23 and any other necessary transfers. Motion passed.

GUEST – JOHN TRANT, PRESIDENT OF STRATEGIC SOLUTIONS, LLC. – ORDINANCE UPDATE

Mr. Trant presented the ordinance update and remaining timeline, explained the proposed uses, provided an updated draft copy of the ordinance, and answered questions from the Board and residents.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion: Cole, 2nd: Bayer, to adjourn the meeting at 3:40 p.m. On a voice vote, the motion passed.

Respectfully Submitted,
Julie Ann Dotson
Secretary

A special meeting of the Somerset Township Board of Supervisors was held on Tuesday, May 23, 2023 at the Township Municipal Building. The Vice Chairman called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m. with the following in attendance: Supervisors Robert Bayer, Joseph Cole Absent James Bockstoce

PUBLIC COMMENT

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion: Bayer, 2nd: Cole, to approve minutes of the May 22, 2023 Meeting. Motion passed.

Open Bids for 2023 Paving Project

Motion: Cole, 2nd: Bayer, to forward bids to engineer for review and award bid June 14, 2023. Motion passed. Four (4) bids received with the lowest bid submitted by Morgan Excavating, LP in the amount of \$424,592.30.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion: Cole, 2nd: Bayer, to adjourn the meeting at 2:10 p.m. On a voice vote, the motion passed.

Respectfully Submitted,
Julie Ann Dotson
Secretary

A regular meeting of the Somerset Township Board of Supervisors was held on Wednesday, June 14, 2023, at the Township Municipal Building. The Chairman called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. with the following in attendance: Supervisors James Bockstoce Joseph Cole Absent Robert Bayer

PUBLIC COMMENT

Greg Spridik asked status of Blackburn and Lobodinsky matter and Bockstoce advised it has been cancelled.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion: Cole, 2nd: Bockstoce, to approve minutes of the May 23, 2023 Meeting. Motion passed.

AWARD 2023 PAVING PROJECT

Motion: Cole, 2nd: Bockstoce, to award 2023 Paving Project to the lowest bidder Morgan Excavating, LP, in the amount of \$424,592.30. Motion passed.

REPORTS

Supervisors

Bockstoce advised that the public water project and water station project are still in process.

Secretary

The Secretary read the treasurer's report.

Planning and Zoning Coordinator

The Planning and Zoning Coordinator provided an update of permits and applications.

Road Department

Cole advised crew continues to mow and install cross pipes.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion: Cole, 2nd: Bockstoce, to adjourn the meeting at 7:05 p.m. On a voice vote, the motion passed.

Respectfully Submitted,

Julie Ann Dotson
Secretary

A regular meeting of the Somerset Township Board of Supervisors was held on Monday, July 24, 2023 at the Township Municipal Building. The Vice Chairman called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m. with the following in attendance: Supervisors Robert Bayer, Joseph Cole Absent James Bockstoce

PUBLIC COMMENT

Ms. Carol of 300 Ridge Road asked status of public water installation. Mr. Cole replied the Township is still in the process of obtaining public water.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion: Bayer, 2nd: Cole, to approve minutes of the June 14, 2023 Meeting. Motion passed.

APPROVAL OF CHECKS, WARRANTS & TRANSFERS

Motion: Cole, 2nd: Bayer, to approve the payment of the following checks:
CFS General Fund# 2055-2093 SHA Fund# 1741-1753
Procurement Card 7-10-23 and any other necessary transfers. Motion passed.

GENERAL CODE PROPOSAL/AGREEMENT TO RECODIFY ORDINANCES

Motion: Cole, 2nd: Bayer to approve proposal in the amount of \$16,500.00. Motion passed.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion: Cole, 2nd: Bayer, to adjourn the meeting at 2:10 p.m. On a voice vote, the motion passed.

Respectfully Submitted,
Julie Ann Dotson
Secretary

A regular meeting of the Somerset Township Board of Supervisors was held on Wednesday, August 9, 2023, at the Township Municipal Building. The Vice Chairman called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. with the following in attendance: Supervisors Robert Bayer Joseph Cole Absent James Bockstoce

PUBLIC COMMENT

Residents Kimberly Stevenson and Dean Trew of Keams Spur Drive advised of concerns regarding burning, zoning, and maintenance of the road in their neighborhood. The Planning and Zoning Coordinator will address the matter.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion: Bayer, 2nd: Cole, to approve minutes of the July 24, 2023 Meeting. Motion passed.

NEW BUSINESS

ATLASBURG MACHINE COMPANY, INC. SITE PLAN

Motion: Cole, 2nd: Bayer, to approve plan. The Township Engineer and Planning Commission recommend approval. Motion passed.

REPORTS

Supervisors

Added Item: Motion: Cole, 2nd: Bayer, to approve StoryWalk at Somerset Park. Motion passed. A representative of Bentleyville Library oversees the event, which provides books for local students.

Secretary

The Secretary read the treasurer's report.

Planning and Zoning Coordinator

The Planning and Zoning Coordinator provided an update of permits and applications.

Road Department

Cole advised paving is complete.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion: Bayer, 2nd: Cole, to adjourn the meeting at 7:30 p.m. On a voice vote, the motion passed.

Respectfully Submitted,

Julie Ann Dotson
Secretary

A regular meeting of the Somerset Township Board of Supervisors was held on Wednesday, September 13, 2023, at the Township Municipal Building. The Vice Chairman called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. with the following in attendance: Supervisors Robert Bayer James Bockstoce Joseph Cole

PUBLIC COMMENT

Francis Seliga Spoke of subdivision matter on Ridge Road. He advised the Board already approved and signed the plans and he is still waiting approval. Bockstoce advised he is forwarding the matter to our Planning and Zoning Coordinator for guidance.

Greg Spridik asked for agenda and minutes to be placed on website. He also asked for update on construction of Township park and suggested the facilities at Nottingham Township Park could be one to recreate. Bockstoce advised we are currently in the process of purchasing land connected to our park property. In addition, Mr. Spridik asked how the Board determines what roads are to be paved and also asked about the road markings on the road where he resides. Bockstoce advised that the supervisors ride the roads to determine what roads need paving or tar and chip and the Township incurred savings in the amount of \$200,000.00 in deciding to tar and chip the road rather than pave. Cole advised Mr. Spridik to contact him directly for any road issues as he is the Roadmaster.

Kathy Kennedy from the 84 Community Food Bank thanked the supervisors for the use of the building citing how many families are being served and how much funding she is raising.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion: Bayer, 2nd: Cole, to approve minutes of the August 9, 2023 Meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

RESOLUTION 3-2023 – AUTHORIZING AN APPLICATION TO THE PA MUNICIPAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Motion: Bayer, 2nd: Cole, to approve application. Motion passed unanimously. The program provides grant opportunities to the Township.

2022 PENSION DISTRIBUTION

Motion: Cole, 2nd: Bayer, to approve 2022 pension distribution totaling 9% of payroll. Motion passed unanimously.

TRUNK OR TREAT OCTOBER 28 FROM 5-7PM

Motion: Bayer, 2nd: Cole, to approve Trunk or Treat. Motion passed unanimously.

COUNTRY CHRISTMAS DECEMBER 2 FROM 4-7PM

Motion: Bayer, 2nd: Cole, to approve Country Christmas. Motion passed unanimously.

REPORTS

Supervisors

Bockstoce advised Dirt and Gravel Program application has been submitted and German Lutheran Cemetery property has been transferred to the Township, which includes funds and mineral rights.

Secretary

The Secretary read the treasurer's report.

Planning and Zoning Coordinator

The Planning and Zoning Coordinator provided an update of permits and applications.

Road Department

Cole advised tractors are being repaired and tar and chip project is complete.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion: Bayer, 2nd: Cole, to adjourn the meeting at 7:25 p.m. On a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,
Julie Ann Dotson, Secretary

A regular meeting of the Somerset Township Board of Supervisors was held on Monday, September 25, 2023 at the Township Municipal Building. The Chairman called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m. with the following in attendance: Supervisors Robert Bayer James Bockstoce Joseph Cole

Please be advised that the Board of Supervisors held an Executive Session on September 25, 2023 from 1:30 to 2:00 with the Township Solicitor to discuss litigation and real estate matters.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Paul Myers requested agenda be placed on website. He also stated the park property is not land locked as the Township has access via School Road.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion: Cole, 2nd: Bayer, to approve minutes of the September 13, 2023 Meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

APPROVAL OF CHECKS, WARRANTS & TRANSFERS

Motion: Bayer, 2nd: Cole, to approve the payment of the following checks:

CFS General Fund# 2094-2161 SHA Fund# 1754-1777

Procurement Card 7-10-23 and any other necessary transfers. Motion passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

TOWNSHIP MUNICIPAL BUILDING AND 59 SOMERSET DRIVE – INSULATION AND CEILING PROPOSAL

Motion: Cole, 2nd: Bayer to approve Champion Construction insulation proposal for 59 Somerset Drive in the amount of \$34,980.00 and drywall ceiling proposal for municipal building in the amount of \$13,910.00, using Covid Cares Funds. Motion passed unanimously.

MEETING ROOM USE POLICY AND APPLICATION

Solicitor to review and advise Board of implementation of meeting room use policy and application.

PUBLIC COMMENT SIGN-IN SHEET

Motion: Cole, 2nd: Bayer, to approve utilization of new public comment sign-in sheet and rules of decorum. Motion passed unanimously. Forms were reviewed by Solicitor.

HOT WATER DISPENSER – RECREATION BOARD

Motion: Bayer, 2nd: Cole, approves purchase of hot water dispenser for Recreation Board events in the amount of \$124.99. Motion passed unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion: Bayer, 2nd: Cole, to adjourn the meeting at 2:05 p.m. On a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,
Julie Ann Dotson
Secretary

A regular meeting of the Somerset Township Board of Supervisors was held on Wednesday, October 11, 2023, at the Township Municipal Building. The Chairman called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. with the following in attendance: Supervisors Robert Bayer James Bockstoce Absent Joseph Cole

PUBLIC COMMENT

Charles Klein advised there are low hanging wires on Young Road. He stated that he contacted Verizon about the issue and this has not been corrected. The Secretary will contact Verizon to address the matter.

Paul Myers stated he is waiting for a response from the Board concerning update of agriculture certification and also advised the website update quote is not on the agenda.

Denise Briede advised she received a letter in the mail from the Board, advising her that she is not permitted to use the meeting room until a meeting room use policy is established by the Board. She advised that the Washington County Patriots, LLC., whom she is a member of, has previously used the meeting room on a few occasions without issue. Ms. Briede also stated that their members bring guests and she did not receive any complaints.

Motion: Bayer, 2nd: Bockstoce, to recess meeting and begin public hearing. Motion passed.

PUBLIC HEARING – LIQUOR LICENSE TRANSFER APPLICATION – MJM BAR INVESTMENTS, LLC.

Chad Schneider represents the applicant and provided information on restaurant amenities, hours and advised establishment will open 2024. There are no public comments or questions.

Motion: Bayer, 2nd: Bockstoce, to close public hearing and resume meeting. Motion passed.

RESOLUTION 4-2023 – LIQUOR LICENSE MJM BAR INVESTMENTS, LLC.

Motion: Bayer, 2nd: Bockstoce, to approve resolution. Motion passed.

GUESTS--JOHN TRANT & CAROLINE MCGONIGLE FROM STRATEGIC SOLUTIONS--ORDINANCE UPDATE

Mr. Trant presented the ordinance update and answered questions from the Board and residents.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion: Bayer, 2nd: Bockstoce, to approve minutes of the September 25, 2023 Meeting. Motion passed.

OLD BUSINESS**MEETING ROOM USE POLICY/APPLICATION**

Motion: Bayer, 2nd: Bockstoce, to table item. Motion passed.

NEW BUSINESS**DISTRIBUTION OF VOLUNTEER FIRE RELIEF**

Motion: Bayer, 2nd: Bockstoce, to approve distribution of Volunteer Fire Relief. Motion passed.

ORDINANCE 3-2023 ROAD OPENING AND EXCAVATIONS

Motion: Bayer, 2nd: Bockstoce, to approve ordinance. Motion passed.

WEBSITE UPDATE QUOTE

Motion: Bayer, 2nd: Bockstoce, to approve Fresh Media LLC. quote in the amount of \$4,524.00. Motion passed.

REPORTSSupervisors

Bockstoce thanked John Trant, Harold Ivery and Peter Grieb, Planning and Zoning Coordinator and Secretary for their assistance with ordinance update. He also advised the Board is meeting next week with American Consolidated regarding the park property purchase.

Secretary

The Secretary read the treasurer's report.

Planning and Zoning Coordinator

The Planning and Zoning Coordinator provided an update of permits and applications.

Road Department

Bockstoce advised patchwork is being completed.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion: Bayer, 2nd: Bockstoce, to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 p.m. On a voice vote, the motion passed.

Respectfully Submitted, Julie Ann Dotson, Secretary

A regular meeting of the Somerset Township Board of Supervisors was held on Monday, October 23, 2023 at the Township Municipal Building. The Chairman called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m. with the following in attendance: Supervisors Robert Bayer James Bockstoce Joseph Cole

Please be advised that the Board of Supervisors held an Executive Session on October 18 from 8:30 to 10:00 with Township Solicitor to discuss litigation and real estate matters.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Paul Myers asked status of Agriculture Security review and asked description of check payable to MEIT. Bockstoce advised Agriculture Security is currently under review and check is for medical insurance. Paul Bellicini stated use of meeting room should not be offered for political meetings and for residents only. Ms. Miller suggested the meetings be streamed online for all to view. Ms. Lohr suggested use of meeting room be allowed for all with a fee. Ms. Briede suggested meeting be available for use by all.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion: Bayer, 2nd: Cole, to approve minutes of the October 11, 2023 Meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

APPROVAL OF CHECKS, WARRANTS & TRANSFERS

Motion: Bayer, 2nd: Cole, to approve the payment of the following checks:
CFS General Fund# 2162-2194 SHA Fund# 1778-1787
Procurement Card 10-10-23 and any other necessary transfers. Motion passed unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

TOWNSHIP MUNICIPAL MEETING ROOM USE POLICY/APPLICATON

Motion: Bockstoce, to approve policy and application as presented. Motion died for lack of a second.
Motion: Bockstoce, 2nd: Bayer, to approve revised policy/application. Cole abstained. Motion passed.
The following changes to be included: available until 9:00pm, \$50.00 security deposit, open to general public.

LOEFFERT SUBDIVISION – FILE LEGAL ACTION

Motion: Cole, 2nd: Bockstoce, to authorize Solicitor to file civil suit. Motion passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANIES - \$5000.00 DONATION USING COVID FUNDS

Motion: Bayer, 2nd: Cole, to authorize payments. Motion passed unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion: Bayer, 2nd: Cole, to adjourn the meeting at 2:15 p.m. On a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,
Julie Ann Dotson
Secretary

A regular meeting of the Somerset Township Board of Supervisors was held on Wednesday, November 8, 2023, at the Township Municipal Building. The Chairman called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. with the following in attendance: Supervisors Robert Bayer James Bockstoce Joseph Cole

PUBLIC COMMENT

Paul Myers provided a paper to the Board and Planning and Zoning Coordinator detailing agriculture security recommendations. He asked if the Blackburn and Lobodinsky matter has been cancelled and Bockstoce responded yes, the Board cancelled all legal proceedings regarding the matter.

Renee Miller asked how the Food Bank was granted use of the building, who paid for the walk in freezer, why do they have the only access to the kitchen and does the Food Bank pay for their use of electricity, heating, and air conditioning. She said the Food Bank has numerous donations from EQT and Range Resources and should pay their own bills. Bockstoce advised he will look into the matter.

GUEST – ROBERT ZELCH – GERMAN LUTHERAN CEMETERY

Mr. Zelch, member of The Sons of The American Revolution, provided a presentation on the history of the cemetery. He stated there are five (5) soldiers of the Revolutionary War buried in the cemetery and they will be holding a rededication ceremony next year and everyone is invited to attend.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion: Cole, 2nd: Bayer, to approve minutes of the October 23, 2023 Meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

MOTION TO TABLE DRAFT REVIEW OF ZONING ORDINANCE AND SALDO UPDATE

Motion: Cole, 2nd: Bayer, to table item. Motion passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

2024 PROPOSED PENSION BUDGET

Motion: Bayer, 2nd: Cole, to approve 2024 Proposed Pension Budget. Motion passed unanimously.

2024 PROPOSED BUDGET – AUTHORIZE TO ADVERTISE

Motion: Bayer, 2nd: Cole, to authorize Secretary to advertise 2024 Budget. Motion passed unanimously.

REPORTS

Supervisors

Bockstoce advised the ordinance update is similar to neighboring townships, the Board has contacted North Strabane Township regarding extending public sewage into the Township and Charleroi Water Fill Station and PA Water public water installation are still in the works. He also advised WCCD Dirt and Gravel Program awarded Township \$229,000 for Spud Drive bridge repair, which will begin fall 2024. In addition, the agriculture security reviews will begin next year as the last review was performed 2003. He said housing plans are developing on the border with North Strabane Township and we would like to be prepared.

Secretary

The Secretary read the treasurer's report.

Planning and Zoning Coordinator

The Planning and Zoning Coordinator provided an update of permits and applications.

Road Department

Cole stated our crew is trimming trees and sealing cracks.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion: Bayer, 2nd: Cole, to adjourn the meeting at 7:35 p.m. On a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted, Julie Ann Dotson, Secretary

A regular meeting of the Somerset Township Board of Supervisors was held on Wednesday, December 13, 2023, at the Township Municipal Building. The Chairman called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. with the following in attendance: Supervisors Robert Bayer James Bockstoce Joseph Cole

PUBLIC COMMENT

Renee Miller asked status of response to questions regarding Food Bank use of the building and paying their bills. She also asked for meetings to be streamed online. Bockstoce advised he will respond during his report. Kathy Kennedy gave a report of how many families are serviced by the Food Bank. Paul Myers asked status of water lines. Bockstoce advised he will respond during his report.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion: Cole, 2nd: Bockstoce, to approve minutes of the November 8, 2023 Meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

APPROVAL OF CHECKS, WARRANTS & TRANSFERS

Motion: Cole, 2nd: Bockstoce, to approve the payment of the following checks:
CFS General Fund# 2195-2277 SHA Fund# 1788-1808
Procurement Card 12-10-23 and any other necessary transfers. Motion passed unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

ADOPT PROPOSED 2024 BUDGET

Motion: Cole, 2nd: Bockstoce, to adopt proposed 2024 budget. Motion passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

BACHMANN SUBDIVISION PLAN

Motion: Cole, 2nd: Bockstoce, to approve subdivision as recommended by engineer. Motion passed unanimously.

AUTHORIZE LEGAL AD FOR 2024 REORGANIZATION MEETINGS JAN 2 AND 3

Motion: Cole, 2nd: Bockstoce, to authorize Secretary to advertise reorganization meetings. Motion passed unanimously.

REPORTS

Supervisors

Bockstoce advised the park property purchase is in process and the Township will apply for \$140,000 grant for the park. He also stated that the Township will receive grant funds for dirt and gravel project soon, he will check into utility bills for months prior and after installation of Food Bank walk in freezer, and online meetings will be available soon. He also advised the Township is waiting for response from Charleroi Water Authority solicitor regarding water station status.

Secretary

The Secretary read the report.

Planning and Zoning Coordinator

The Planning and Zoning Coordinator provided an update of permits and applications.

Road Department

Cole stated our crew is trimming trees, preparing trucks for winter and the insulation is installed at 59 Somerset Drive.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion: Cole, 2nd: Bockstoce, to adjourn the meeting at 7:20 p.m. On a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,
Julie Ann Dotson
Secretary