

HICKORY TOWNSHIP  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING  
November 4, 2024

The regular monthly meeting of the Hickory Township Board of Supervisors held at the Hickory Township Municipal Building was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Chairman, Christopher J. Fabian.

Supervisors Present: Christopher J. Fabian  
Michael E. Hall  
William W. Dean

Staff Present: Lisa Schlemmer - Secretary/Treasurer  
Morgan Hill, HTPD Patrolman  
Bobbiejo Walker, HTPD Patrolman

Other Attendees: Tom Houston Richard Alley Wayne Patterson  
David White Tom McCormick, Jr. Dick Houston  
Josh Ottaviani Tom McCormick, Sr. Jon Sweet  
Bob Brunswick Mary Boots James P. Hunt

Supervisor Fabian made a motion to accept the October 7, 2024 regular meeting minutes and October 29, 2024 budget workshop minutes without correction. Motion was seconded by Supervisor Hall. All in favor. Motion carried.

The October Treasurer’s Report was offered by the Secretary/Treasurer. Supervisor Dean made the motion to accept the Treasurer’s report and pay all regular, incoming bills and payroll. Motion was seconded by Supervisor Hall. All in favor. Motion carried.

Report of Police activities for the month of October was read by Morgan Hill: 1 motor vehicle accident; 5 traffic stops; 5 property checks; 1 administrative; 1 alarm; 1 assist other agency; 1 road condition; 1 vehicle maintenance and 1 threat call –(Total calls: 17)

Immediately following the reading of the October police activity report, Officer Hill announced that Randall Cook was reinstated as Chief of the HTPD and offered a statement about the decision to disband the Hickory Township Police Department. Officer Hill thanked the public for their support of the HTPD.

**Building Permits:**

Applicant	Address	Proposed Improvement
Frederick & Sherrie Kreitzer	369 Lakewood Neshannock Falls Road	Hot tub w/pavilion over top

**Public Comments:** Jon Sweet asked whether he can get a print out of all of the Township monthly bills. Mr. Sweet was advised that he can submit a right-to-know request to obtain any information he is seeking.

Jon Sweet asked why the Township residents weren’t personally notified by letter or flyer of the Supervisor’s intention to disband the HTPD. Supervisor Fabian responded that the Agenda was posted well in advance of the meeting and the Supervisors follow the advice of their counsel on procedure.

James Hunt complained about the response time of the Pennsylvania State Police (PSP). Mr. Hunt said that it took the PSP six (6) hours to come when cars along Lakewood Road were broken into. He asked if the Supervisors are aware of those car break-ins and whether the Supervisors have talked to PSP. Supervisor Fabian replied that the Township is aware of said car break-ins., that there was a high volume of car break-ins throughout the area at that time and the perpetrator(s) were caught. The Supervisors have talked with PSP about Township incidents, concerns and coverage. The PSP will continue to cover the Township as they have all along.

Dick Houston said that he has been at multiple car accidents in the Township as a member of the Hickory VFD and the HTPD have not shown up to any of those accident scenes. He said that the HTPD is of no value to the Township. He said that the speeding through Eastbrook has continued for years and years and the HTPD has made zero effort to mitigate speeding in the Township. Mr. Houston spoke about police presence in the distant past, the hours that were worked, and the actual prevalence of crime in the Township.

Bob Brunswick wanted to know the number of officers and why they aren't working. Supervisor Fabian advised that there are eight (8) officers on the roster. Mr. Brunswick wanted to know why the officers who don't show up to work have not been fired. Supervisor Fabian replied that it is the Chief's duty to handle the roster and the Supervisors cannot intervene, even though the Supervisors have asked for the roster to be cleaned up multiple times. Mr. Brunswick said that if he didn't show up to work for 2 years, he would've been fired. Mr. Brunswick was advised that the officers of the HTPD are part of a union and the rules set forth in the Collective Bargaining Agreement govern such matters. Mr. Brunswick said that it is unfair that 3 or 4 officers have carried the work load and that the disbanding of the HTPD was "shady".

Rich Alley commented that the HTPD is not worth the money. The cruiser is always outside the Township in other municipalities when the HTPD is supposed to be working. Mr. Alley asked where the people complaining about the HTPD being disbanded have been for the past 11 months of the year or the past 3-4 years.

Jon Sweet said that he donated a gun to the HTPD a long time ago and that he wants that gun returned if all of the equipment will be sold or donated.

The residents in attendance continued a brief discussion about their opinions of the HTPD and related matters.

Dave White asked what the plan is to address the deteriorating road conditions on Bowden Road and the north section of Lakewood Neshannock Falls Road. The road lanes are reduced making it hard for 2 cars to pass each other because the edges of the road are breaking away. The Supervisors said that the horse and buggies are tearing up the roads in the Township. The Township has patched and seal coated in that area, but remedies don't last because the horse and buggies just tear it all back up. The Supervisors are researching newly tested alternative fixes to asphalt and seal coating in the interest of finding a cost effective, long term answer to the problem. PennDOT and some other municipalities are testing options and the Supervisors would like to see the feedback before they proceed.

**New Business:** The Final Plan of Subdivision and Lot Consolidation for Ronald E. Telesz & Beth A. Telesz, Richard E. Telesz and Thomas D. & Cynthia L. Telesz was reviewed as submitted. The subdivision creates an 11.05- acre lot from the 94.31-acre Richard Telesz Farm along its border with Eastbrook Neshannock Falls Road. The newly created 11.05-acre lot will be consolidated with the existing 3.72-acre lot of Ronald E. Telesz & Beth A. Telesz to create a 14.77-acre lot. Said subdivision/lot consolidation was reviewed and approved by the Hickory Township Planning Commission at their October 17, 2024 meeting. Supervisor Hall made the motion to approve the subdivision/lot consolidation. Supervisor Dean seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion carried.

Supervisor Hall made the motion to increase the 2025 Hickory Township fire tax millage from 0.375 to 0.5. Motion was seconded by Supervisor Dean. All in favor. Motion carried.

Supervisor Dean made the motion to approve the 2025 proposed budget. Supervisor Fabian seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion carried. The proposed budget will be advertised and made available for public inspection. The Board of Supervisors intend to adopt the final budget at the next regular monthly meeting on December 2, 2024.

Supervisor Hall made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:27 P.M. Motion seconded by Supervisor Dean. All in favor. Motion carried.