

Patterson Township Board of Commissioners

Agenda (Pre) Meeting

Thursday, February 11, 2016

Attendants: Commissioner Policaro
Commissioner Inman
Commissioner Mahosky
David Stanislowski, Asst. Chief
Ken Fawcett, Solicitor

Commissioner Bradow
Commissioner Hoover
Paula Wagoner
Philip Graeser, Fire Chief

Visitor: Ed Goth, Charles Leach Agency (Insurance Agent)

Items discussed:

- Mr. Ed Goth, Township Insurance Agent from Charles Leach Agency attended the meeting to address the concerns regarding the recent claim filed for water damage at the Township Fire Department. He provided background information on the claim filed with Travelers and apologized for the way it was handled by them. He noted that Travelers has been around for over 50 years and he has not experienced claims such as this to be denied. As part of his presentation, Mr. Goth provided the option for the Township to switch to another carrier for the Township insurance. VFIS (Volunteer Fire Insurance System), of which is part of the Gladfelter Insurance Group may be an option. Mr. Hoover expressed that he was the most vocal regarding the denial of the claim and is agreeable to shopping around for insurance. Mr. Mahosky presented the enormous amount of documentation provided by the Traveler's Claim Adjuster, when he asked her to reconsider her position of denying the claim. It was pointed out that an Engineer was brought in (by the Adjuster) to calculate the amount of water leaking as a determination on how long it had been leaking. Mr. Mahosky's observation was that Traveler's spent a considerable amount of money on the claim prior to its final determination to pay it. The final amount sent to the Township is \$4,157.04. It was the general consensus of the Board for Mr. Goth to proceed with securing insurance proposals, with the change to take place mid-year. He will return with recommendations.
- Mr. Policaro advised the Board of the need to amend the Burning Ordinance to accommodate the recycling grant application submitted to DEP for a new leaf vacuum and recycling cans and lids in the amount of \$54,159.00. It was important to do quickly since the grant applications are being reviewed now. The Township was notified that DEP would not approve our grant as long as we allowed burning of items that can be recycled. This would also apply to future grants. The amendment was prepared by Mr.

Fawcett, eliminating the burning of paper, paper products, and tree limbs and twigs and was advertised for adoption at tonight's meeting. A public hearing will be held to allow residents to provide input. Discussion was held on alternatives for the disposal of twigs, tree limbs, etc. Routine pick-ups could be done by our Public Works employees and disposed of at the Bradys Run Recycling facility. Mr. Inman advised that he noticed that Chippewa Township had a similar amendment to their Ordinance advertised for the same reason (DEP Act 101 grants). Options for providing the residents with alternatives, instead of burning, will be continued to be discussed in future months.

- Mr. Hoover provided an update on the restoration of the Fire Department's bathroom, along with other projects, in conjunction with the \$4,000.00 that was approved by the Board at the last meeting for needed improvements. He noted spending \$3,095.48 to date, which included the replacement of 20 light fixtures (12 on second floor) and 8 in the truck bays. Mr. Hoover estimated a savings of 43% in electric costs by replacing these light fixtures. He will proceed with making improvements and will spend the remaining \$900.00. Mazzant Painting donated flooring and the vanity for use in the bathroom and hallway. Mr. Hoover advised that he will be coming to the Board in the future, as the cooling and heating systems were evaluated and are in need of upgrade. There are 4 different systems in the building of which he brought in Johnson's Heating & Cooling to remove the old radiators and provide a proposal for consolidating and upgrading. Upon a discussion on the electrical and plumbing, it was noted that the certified electrician being used does not feel that the work being done needs inspection.
- Fire Chief Philip Graeser attended the meeting advising of the receipt \$11,511.96 from the State Fire Grant Program. The application requested \$15,000.00, of which a list of items were provided: hose for pumper \$7,800; exhaust fan \$2,294-\$2,924; intake ball valve \$1,536; miscellaneous hose \$1,040. Since the grant amount is \$11,511.96, the request is to allow the Fire Department to use the materials/supplies line item to offset those items they really want/need. By deleting some of the hose, it will fall below the \$2,000 allowed by Commissioners to approve and spend. Mr. Hoover will be proposing to spend \$1,500 at the regular meeting to follow.
- The Secretary asked Fire Chief Graeser if it was true the ladder truck was sold. He advised that the \$4,000 offer was voted down by the membership. The ladder won't pass certification and it is too expensive to repair. Chief Graeser's opinion is to eliminate the ladder truck since neighboring Beaver Falls, Chippewa Township, and Brighton Township all have one for mutual aid. Presently, it is only used for carrying equipment if additional items are needed at a fire scene. In the event of a sale, the Secretary requested to be notified since the insurance coverage is by the Township.
- Mr. Policaro advised of the recommendation by Bill Livingston, former Emergency Management Coordinator to appoint Dillon Utnehmer as his replacement. Dillon has

been actively involved in the Emergency Operations Center for the last few years and presently serves as the Radiological Officer. According to Mr. Livingston, Dillon is willing to accept this position.

- Mr. Fawcett provided an update on the research that he has done concerning “drones”. He advised that the FAA plans to address and regulate sometime in July; however he does not know what the regulations will entail. Mr. Fawcett distributed a sample ordinance from East Goshen Township, Chester County PA regulating model aircraft and amateur rockets, if the Board prefers to adopt something now. He noted that this type of Ordinance can be amended once FAA regulations are established. Mr. Policaro advised that he was told that model aircraft, drones, and any type of unmanned aerial systems are prohibited within 5 miles of an airport. Patterson Township is located within 5 miles of Beaver County Airport. Additional discussion to be held during regular meeting.

End of Meeting