

**Minutes of the Regular Meeting  
of the South Park Township**

**Board of Supervisors**

**March 11, 2024**

**Pledge of Allegiance**

**Roll Call**

Ed Snee presiding. Board members Brian Lucot and Lawrence Vogel were present. Also in attendance were Karen Fosbaugh, Township Manager; Chief McDonough; Aaron Laughlin, Director of Public Works; and Irv Firman, Solicitor; and Tom Bonidie, Code Enforcement Officer.

Two or more members of the Board of Supervisors were together on the following occasions which were executive sessions, informational meetings, or Township-related events:

Monday, February 12, 2024 – After the regular meeting to discuss personnel issues.

Tuesday, March 5, 2024 – Public informational meeting to discuss the proposal to place lights at Wilson Field Complex.

Monday, March 11, 2024 – Prior to the regular meeting to discuss personnel issues.

**PLEASE BE INFORMED THAT THE TOWNSHIP OF SOUTH PARK RECORDS ALL PUBLIC MEETINGS AS PART OF THE MEETING MINUTES PROCESS.**

**ANYONE SPEAKING THIS EVENING IS REQUESTED NOT TO REPEAT THE SAME POINTS ADDRESSED AT A PRIOR MEETING. RESIDENTS ARE REMINDED THAT THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS IS REGULATED TO ADHERE TO EXISTING ORDINANCES.**

**THE AUDIENCE AGENDA WAS PLACED ONLINE FOR RESIDENTS WHO MAY WISH TO OFFER PUBLIC COMMENT OR ASK A QUESTION WHICH WILL BE ENTERED INTO THE RECORD AT THE MEETING THIS EVENING. COMMENTS/QUESTIONS WERE TO BE SUBMITTED NO LATER THAN 4:30 P.M. TODAY.**

Mrs. Fosbaugh stated for the record that two items were submitted to be entered into the public record.

A Township resident, Natalie Long, who resides on Westchester Road, submitted a letter regarding proposed Ordinance No. 717. She has reached out to the Township on a number of occasions with regard to a car that is parking directly across the street from her home. She is

concerned when she is backing up that she will strike the car, particularly because her driveway is on a slant. She is afraid that in inclement weather when it is icy she will slide. Ms. Long stated that she is not the only resident complaining. She is concerned because on numerous occasions when the Township has sent out notifications asking for residents to park in their driveways during periods of snow and ice, the car has not been moved. Ms. Long is concerned for the safety of the residents. Mrs. Fosbaugh added that the Township is also concerned about the safety of our drivers when plowing snow. Ms. Long also mentioned an emergency situation in which an ambulance came to her house in the middle of the night and had a difficult time because of the on street parking.

Danielle Strimlan submitted an email today, at 3:51 p.m., with a number of attachments addressing drilling and perils of injection wells; fracking 101; hazards from below; earthquakes; harm to drinking water; leaks, spills and water contamination; and well regulation and how to intervene.

### **Call on the People**

**Andy Gastmeyer, 962 Westchester Rd.** – Mr. Gastmeyer stated that he collected signatures from people to get their opinion whether or not they were for or against the “No Parking” signs being proposed. He commented that he believes that the issue is not about safety with the snowplows, but more about complaints from 2 or 3 residents. He asked why the majority does not rule and added that it is a form of discrimination. Mr. Gastmeyer inquired as to the parking situation when residents have gatherings in their homes. He inquired as to other streets with a similar problem and mentioned vehicles being parked along Rosemary Lane. He suggested imposing a fine for people not moving their vehicles in emergency situations. He asked that the Board of Supervisors reconsider and not do something that may give them more problems in the future.

**Mary Ann Linder, 1062 Westchester Rd.** – Ms. Linder commented that after measuring across Westchester Rd., she believes there is adequate space to pull out with a van parked on both sides of the street. She inquired as to why Westchester Road was singled out for the “No Parking” ordinance.

**Tom Mack, 1026 Westchester Rd.** – Mr. Mack stated that residences located on the west side of Westchester Rd. have 2-car garages and a 2-car wide driveway. He resides on the east side, where the garages are at the back side of the houses and the driveways are single lanes. He has 4 vehicles at his residence. If the ordinance is approved, he does not think it is fair to have to keep moving their vehicles when one needs to leave the residence.

**Tim Foster, 1046 Westchester Rd.** – Mr. Foster stated that he is opposed to the proposed ordinance and asked that the “No Parking” signs not be placed permanently on the street.

**Whitney Gastmeyer, 962 Westchester Rd.** – Ms. Gastmeyer commented that Westchester Rd. has always been safe, and the residents generally get along with one another. She does not understand the resident who is complaining about having difficulty backing out of her driveway. Ms. Gastmeyer added that she and many other residents are not aware of the Township’s Snow Removal Guidelines, have never received any automated messages to move their vehicles, and were not aware of Savvy Citizen. Mrs. Fosbaugh stated that the Township has not had any emergency notifications for the past 2 years because of the weather pattern; however, 3 years ago during an ice storm, a Savvy Citizen notification was sent, it was posted on Facebook as well as the Township Website. There are also Snow Removal Guidelines on the Township Website, in the monthly Township E-Newsletter, and it has been published in the *Park News*. Residents need to subscribe to Savvy Citizen and the E-Newsletter to receive notifications. Every effort has been made to reach as many residents as possible. Ms. Gastmeyer inquired about robocalls, and Mrs. Fosbaugh stated that the Township has signed up with Rave Alert System.

**Jake Linder, 1062 Westchester Rd.** – Mr. Linder commented that he has not witnessed any sort of traffic incident on Westchester Rd. for the past 24 years. He asked that the Board of Supervisors do what is best for the majority of residents.

**Nick Simanic, 1045 Westchester Rd.** – Mr. Simanic expressed his opposition to the proposed ordinance stating that when all vehicles are forced to park on one side of the road, the residents on that side will have difficulty backing out of their driveways.

**Ronald Smith, 1041 Westchester Rd.** – Mr. Smith stated that he agrees with Mr. Simanic. He suggested eliminating all parking on Westchester Rd.

**Natalie Long, 959 Westchester Rd.** – Ms. Long commented that she is not the only person who has complained; however, she is the only person that has been impacted on a daily basis. She explained that she has tried to speak with the owner on multiple occasions and asked them to move their car to their parking pad, their driveway, or anywhere else on the street that is not behind her driveway. She has almost hit their car multiple times, and it is not because of her lack of driving. Westchester Road has no lighting, the neighbor’s car is a dark color, and backing out of the driveway is very tight. She does not want to be responsible for hitting their car, especially during inclement weather. Ms. Long believes that safety takes precedence over convenience. She added that there are

other options, and everyone on the street has a parking pad, driveway or a garage.

**Janice Nash, 6563 Quaker Dr.** – Ms. Nash stated that she has been a resident on Quaker Dr. for 35 years. She commented that Quaker Dr. is on a hill, and it often has vehicles parked on both sides of the street. When going up or down the hill or around the crescent, the likelihood of a head-on collision is imminent. She has witnessed the snowplows not being able to navigate or clear the entire street. Ms. Nash stated that she is in favor of limiting the parking.

**Jennifer Harbison, 1025 Westchester Rd.** – Ms. Harbison stated that she has resided on the west side of Westchester Rd. for 42 years. She does not think it is fair to limit the parking to one side of the road. She added that if parking is going to be limited, it should be on both sides.

**Ashley Urlakis, 3060 Brownsville Rd. Ext.** – Ms. Urlakis inquired as to whether Ordinance No. 686 has been reviewed, as she has requested prior to this meeting. Mrs. Fosbaugh replied that her submitted documentation has been reviewed at the Planning Staff Meeting which was held at the end of February. At that time, the documentation was discussed with the Township Planning Consultant, who typically deals with these types of issues. There is another meeting scheduled in two weeks to review the Planning Consultant’s findings. Mrs. Fosbaugh explained that at one point the issue could go before the Planning Commission for review. Then, it would go before the Board of Supervisors at a Public Hearing since it would be a zoning issue.

**Brenda Sigatoos, 4006 Crown Dr.** – Ms. Sigatoos commented that she has been to Natalie Long’s house, and on the night the paramedics arrived. She does not feel that the resident across the street from Ms. Long’s house is a good neighbor, as there are certainly other options of where to park their car.

**Katie Spin, 1030 Westchester Rd.** – Ms. Spin expressed her opposition to the proposed ordinance.

Mrs. Fosbaugh mentioned that before an ordinance can be adopted of this nature, particularly with “no parking” or stop signs, the Police Department is required to perform a traffic study. The traffic study was undertaken for both Westchester Rd. and Quaker Dr. Chief McDonough explained that they conducted the traffic study as they do with all complaints or requests for change in regulations for parking, stop signs, etc. The guide that is used to justify installing “No Parking” signs is the PennDOT regulation. The issue was the position of vehicles parking on the curb on Westchester Rd. and causing a bottleneck where snowplows and ambulances were having trouble getting through. There has been an undertow of complaints either from Public Works or the fire department.

We needed to take a hard look at the issue to see if there can be some viable option to at least get a straight traffic lane open. We select first and foremost the side of the street where the fire hydrants are located, and that is the lane we want to keep open. Sometimes people park too close or block a fire hydrant, and that creates another issue. On Quaker Dr., everyone has chosen to use a public roadway as their private parking lot. During a fire call in that area, there was difficulty getting the aerial into position at the house. Public Works plows cannot get through to plow during inclement weather. We have had to address the same public safety and public health issues on many other streets that had to be addressed on Westchester Rd. and Quaker Dr. The “No Parking” signs are PennDOT regulation, and we must adhere to the PennDOT regulation for it to be enforceable. That is the protocol used, and it is not just the matter of one blocked driveway but for the health and safety of the residents residing in the neighborhood. A resident asked about a law enacted for parking in front of a fire hydrant, and Chief McDonough stated that there is a law enacted. The resident asked if the safety issue is with the entire street, as he believes the higher side of the street is much wider. Chief McDonough replied that one or two winters ago there was an issue with a car by the cul-de-sac and when they put out the alert nobody in the neighborhood could identify the owner of the vehicle. An investigation identified the owner as someone in another part of Allegheny County who was parking there during the day while carpooling. The resident commented that residents need to be aware of the emergency notifications being sent out by the Township, so that they will not park on the street when notified. Chief McDonough replied that even if they are not receiving Township notifications, the newscasters do a very good job of alerting residents. Common sense would tell you to do what you have to do to get out of the way.

**Mary Ann Linder** – Ms. Linder suggested that if restricting parking on their street, make it “No Parking” for all of the Township’s streets.

**Anonymous Resident** – The resident inquired about no parking in front of fire hydrants.

**Danielle Strimlan, 620 Carothers Ave., Carnegie** – Ms. Strimlan discussed EQT and its leasing of mineral rights throughout the Township and the Township’s Oil and Gas Ordinance. She asked the Board of Supervisors to amend the ordinance to enact safe restrictions.

**Anonymous Resident** – The resident stated that Natalie Long is a great neighbor. He commented that a Red Corolla is parked dead center across from her driveway and suggested a police officer visit her neighbor and request that he not park in that spot.

- Action on Minutes** Motion by Mr. Lucot, seconded by Mr. Vogel, to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Supervisors held on February 12, 2024. All members voted aye. Motion carried.
- Action on Invoices** Motion by Mr. Lucot, seconded by Mr. Vogel, to approve the payment of invoices for the month of February, 2024. All members voted aye. Motion carried.
- Action on Ordinance No. 717** Mr. Lucot thanked everyone who participated in the discussion regarding Ordinance No. 717. He commented that the decision to approve this ordinance is not taken lightly by the Board. Many complaints were received, a traffic study was done, and the issue was discussed with Public Works. Mr. Lucot would like to consider a less restrictive way for the Township to accomplish the goal of public safety while not imposing on certain aspects of the residential neighborhood. Mr. Vogel mentioned that he was at the fire on Quaker Drive on Christmas Day and believes that safety needs to be taken into consideration.
- Motion by Mr. Lucot, seconded by Mr. Vogel to table Ordinance No. 717: AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF SOUTH PARK, ALLEGHENY COUNTY, COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA, ADDING TO CHAPTER 133, ARTICLE III, SECTION 133.24.1, OF THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF SOUTH PARK, ADDRESSING PARKING PROHIBITED AT ALL TIMES; NAMELY ON THE EAST SIDE OF QUAKER DRIVE AND THE EAST SIDE OF WESTCHESTER ROAD WITHIN THE TOWNSHIP OF SOUTH PARK. All members voted aye. Motion carried.
- Action on Non-Exclusive License Agreement – 1404 Marion Drive – Joshua & Maureen Byler** Motion by Mr. Lucot, seconded by Mr. Vogel, to approve the Non-Exclusive License Agreement by and between the Township of South Park (Grantor), and Joshua & Maureen Byler (Grantees), to permit the construction of a six-foot (6’) fence over a sanitary sewer easement located on Lot No. 10 of the Marion Manor Plan of Lots, Lot & Block No. 473-F-137, being 1404 Marion Drive, as recommended by the Director of Public Works, and further authorizing the appropriate Township officials to execute said Agreement. The Grantees understand and acknowledge that by executing the Agreement, they agree that South Park Township has the right to access the easement for repair and/or maintenance purposes. The Grantees further understand and acknowledge that access to the easement by South Park Township may necessitate the removal of the encroachment by the Grantees at their cost, and that South Park Township will not be responsible for any and all repairs, damages or replacement of said encroachment. All members voted aye. Motion carried.

**Action on Kay  
Easement  
Agreement –  
Watchfield Drive –  
Bonnie Dell Plan  
No. 3**

Motion by Mr. Lucot, seconded by Mr. Vogel, to approve the Agreement by and between David and Angela Kay and the Township of South Park, whereby the existing location of a twenty-foot (20') storm sewer easement over and through Lots 316 and 317 in the Bonnie Dell Plan No. 3 is being revised, as it is physically constructed in a location other than what is reflected on the proposed plan, and is being corrected for accuracy as recommended by the Township Engineer. All members voted aye. Motion carried.

**Action to Determine  
Public Nuisance –  
Demolition Process –  
Mary Rose  
Champion – 5916  
Curry Road**

In light of the fact that there is an interested heir who was unable to attend the public hearing, a motion was made by Mr. Lucot, seconded by Mr. Vogel, to table declaring the following property a public nuisance, and possibly pursuing the demolition process as the property is a threat to the health, safety and welfare of Township residents, and continuing the public hearing on Monday, April 8, 2024, at 6:45 p.m.:

**Owner(s):**

Mary Rose Champion (deceased)

**Location:**

5916 Curry Road  
Pittsburgh, PA 15236  
Lot/Block No. 564-C-293

All members voted aye. Motion carried.

**Action to Authorize  
the Preparation and  
Advertisement of  
Bids – Rt. 88 and  
Brownsville Road  
Improvement  
Project**

Motion by Mr. Lucot, seconded by Mr. Vogel, to approve authorizing the preparation and advertisement of bids for the project identified as the Rt. 88 and Brownsville Road Improvement Project and scheduling the bid opening for Tuesday, May 7, 2024, at 10:00 a.m., with action on said bids anticipated to take place at the regular meeting of the Board of Supervisors scheduled for Monday, May 13, 2024. All members voted aye. Motion carried.

**Action on  
Conference  
Attendance –  
Pennsylvania Chiefs  
of Police Education  
and Training  
Conference – Chief  
Dennis M.  
McDonough**

Motion by Mr. Lucot, seconded by Mr. Vogel, to approve the attendance of Chief Dennis M. McDonough to the annual Pennsylvania Chiefs of Police Association and Training Conference to be held on July 20-24, 2024, in Bayfront Courtyard Marriot, Erie, PA, at an approximate cost to the Township of \$1,101.79. All members voted aye. Motion carried.

**Action on Training  
Request – Excellence  
in Small Agency  
Policing – Sgt.  
Joseph Leonetti and  
Sgt. Joshua Indof**

Motion by Mr. Lucot, seconded by Mr. Vogel, to approve the attendance of Sgt. Joseph Leonetti and Sgt. Joshua Indof to a training session entitled, "Excellence in Small Agency Policing," sponsored by the Federal Bureau of Investigation National Command Course Association, which will be held at Castle Shannon Fire Department on April 10-12, 2024, at a total cost to the Township of \$636.00. All members voted aye. Motion carried.

**Action on  
Assessment Change  
Reimbursements –  
Lawrence P. Arrigo,  
Tax Collector**

Motion by Mr. Lucot, seconded by Mr. Vogel, to approve Township real estate tax refunds for the calendar years 2022 and 2023, as a result of successful appeals at the County level, as requested by Tax Collector Lawrence P. Arrigo, in correspondence dated February 10, 2024. All members voted aye. Motion carried.

**Action on MS4  
Report –February,  
2024**

Mrs. Fosbaugh explained that following is the MS4 report for February dated March 11, 2024. MS4 is the acronym for Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System. It is a series of increasingly more difficult and extensive tasks that communities are required to undertake by the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) in order to keep the clean water supply safe.

1. The part-time litter collection employee continued on with litter collection activities on Township streets to prevent trash from impacting the function of the stormwater inlets.
2. The Public Works Department rebuilt 2 inlets in February.
3. The Public Works Department continues to inspect outfalls in February. This is an ongoing process.
4. A twenty inch (20”) cast iron sanitary sewer line ruptured in half and began to leak at the Piney Fork Sewage Treatment Plant. An emergency repair was made and the problem corrected.

Motion by Mr. Lucot, seconded by Mr. Vogel, to approve the MS4 Report for the month of February, 2024. All members voted aye. Motion carried.

**Police Chief’s Report** The Police Chief’s Report for January, 2024:

Calls for Service	644
Arrests	7
Traffic Citations	57
Warnings Issued	50
Reportable Accidents	6
Non-Reportable Accidents	3
Fire Calls	2
Emergency Medical Assists to Tri-Community EMS	79
Deer Struck by Vehicles	4



The Police Chief's Report for February 2024:

Calls for Service	581
Arrests	7
Traffic Citations	32
Warnings Issued	65
Reportable Accidents	2
Non-Reportable Accidents	4
Fire Calls	4
Emergency Medical Assists to Tri-Community EMS	72
Deer Struck by Vehicles	5

Chief McDonough commented that they are teaming up with Representative Kudzma for the Hard to Read License Plate Event. Anyone with an illegible license plate, due to PennDOT's paint coming off, can have their standard plate replaced for free during the event which will take place on March 23<sup>rd</sup>, by the Public Works garage, from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. Township police officers will inspect the plates and sign off on the applications, which will be sent to Harrisburg. There is a charge of \$64.00 for vanity plates, and only payment by check will be accepted.

Motion by Mr. Lucot, seconded by Mr. Vogel, to approve the Police Chief's reports for the months of January and February, 2024. All members voted aye. Motion carried.

**Supervisors' Comments**

**Mr. Vogel** – Mr. Vogel commented that while he was away on military leave, one soldier rolled his personal vehicle because of the road conditions. He asked everyone to please slow down and be responsible. Mr. Vogel mentioned that both fire departments have suggested that residents change the batteries in their smoke detectors and to make it a habit when changing the clocks for Daylight Savings Time.

**Mr. Lucot** – Mr. Lucot thanked everyone for attending and expressed his appreciation for those bringing issues and supporting the community.

**Mr. Snee** – Mr. Snee thanked everyone for attending. He expressed his appreciation to the Easter Bunny for volunteering her time at the Easter Event. The event was well attended, and he thanked everyone for participating.

**Adjournment**

Motion by Mr. Lucot, seconded by Mr. Vogel, to adjourn the meeting. All members voted aye. Motion carried.

**Time: 8:04 p.m.**