

SOMERSET TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
REORGANIZATION MEETING
January 2, 2024

The Reorganization meeting of the Somerset Township Board of Supervisors was held on Tuesday, January 2, 2024, at 7:00 p.m., at the Township Municipal Building. Mr. Bockstoce called the meeting to order with the following in attendance:

SUPERVISORS

Mr. James R. Bockstoce
Mr. Joseph J. Cole
Mr. Mark J. Lohr

Pledge of Allegiance

Public Comment

There are no public comments

Chairman of Board of Supervisors

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

Vice-Chairman

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

Secretary/Treasurer

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

Planning and Zoning Coordinator

Motion Bockstoce, second Lohr, to appoint Lindsey Strack as Planning and Zoning Coordinator. On a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

Solicitor

Motion Cole, Second Lohr, to appoint Attorney James Liekar as Township Solicitor at the rate of \$145.00 per hour. On a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

Resolution 1 of 2024 – Schedule of Fees

Motion Cole, Second Lohr, to adopt the fee schedule as set forth in R1 of 2024. On a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

Resolution 2 of 2024 – Emergency Management Coordinator

Motion Cole, Second Lohr, to appoint Ron Sicchitano Jr. as EMC at rate of \$1000.00/year as set forth in R2 of 2024. On a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

Volunteer Fire Relief

Motion Lohr, second Cole, to set distribution for Volunteer Fire Relief of 2024. On a voice note, the motion passed unanimously.

Appointment of CPA for 2023 Audit

Motion Cole, Second Lohr, to appoint Mark Turnley, CPA, to perform the 2023 annual audit.
On a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

Diesel Fuel

Motion Cole, second Lohr, to authorize bid advertisement for Diesel Fuel. On a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

Anti-Skid Material

Motion Lohr, second Cole, to authorize bid advertisement for Anti-Skid. On a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

REORGANIZATION**Director of Public Works**

Motion Cole, second Lohr, to appoint James R. Bockstoce as Director of Public Works. On a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

Roadmaster and Assistant Director of Public Works

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

Roadmaster and Assistant Director of Public Works

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

Code Enforcement/Zoning Officer

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

Building Code Official

Motion Bockstoce, second Lohr, to appoint Municipal Consulting Service as Building Code Official. On a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

Animal Control

Motion Lohr, second Bockstoce, to appoint Kym Seecret as Animal Control at the rate of \$450.00 per month. On a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

Act 511 Tax Collector

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

EIT/LST Collector

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

Vacancy Board

Motion Bockstoce, second Lohr, to appoint Robert Bayer as Vacancy Board Member. On a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

Zoning Hearing Board (3-year term 2024 to 2026)

Motion Bockstoce, second Cole, to appoint Judith Lohr to a 3-year term to the Zoning Hearing Board. On a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

Planning Commission (4-year term 2024 to 2027)

Motion Lohr, second Cole, to appoint James Bockstoce to a 4-year term to the Planning Commission. On a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

Engineer

Motion Bockstoce, second Cole, to appoint KLH as Township Engineer. On a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

Washington County Sewage Council

Motion Bockstoce, second Cole, to appoint Lindsey Strack as representative to the Washington County Sewage Council. On a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

Depository

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

Meeting Dates

Motion Bockstoce, second Lohr, to approve holding regular monthly meetings on the 2nd Wednesday of the month at 2:00 pm and on the 4th Monday of the month at 2:00 pm and to authorize Public Notice of 2024 meeting dates. Cole abstained. Motion passed.

Fire Protection

Motion Lohr, 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 Bockstoce, second Lohr, 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 Bockstoce, second Lohr, to set the Full Time Employees wages at \$30.00 per hour effective 1/1/24. Cole abstained. Motion passed.

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

Motion Bockstoce, second Cole, to set the Auditors compensation at \$25.00 per meeting. On a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

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

Employee Benefits

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

Cellular Phone Stipend

Motion Bockstoce, second Lohr, to approve 2024 cellular phone stipend for Supervisors, Secretary and Planning and Zoning Coordinator in the amount of \$480.00. On a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

Business Mileage

Motion Cole, second Bockstoce, to set mileage at 2024 IRS rate for use of personal vehicle for Township business(67cents/mile). On a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Minutes

Motion Cole, second Lohr, to approve the minutes of the December 13, 2023 meeting. On a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Checks, Warrants & Transfers

Motion Cole, second Bockstoce, 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

Bockstoe advised water fill station agreement is signed and deed recorded, the Township is acquiring appraisal for park property and January 17, he and the engineer will attend meeting at North Strabane Township to discuss sewage extension.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Julie Ann Dotson
Secretary