

**Legislative Meeting Activity**

**September 19, 2022**

<b><u>TITLE</u></b>	<b><u>MOTION</u></b>	<b><u>SECOND</u></b>
Approve the August 15, 2022 Legislative Meeting Minutes.	Commissioner Darragh	Commissioner Haluka
Approve the August bill list in the amount of \$33,348.06; to ratify August pre-paid bills in the amount of \$13,242.75; and to ratify August payroll transfers in the amount of \$23,825.82.	Commissioner Darragh	Vice President Williams
Accept the 2023 Police Pension MMO in the amount of \$9,928 and the 2023 Non-Uniform MMO in the amount of \$14,264.	Commissioner Darragh	Commissioner Haluka
Adopt a Resolution Recognizing Quaker Valley Ambulance Authority on the Occasion of its Fiftieth Anniversary.	Commissioner Haluka	Commissioner Darragh
Adjournment		

**TOWNSHIP OF ALEPPO****LEGISLATIVE MEETING MINUTES****September 19, 2022****CALL TO ORDER:**

President George Jones called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance and roll call. Those in attendance were Vice President Arthur Williams, Commissioner Dan Darragh, Commissioner Judy Haluka, Solicitor Harlan Stone, Manager Gwen Patterson, and Secretary Patty Krecek. Commissioner Amy Richert was not in attendance. President Jones announced that the meeting is being recorded.

**MINUTES:**

Commissioner Darragh made a motion to approve the August 15, 2022 Legislative Meeting Minutes. Commissioner Haluka seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

**AUDIT:**

Kim Turnley, CPA, provided the 2021 Audit Report and a copy of two letters written by Mark Turnley to the Board of Commissioners, which give a summary of the audit. Mrs. Turnley said the MD&A, which is the Management's Discussion and Analysis, is the report at the beginning of the audit that is a synopsis of the year. She said the audit received an unmodified opinion on the financial statements. She said Aleppo is one of their few clients that do their financial statements in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP), which means the Township takes it to the highest level of accounting that is possible. She said that is good because every piece of financial information that you possibly could want required by GAAP is in the audit report, e.g., fixed assets are identified, long-term debt, etc.

She said the Township's General Fund Balance has generally gone up, which means revenues are exceeding expenses, and for 2021 expenses were lower than revenue by about \$275,000, so the General Fund Balance increased for 2021. She said the GFOA (Government Finance Officers Association) recommends two months of unassigned fund balance based on the total General Fund Expenditures, and the Township is over that benchmark because at December 31, 2021 the Unassigned Fund Balance is \$1,373,000. Mrs. Turnley said the best schedules to look at in the report for budget to actual are Schedule 1 for revenues and Schedule 2 for expenditures. She said there are other governmental funds, which are the Liquid Fuels Fund and the Stormwater Fund that is new for 2021 and money was transferred from the General Fund into the Stormwater Fund.

She said Exhibit G in the report provides the detail for the budgeted amount in the major categories of revenues and expenses, what the actuals were, and how the Township finished the year based on what was budgeted. The Township ended with a Fund Balance increase of approximately \$274,000. She said there was also a Transfers Out of \$230,000 from the General Fund to other governmental funds such as Stormwater and Capital Improvement Fund.

**REPORTS****POLICE:**

Ohio Township Chief Joseph Hanny gave the report for the month of August. There were 49 calls, which included 29 EMS assists, one residential alarm, and animal complaints, which were loose dogs. Chief Hanny reminded residents to do the best they can to have dogs on leashes or leads. He also said I-79 Southbound will be closed this weekend, September 23rd, which will be the fourth and final closure. The report was accepted.

Manager Patterson said she would like to discuss the traffic accidents that occurred on Redgate Road. She said there were two rollover accidents in the last 10 days at the bottom of Redgate, which were in Haysville. She said they happened because tractor trailers were going down Redgate, lost their brakes and they made it over the one lane bridge at the bottom and rolled over into the hillside. She said there are houses at the bottom of the hill and if they lost their brakes and lost control, they could go the other way into houses. Manager Patterson said Haysville's president has contacted the Quaker Valley COG to try to get some help to coordinate with the communities and PennDOT. She said Aleppo is very interested in an imminent meeting with PennDOT about putting up signage before the trucks get to Redgate. Manager Patterson said Deer Run, Merriman and Redgate are State roads, so the Township needs their permission to put large signage or they would like to ask PennDOT to put signage.

Chief Hanny said he spoke with one of the truck drivers and he asked the driver what could have been done to stop him from going onto Redgate. He said the driver said he saw the weight limit sign, but he felt he could probably make it. The driver said if there was a sign that said No Large Trucks, he probably would have stopped and figured out something else. Manager Patterson said as you turn onto Redgate, there is a PennDOT signpost that says Weight Limit 10 Tons 2500 Feet Ahead, and Public Works put a sign on the post this afternoon that says No Thru Truck Traffic. She said a meeting with PennDOT has not been scheduled yet, and that the fire chief of Cochran Hose Company, who are the first responders to the accidents, also contacted someone at PennDOT.

Commissioner Darragh asked if signs could be placed on the Township's property outside of the right of way. Chief Hanny said the Township could put signs as long as they are not contradicting any other signs or laws. Solicitor Stone said the Township could create a sign to put on their property; however, it would not be an approved sign by PennDOT, but it could be done. President Jones asked Manager Patterson to meet with Public Works and Chief Hanny to determine signage that can be put off the right of way on the Township's property.

**EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT:**

Commissioner Haluka said that PEMA (Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency) has changed the entire certification program for emergency management coordinators. She said there are two levels to the new certification. The first level requires 265 hours of education with 50 additional continuing education units each year and the second level is 300 hours. Commissioner Haluka said her goal is to be done by the end of the year. She also said the emergency operation plan will need to be redone in 2023. The report was accepted.

**PUBLIC WORKS:**

Manager Patterson provided a brief summary for the month of August. The detailed report was provided to the Board. The report was accepted.

**COMMUNICATIONS:**

Manager Patterson said the Township received a complaint and a question about open burning. She said there was a situation over the weekend where somebody had been doing some burning of debris in a burn barrel and it caused a big hazy cloud over some of the neighborhoods. The complainant wanted to know what rules the Township follows. Manager Patterson said the Township follows Allegheny County burning rules. This afternoon she received information in her email from the County about open burning regulations and she is going to put the information on the Township's website. The report was accepted.

**PLANNING/ZONING:**

No report.

**TAX COLLECTOR/TREASURER:**

President Jones said the tax collector/treasurer could not make the meeting tonight and they have his reports for the month of August. He also said the tax collector/treasurer will be reviewing the audit and they will be getting together to give Manager Patterson any comments by Monday, September 26, 2022. The report was accepted.

**FINANCE:**

Commissioner Darragh made a motion to approve the August bill list in the amount of \$33,348.06; to ratify August pre-paid bills in the amount of \$13,242.75; and to ratify August payroll transfers in the amount of \$23,825.82. Vice President Williams seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Darragh made a motion to accept the 2023 Police Pension MMO in the amount of \$9,928 and the 2023 Non-Uniform MMO in the amount of \$14,264. Commissioner Haluka seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

**ALEPPO TOWNSHIP AUTHORITY:**

No report.

**QUAKER VALLEY AMBULANCE AUTHORITY:**

Commissioner Haluka made a motion to adopt a Resolution Recognizing Quaker Valley Ambulance Authority on the Occasion of its Fiftieth Anniversary. Commissioner Darragh seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

**QVCOG:**

Vice President Williams provided the QVCOG Executive Director's Report for September 2022 to the Board. He said he wanted to draw attention to the notification that the COG's annual dinner is Wednesday, October 5, 2022, at the Edgeworth Club. He said it is a good opportunity to meet people from the other municipalities and other COG's. The report was accepted.

**SOLICITOR:**

Solicitor Stone said that last week he attended a remote municipal solicitor's continuing legal education seminar. He said there were two items of new legislation as follows:

- 1) Act 74, which is a fireworks law for Pennsylvania. This law has changed a couple of times. The most recent change allowed individuals to use consumer fireworks in their yard with certain parameters. That did not go over very well, so there is a third change to the law, which says individuals are allowed to use consumer fireworks in their yard with certain parameters, but the local municipality can regulate the use of fireworks through a permitting process. Solicitor Stone asked the Board of Commissioners if they want to control and regulate the use of consumer fireworks by creating an ordinance.
- 2) Act 56, which is a tax forgiveness law. This law says that if someone mistakenly fails to pay their property taxes after the first year of occupancy, their entitled to forgiveness of the late penalty fees. The law is mandatory, so every municipality must adopt it. Solicitor Stone said the Township will need to pass a resolution that directs the tax collector to fulfill the requirements of the Act.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:****SEWICKLEY LIGHT UP NIGHT:**

Manager Patterson said that one community has stated they donated \$1,000.00 for the Sewickley Light Up Night. She said another community has stated they will be discussing it tomorrow night. Manager Patterson said the budget for the event is \$30,000 and Sewickley receives sponsorships for almost half of that amount, so Sewickley Borough pays around \$13,000 to \$15,000 for the event. Commissioner Darragh suggested that the Board table this topic for now and everyone agreed.

**REDGATE ROAD SPEEDING/SIGNAGE:**

President Jones said this topic was covered during the Police report.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

None.

**CITIZEN PARTICIPATION:**

None.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

Not requested.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

President Jones adjourned the meeting at 7:38 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Patty Krecek  
Township Secretary