

# Patterson Township Board of Commissioners

## Regular Meeting

Thursday, October 9, 2014

The Patterson Township Board of Commissioners held their regular meeting on Thursday, October 9, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. at the Municipal Complex, 1600 19<sup>th</sup> 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 previous Agenda and Regular Meetings, held Thursday, September 11, 2014 were presented for review. Motion was made by Mr. Hoover; seconded by Mr. Inman approving the minutes as presented. Passed unanimous.

**Public Comment:** None

**Treasurer's Report:** The monthly Treasurer's Report for September, 2014 was distributed to the Board. Mr. Policaro requested the Board review the General Fund, Sewer Fund, and PLGIT Accounts and direct any questions to Treasurer Mrs. Wagoner. The question was raised on interim taxes, regarding whether C. J. Betters (Darlington Court) have received an interim tax, since the units are starting to be occupied. Mrs. Wagoner noted that Mrs. Ferrazzano would know the status of that.

**Monthly Bills:** The monthly bills for the month(s) of September and October were presented for approval. Motion was made by Mr. Hoover; seconded by Mr. Inman approving payment. Passed unanimous.

**Engineer's Report:** Mr. Larry Lennon, Jr., LSSE distributed the monthly Engineer's report and provided the following: Darlington Court – punchlist items still pending. No change from last month; Emergency Generator Project – the bids were opened on October 2, 2014 and a bid report issued, which was attached to the Engineer's report. A synopsis of the bid tally is as follows: five (5) contracts opened (HH Electric / Merit Electrical Group / Allegheny City Electric/ R. E. Yates Electric / and Frankl Electric). Contract A location is on the 19<sup>th</sup> Avenue side in the parking lot by the Police entrance and Contract B location is on the 16<sup>th</sup> Street side close to the alley to access the rear of the building. The two options provided were diesel fuel and natural gas generators. Add alternate A,B,C and D included the sound attenuated. The low bidder for all the options was HH Electric and Son, Inc. in the amount of \$52,350 (including sound barrier) for diesel, location A. The natural gas option was \$52,100.00. (including sound), location A. Location B results for HH Electric were as follows: \$56,350.00 for diesel (including sound) and \$56,100.00 for natural gas (including sound). Questions were raised regarding diesel versus natural gas. It was noted that natural gas would be the better option. Motion was made by Mr. Inman; seconded by Mr. Bradow to approve Contract B, Alternate D in the amount of \$56,100.00. The location to be on the 16<sup>th</sup> Street side of the Municipal Building, on the corner of building. Mr. Hoover questioned the need for the sound protection (additional \$2,500). Mr.

Lennon explained it is the same decibel protection as the other options. Upon a call for the vote, the motion passed 4 ayes; 1 naye (Hoover).

Continuing with his report, Mr. Lennon provided an update on the MS4 Program. An Operations and Maintenance Ordinance, TMDL Resolution and Stormwater Management Ordinance will need to be adopted by April, 2015. Once plan is written, a meeting will be held with the Township Public Works employees. Flood Plain Regulatory Update – FEMA mapping status website has updated day of final effective Flood Insurance Rate Map to be September 16, 2015. Darlington Road Sidewalk Project – Construction is proposed for Spring, 2015. Greenways, Trails, Recreation Grant Program – No change. Front Street Guiderail – Penn Line Service was approved by the Township Municipal Authority to install the guiderail and the work is completed.

Prior to moving on, the Secretary noted a development a few days after the last monthly meeting. She was notified by Community Development for the Township to make a decision on using the Township Engineer for the sidewalk grant or let Community Development provide the engineering services. She polled the Board at the time, since a decision had to be made within a week. It was noted that the Engineering fees will be paid for by the Township, not the grant proceeds. It was the general consensus of the Board to use Lennon, Smith, Souleret Engineering. Motion to reconfirm this decision was made by Mr. Hoover. Seconded by Mr. Mahosky, the motion passed unanimous.

**Solicitor's Report:** Mr. Fawcett reported receiving a letter of response from the City of Beaver Falls' Solicitor regarding the Joint Sewer Users. Mr. Fawcett had sent a letter last month to the City of Beaver Falls referencing the Joint Sewer Users agreement in conjunction with their imposing a 3% rate increase without the approval of the Joint Sewer Users group. The letter indicated that they are reviewing Mr. Fawcett's letter/documentation.

Mr. Fawcett advised of sending a lease agreement to Jerry Wessel, Business Manager of the Blackhawk School District for use of the land behind the Patterson Primary School for recreational purposes. The School District approved, signed, and sent back. He explained the contents, summarizing that this agreement will cover events held on the grounds, as well as using the recreational facilities and perform maintenance and upgrades now and then by Patterson Township. It noted that the Township will carry liability insurance naming BSD as an additional insured for such recreational programs. He reminded the Board; however, that Blackhawk should still be contact ahead of time to request approval, prior to such work being done or holding of an event, from the Blackhawk School District. Motion was made by Mr. Hoover; seconded by Mr. Inman approving the lease agreement with the Blackhawk School District as presented. Passed unanimous.

Mr. Fawcett requested input regarding the proposed amendments to the Peddling / Soliciting Ordinance and the Burning Ordinance (re: recreational burning and camping – camp-fire burning). The only recommendation made on the Peddling/Soliciting amendment was to add a provision for a 2 year ban prohibiting Soliciting in the Township, if the Ordinance is violated. Discussion was held on the amendment to the Burning Ordinance regarding the kind

of fuels to be able to burn. Mr. Bradow made the motion to allow the burning of wood and paper only. Mr. Mahosky recommended "commercial fuels" for recreational burning, which would include propane, natural gas, etc. Charcoal, wood, paper could also be added, which are not commercial fuels. Mr. Bradow withdrew his motion. The size of the firepit was also reviewed, noting the recommendation previously to be 4ft. x 4ft. x 4ft. Ornamental fires would include the chimineas, fire bowls, etc. It was noted that the objection to burning is the odor. Mr. Fawcett suggested working with Mr. Bradow to come up with an amendment to the burning ordinance for recreational burning.

**Committee Reports: Fire/Finance** – Mr. Mahosky presented six (6) fire reports in the amount of \$300.63 or 46 ¼ man hours. Motion was made by Mr. Hoover; seconded by Mr. Mahosky approving payment. Passed unanimous.

Mr. Mahosky noted the receipt of the Fire Relief Funds in the amount of \$18,040.62. He also reported attending the grant writing seminar in Erie last month and distributed information to the Board. The LED street lights are still pending from Duquesne Light. They will be installed (as per Duquesne Light) as they become available.

As per the pre (agenda) meeting, Mr. Mahosky advised of the recommendation to hold a meeting with the Fire Department members regarding the 10 point resolution that he distributed to the Board and the Fire Department. A motion was made by Mr. Hoover; seconded by Mr. Mahosky to have the meeting on Thursday, October 16, 2014 at 6:00 p.m. at the Fire Department with all members. Motion passed.

As per the public comment at last month's meeting, Mr. Mahosky questioned the Solicitor on the liability of the Township regarding the disturbances that occur in the Fire Department's parking lot, following events held at the firehall. Mr. Fawcett expressed that the exposure to Township liability is limited because the Township doesn't own the parking lot. Additionally, the Township did not hold the event inside the building. It was noted that just because we take a complaint at the Township meeting, does not make the Township liable.

**Parks/Recreation** – Mr. Hoover requested advice (Solicitor / Engineer) regarding the removal of a section of guiderail on 8<sup>th</sup> Street hill, in the vicinity of the Township Park. He would like to have access to that area of the Township Park, by creating an opening for a backhoe, vehicles, equipment, etc. He questioned whether a gate could be made out of the guiderail. Since the guiderails (installed by PennDot) are engineered, it is doubtful that they would allow such a thing. Additionally, the liability would also be on the Township if an accident would happen and the guiderail was changed/alterd in any way.

**Public Works** – Mr. Inman presented an estimate from Bridgeway Cummins to install an exerciser clock on the Davidson Drive generator. The amount of the proposal is \$1,197.51. Questions were posed to Public Works foreman Joe Cipolla (who was in attendance). He explained that the generator at the pump station has never had an exerciser clock and noted that it should have one. A second estimate was submitted by Mr. Inman in the amount of \$1,004.33 regarding work recommended on the South Lift Station generator. Mr. Cipolla

advised that the South Lift Station work should be put on hold until he can get an explanation of what needs to be done. The technician did not advise of any problems. A motion was made by Mr. Inman to approve the installation of an exerciser clock at the Davidson Drive generator in the amount of \$1,197.51. Seconded by Mr. Mahosky, the motion passed unanimous.

Mr. Inman presented an application for employment from James Gitts, 1612 16<sup>th</sup> Street. Mr. Cipolla and Mr. Inman recommended hiring Mr. Gitts as a snow removal driver. Motion was made by Mr. Inman; seconded by Mr. Bradow approving the hiring. The motion was amended by Mr. Hoover; seconded by Mr. Mahosky pending the passing of the background check and required physical. Passed unanimous.

Mr. Inman reported being in contact with Patterson Heights Councilman, James Turnbull regarding the sudden death of Robert Harker, Borough Public Works Laborer. The offer to provide assistance for the upcoming leaf season indicated interest for the Township to do. Mr. Inman estimated the Township's cost to be \$57.00-\$58.00/per hour. Mr. Inman provided information on looking into setting a dumpster in the Township for the leaves to be dumped in by the Township employees. Once full, they would be hauled out (by Bruner's) for a cost of \$125.00/per dumpster. The leaves would be taken to the County dump-site (Brighton Township) and the mileage would be kept track of. He was told that there are grant monies available for recycling programs (i.e. 25% payment towards a new truck). Mr. Inman noted waiting for a response from Patterson Heights.

Mr. Inman also advised that full-time employee, Richard Smith is currently off and may need surgery in the future. He noted bringing in part-time employee Nathan Reese to work with Mr. Cipolla. As leaf collection approaches, he may need another worker. He asked the Board if they knew of anyone who could work since the current part-time employees have other jobs and are not available. The job would be seasonal work.

**Ordinances/Policies** – Mr. Bradow (no report).

**Code Enforcement** – Mr. Morrow requested the Secretary advise the Board of his two recent surgeries. As a result of this, he had very little to report. He will include any current items on next month's report.

**Police/Township Office/COG** – Mr. Policaro reported the distribution of the Police monthly report for September. The four-way stop sign request from Lance Frederick, 1511 19<sup>th</sup> Avenue, was discussed in the pre (agenda) meeting and criteria under the traffic study was not met; therefore no stop sign will be erected. A letter will be sent back to Mr. Frederick advising him of the results.

A letter of resignation was received from Officer Stephen Ivan. Mr. Policaro advised that he has taken a position with Chippewa Township. Motion was made by Mr. Hoover; seconded by Mr. Inman approving to send a letter of thanks for his service to Patterson Township. Motion passed unanimous.

The Secretary distributed a memo regarding the replacement of the three (3) computers for the Township office staff. Monies were budgeted in 2014 due to the lack of support for Windows XP (operating system). The two proposals were from R A Services, which is the current software company used for Accounting/Payroll and the Sewer Billing. The second proposal was from LogiTek Solutions, who provides the Township with IT support. The cost from R A Services is \$1,213/per Dell computer and \$1,400/per computer from LogiTek. Installation costs are separate. The recommendation of the Secretary was to stay with our current software company (R A Services). The approximate cost for 3 computers and installation is \$4,539.00. Motion was made by Mr. Inman; seconded by Mr. Hoover to approve the purchase in the amount of \$4,600.00. Passed unanimous.

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

**Township Agencies: Civil Service Commission** – The minutes of the CSC meeting held on September 18, 2014 were distributed for review. Motion was made by Mr. Hoover; seconded by Mr. Mahosky authorizing to proceed with testing applicants for the creation of an eligibility list. Passed unanimous.

A letter of resignation from the Civil Service Commission was received from Mr. Thomas Reed, 2401 Jenny Street. Motion was made by Mr. Hoover; seconded by Mr. Inman accepting the letter of resignation. A letter of thanks will be sent to Mr. Reed. Passed unanimous.

Mr. Mahosky presented Gerald Goehring, 2621 19<sup>th</sup> Street to serve as an alternate on the Civil Service Commission. Motion was made by Mr. Mahosky; seconded by Mr. Hoover approving this appointment. Passed unanimous.

**Planning Commission** – The Secretary advised the Board that there is an opening on the Planning Commission, due to the recent death of long-time member Ralph Cumberledge.

**Communications:** An invitation was received from the Carnegie Free Library to a fundraiser “Take me out to the Library” on Saturday, November 1, 2014.

The PSATC (Pennsylvania State Association of Township Commissioners) dues notice was received for 2015. The amount is \$1,203.85. Motion was made by Mr. Inman; seconded by Mr. Mahosky approving payment. Passed unanimous.

The City of Beaver Falls, 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter Sewer Maintenance invoice was received in the amount of \$68,317.76. Motion was made by Mr. Inman; seconded by Mr. Hoover approving payment. Passed unanimous.

**New/Miscellaneous Business:** It was noted that the State Aid allotment for the Pensions was received in the amount of \$46,472.16. A letter was distributed by the Secretary advising of the distribution of this check into the two plans. Additionally, the letter advised of the need to pay the Annuity Premiums to MetLife in the amount of \$27,783.83. There was

previous discussion on depositing additional monies in either the Huntington Bank accounts or into the individual annuities. The Secretary advised that this can be done in conjunction with working on the 2015 budget. At this time; however, it would be appropriate to approve the annuity premium payment as presented and outlined in the letter. Motion was made by Mr. Hoover; seconded by Mr. Inman approving the \$27,783.83. Also, the life insurance payment of \$306.25 for Chief Cindrach. These checks will be expensed from Huntington Bank. Motion passed unanimous.

The Secretary advised the Board of the UPMC Healthcare renewal, which is due by October 31, 2014 for a December 1, 2014 renewal date. The increase in the premium for next year is 21.4%. An explanation was given by Mrs. Wagoner regarding the recommendation of the broker, Mark Jurena, Hicks, Heim, Mustio to stay with UPMC and renew the coverage. UPMC also offered (as per their letter) a second alternative, the Affordable Care Act at a 37.5% increase. Mr. Hoover questioned Mrs. Wagoner on the timing and why the Board was not advised of this sooner. She noted that, although the letter was dated August, she did not receive until September. Additionally, the Police Contract requests the same or equivalent coverage, which she and Mr. Jurena were both aware of. Alternatives (deductible plans) were provided; however, are not equivalent coverage. Mr. Hoover stated that he felt that this is a conflict of interest for Mrs. Wagoner. She advised that she has handled the healthcare for the last 30 years and has always passed the broker's recommendation on to the Board. Although this time is no different, she recommended to Mr. Policaro that no vote be taken in order to give Mr. Hoover the time he needs to review the materials provided to her. Mrs. Wagoner noted that copies will be distributed tomorrow. Further discussion can be held at the Special Meeting scheduled for next Thursday, October 16, 2014.

**Executive Session:** The Board went into an executive session at 8:55 p.m. for legal advice regarding a personnel issue.

Back in session at 9:02 p.m., there was no report from the executive session.

There being no further business to be brought before the Board, motion was made by Mr. Inman to adjourn. Seconded by Mr. Hoover the meeting adjourned at 9:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Paula J. Wagoner, CMC  
Township Secretary

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

