

Patterson Township Board of Commissioners

Regular Meeting

Thursday, August 14, 2014

The Patterson Township Board of Commissioners held their regular meeting on Thursday, August 14, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. at the Municipal Complex, 1600 19th Avenue. Following the call to order and Pledge of Allegiance, roll call showed all Commissioners present (Policaro, Bradow, Hoover, Inman, and Mahosky).

Minutes: The minutes of the Agenda (Pre) meeting and the Regular Meeting held July 10, 2014 were presented for approval. Motion was made by Mr. Hoover; seconded by Mr. Inman approving as presented. Passed unanimous.

Public Comment: Dennis Mercadante, 1306 Fox Avenue attended the meeting to question whether there are any plans to pave Fox Avenue. Mr. Policaro advised that the Board had decided to do other areas of the Township; however, due to not receiving any bids, there are no plans to do any roads at all this year. Plans will be made to do a program next year. Mr. Mercadante told the Board that the statement was made at a meeting by the Board to continue doing the Struby area until done. Since that is not the case, the 2014 funds will be set aside to add to the 2015 available funds and do a larger program. Mr. Mercadante expressed that he would like Fox Avenue done.

Lance Frederick, 1511 19th Avenue advised the Board of the need to install stop signs at the intersection of 19th Avenue and 15th Street making it a four-way stop instead of a two-way stop. He reported speeding and accidents in this area and has safety concerns for the residents who live in this area. Mr. Policaro noted the need to do a traffic study (ie: warrant) as per the PennDot regulations prior to a stop sign being placed. Stop signs cannot be installed to control speed. Certain criteria has to be met. Mr. Frederick noted a site problem in this area that may qualify placing the stop signs.

Sue DeSanzo, 2001 5th Street attended the meeting to report neighborhood problems, whereby kids are hanging in the streets, drugs, etc. Assistant Chief Stanislawski was in attendance. He noted that they are aware; however, need residents to call in when happening. Mr. Policaro advised her that you can be anonymous when calling in. Mr. Greg Lawton and his sister Julie Lawton, 303 Wissner Avenue also attended the meeting to address the same complaint. Mr. Lawton noted wearing two hats. He is a resident of this area and a member of the Fire Department. Some of the problem exists as a result of firehall rentals not finishing/leaving when they are supposed to. He believes it is by 11:00 p.m. Disturbances / fights have occurred after 11:00 p.m. Mr. Policaro suggests the Fire Department police their own rentals to insure that the renters are out of there by 11:00 p.m.

Treasurer's Report: Mrs. Wagoner gave the Treasurer's Report for the month of July for the General Fund, Sewer Fund, and Other Accounts. Samples of resolutions regarding interim tax collection were provided to the Solicitor for review. Mrs. Ferrazzano has requested the Township adopt a resolution regarding this issue. Motion was made by Mr. Inman; seconded by Mr. Hoover approving the Treasurer's reports as presented. Passed unanimous.

Monthly Bills: The monthly bills for July / August were presented for review. Motion was made by Mr. Hoover; seconded by Mr. Mahosky approving payment. Passed unanimous.

Engineer's Report: Larry Lennon, Jr., LSSE provided the monthly report and addressed the following items: Darlington Court – Punchlist items pending; Township Building Emergency Generator – LSSE met with Township to review location of generator. Contract will bid two potential locations for a price comparison. Bid opening is tentatively scheduled for the September meeting; 2014 Road Program – No bids were received for the project. LSSE recommended holding until next year since contractors are running behind on their scheduled work. An additional recommendation was made to decide on what roads to do in January or February, 2015 and put out for bid early. This would provide the best price. MS4 – LSSE will be scheduling a meeting with Public Works for Annual Operations and Maintenance Training in 2014; Year 2 sampling has been complete; and an MS4 Operations and Maintenance Ordinance, TMDL Ordinance and a new Stormwater Management Ordinance is due for adoption in late 2014. Flood Plain Regulatory Update – FEMA schedule for Beaver County regarding Flood Insurance Rate Map has not been finalized yet. Because the rates are going up dramatically for Flood Insurance, LSSE provided a presentation to Municipalities regarding ways to reduce insurance rates for residents in the flood area. Darlington Road Sidewalk – No change. Greenways, Trails and Recreation Grant Program – Application for “Community Park Master Plan and Phase I Improvements was submitted by LSSE for the Township. Front Street Guide-rail – Under the recent Steffin Hill sewer line replacement (by PT Municipal Authority), a resident complained of no guiderail and the condition of the roadway. Mr. Gache, Municipal Authority Chairman, was in attendance. The length of guiderail needed is 400 ft. and Mr. Gache advised that the Municipal Authority will work with the Township to resolve. Mr. Cipolla, also in attendance, suggested placing the large rocks (stone) there as an alternative to guiderails. Mr. Lennon advised that he would look into further. Mr. Cipolla advised that the Township does have some guiderail; whoever no posts.

Solicitor's Report: Mr. Fawcett provided an update on the bond claim regarding former Tax Collector, Robert Anderson. He advised that the bulk of the claim will be for reimbursement of audit fees. Additional charges were filed recently against Mr. Anderson regarding the absence of cash payments made by 5 taxpayers.

Mr. Fawcett provided additional information regarding the need for a dissolution clause in the by-laws of the Fire Department. He noted that this requirement only applies to Fire Relief, of which the Township Fire Department does receive funding. He noted that requirements under the Auditor General's office are in place and dissolution is overseen by the Orphan's Court, if need be. Also, Township funds paid to the Fire Department can be required

to come back to the Township, in the event of dissolution. Mr. Mahosky asked what the difference is between being a Fire Department or a Fire Company. Mr. Fawcett advised that there is no difference; however, they are considered a separate entity from the Township. The Township does have the ability to oversee the Fire Department even though they are separate.

Mr. Fawcett offered advice on the current situation regarding a lease agreement with the Blackhawk School District for the recreation area behind the Patterson Primary School. He noted receiving a copy of the old lease from Mrs. Wagoner, to compare to the lease that was recently provided for review. The old lease (which had expired) is pretty broad. He recommended an agreement between the Township and School District if work is going to be done down there. He additionally expressed that the Township is doing improvements on property that is not the Township's and with Township funds. If this type of arrangement is going to continue, he recommended an agreement. He recommended renewing the old lease (same type of wording) instead of doing a new lease with renewal each year. He offered to discuss with Jerry Wessel, Business Manager for BSD and come back to the Board next month.

Mr. Fawcett provided a report on the recent letter/documentation received from the City of Beaver Falls - Water Pollution Plant regarding rate increases and tap fees, referred to him by Mr. Inman. Upon his review, he noted the original agreement of 1972, which provides the guidelines for the Joint Sewer Users. The agreement calls for providing calculations on costs of the plant annually, which does not constitute the City of Beaver Falls imposing a 3% increase each year, as the letter advised. Additionally, there is nothing in the agreement regarding sewer tap fees, of which the documentation requires. The management function (Joint Sewer Users) would approve sewer tap fees, if need be. The Secretary noted that new construction has been assessed the City's tap-in fee (\$650.00) in addition to the Township's tap-in fee and was forwarded to the City of Beaver Falls. It was noted that the City of Beaver Falls is not an Authority and cannot impose these fees. Mr. Inman recommended sending a letter advising them that they are not following the Joint Sewer Users Agreement in place. Mr. Bradow recommended contacting the other Joint Sewer Users. Although there was no formal action taken by the Board, it was the general consensus for Mr. Fawcett to send a letter to the City of Beaver Falls, with a copy to the municipalities in the Joint Sewer Users group.

Committee Reports: Fire/Finance – Mr. Mahosky presented five (5) fire reports in the amount of \$643.50 or 99 hours. Motion was made by Mr. Hoover; seconded by Mr. Inman approving payment. Passed unanimous.

Mr. Mahosky advised that the Township Per Capita collections are down considerably and he is working with BSD Business Manager, Jerry Wessel. Mr. Wessel advised Mr. Mahosky that the collections are at 60%. Mr. Mahosky will continue to work to improve the collection rate.

Mr. Mahosky requested permission to attend a grant writing training course in Erie sponsored by the Pennsylvania State Association of Boroughs. The date is September 16, 2014

and the cost is \$150.00 plus travel expenses. Motion was made by Mr. Hoover; seconded by Mr. Inman approving Mr. Mahosky's attendance. Passed unanimous.

Parks/Recreation - Mr. Hoover advised the Board that the Eagle Scout project in the Township Park has been completed. He also wanted to thank Mr. Cipolla and his team of workers (employees) for the work done in the recreation area behind the school. The scope of work included gravel in the batting cages and repainting the basketball backboards. Work done by Public Works in the Township Park also included putting up the park signs on 8th Street, removing the fencing in the parking lot and cleaning up the garbage dumped in this area. Mr. Cipolla advised the Board that there has been garbage dumped there everyday and recommended the placement of field cameras. Additional ideas were discussed such as putting a gate across to keep people from going in there after dusk (park closing). Cameras seem to be the best option.

Public Works - Mr. Inman presented a proposal from Municipal Signs & Sales in the amount of \$2,531.58 for street signs. This falls in with the program being done to replace all of the street signs as required by state law. Motion was made by Mr. Inman; seconded by Mr. Hoover approving this proposal. Passed unanimous.

Mr. Inman also advised that pricing on signs for "No Soliciting without Permit" are being looked into.

Ordinances/Policies - Mr. Bradow advised of the pending Recreational Burning and Personnel Policy changes noting receiving no input from the Board. Will continue into next month.

Code Officer – The monthly activity report for July, 2014 was submitted for review. Upon Mr. Policaro requesting any questions, Mr. Inman advised that the report doesn't tell the Board anything. The Secretary noted the format of the report, providing a summary of all that Mr. Morrow does in a month, was suggested by her. Mr. Morrow formerly did a narrative report. Questions on a particular category, can be directed to Mr. Morrow personally. Mr. Pollicaro advised that he would check with Mr. Morrow regarding his reporting to the Board.

Police/Township Office/COG - Mr. Policaro noted the distribution of the monthly Police Report for July. A memo was received from Assistant Chief Stanislawski regarding regulations for Soliciting/Peddling in the Township. He recommends raising the application fee and implement a procedure for residents to put their name on a "do not solicit" list held in the Township office. This list would be given to the Solicitors when applying for a permit. The recommendation was made to turn this over to Mr. Bradow, as Ordinances/Policies Commissioner for review and recommendation back to the Board next month.

Mr. Policaro advised of receipt of a sample letter written by Officer Bathgate requesting donations from Township businesses. The letter is requesting funds to be used in the training

of officers (specifically the active shooter training). There was no objection to this letter being sent out.

Mr. Policaro advised of the results of the Civil Service Commission's recent testing for an eligibility list for hiring of part-time officers. He noted 11 applicants picked up the applications and took the written test. Upon the oral exam and agility testing being done, there are two candidates on the list. Mark Smilek – Score of 80.9% and Christopher Zemalkowski – Score of 72.2% are on the eligibility list. The Civil Service Commission submitted a letter to the Board noting these results. Mr. Policaro recommended the hiring of both of these officers upon a criminal background check, psychological testing, and physical being done. Motion to approve the hiring of Mark Smilek and Christopher Zemalkowski was made by Mr. Hoover. Seconded by Mr. Bradow the motion passed.

Motion was made by Mr. Hoover; seconded by Mr. Inman approving all Committee Reports as presented. Passed unanimous.

Unfinished Business: None

Township Business: Civil Service Commission – Mr. Mahosky noted minutes of a recent meeting held by the Civil Service Commission, whereby they reorganized. They are still in need of one alternate member. The eligibility list was already covered under the Police report. The Commission will need to proceed with testing again since the two officers on the list were hired.

Municipal Authority – The quarterly transfer from the sewer fund into the Municipal Authority's sinking fund to pay the loan is due in the amount of \$26,976.57. The Secretary noted the revised amount (lower) as per the new borrowing. Motion was made by Mr. Hoover; seconded by Mr. Inman approving the transfer of \$26,976.57. Passed unanimous.

Communications: A letter and documentation was received from the Federal Emergency Management Agency in regards to the Flood Insurance Rate Map. The Secretary also advised of attending the presentation held by LSSE regarding NFIP (Community Rating System).

New/Miscellaneous Business: The bid results for the winter snow/ice season from the Council of Governments were provided as follows: Central Salt – low bidder for salt \$84.42/ton and Oliastro – low bidder for anti-skid \$12.25/ton. The Secretary noted the requirement to approve the contracts in order to sign and send back to the vendors. Also a copy is sent to the COG to retain the appropriate bonds. Motion was made by Mr. Inman; seconded by Mr. Hoover approving the two contracts for winter snow/ice removal. Passed unanimous.

The 2013 Township Audit for all funds was submitted on behalf of Denise Hebb, CPA. There were no questions at this point.

Mr. Mahosky advised of the recent active shooter training session held at the Patterson Primary School. Assistant Chief Stanislawski advised that four Township officers participated. The cost to the Township was the wages to be there. It is desired to continue this training in the future. Mr. Hoover noted recognition to Mr. Mahosky and Assistant Chief Stanislawski for their pursuit of this training and the work involved in making it happen.

Executive Session: None

There being no further business to be brought before the Board, motion was made by Mr. Hoover to adjourn. Seconded by Mr. Inman, the meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Paula J. Wagoner, CMC
Township Secretary

Copy: Board of Commissioners
Kenneth Fawcett, Esq.
Larry Lennon, Jr., P.E.