

Patterson Township Board of Commissioners

1600 19th Avenue, Beaver Falls PA 15010

Regular Meeting

Thursday, August 8, 2013

The Patterson Township Board of Commissioners held their regular meeting on Thursday, August 8, 2013 at the Municipal Complex, 1600 19th Avenue, Beaver Falls PA. Following the call to order and Pledge of Allegiance, roll call showed all Commissioners present (Policaro, Bonomo, Bradow, Hoover, and Mahosky).

Minutes: The minutes of the meeting held July 11, 2013 were presented for approval. Motion was made by Mrs. Bonomo; seconded by Mr. Hoover approving as presented. Passed unanimous.

Public Comment: Resident John Cox, 6 Villa Court addressed items of concern. He advised that the condemned house in his neighborhood has not been demolished yet and that there is another house in the neighborhood that has been empty and is deteriorating. The Secretary advised Mr. Cox that the condemned house is on the Beaver County list for demolition (done by Mr. Morrow, Code Officer) and removal. Because of the numerous houses throughout Beaver County on the list and is done at no cost to the municipality, a timeline is not given. The other house in the neighborhood that needs attention will be referred to Mr. Morrow.

Mr. Cox also questioned the use of the fire siren and that he had talked to a professional who advised him that it does not need to go off at all. Mr. Mahosky advised of working with the Fire Department to stop the siren from sounding during the night time hours (11pm through 6am). Mr. Cox questioned whether it needed to go off during the day as well.

Mr. James Cramer, 306 Darlington Road (attended last month's meeting) advised of his complaint regarding the siren. Since the last meeting, he noted seven times that the siren went off and no fire personnel showed up at the fire station. He also noted finding out about an "app" that can be downloaded on the firemen's cell phones instead of the siren sounding. The suggestion was made to have the Fire Chief and/or the Assistant Fire Chief attend the next meeting along with Beaver County Emergency Services.

Mr. Bill Miller, 308 Darlington Road reiterated the same concerns over how loud the siren is for those residents in the area surrounding the Fire Department.

Mr. Tim Wuenschel, 21st Avenue (also a fireman) advised the Board of an upcoming Clean-up Day fundraiser being done by the Fire Department on Saturday, September 14th from 8:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. He requested permission to use the Township's backhoe (and operator) to compact those items that are not recyclable in order to keep the cost down for the trash items collected. The dumpster(s) rental is \$300.00/each. Mr. Wuenschel noted that he has had

several requests from residents to get rid of scrap metals, electronics, appliances, etc. There will be no fee for those items. There will be a nominal fee charged for dumpster items. The question was raised on whether the Fire Department has ever gotten insurance on the parking lot (owned by them). This liability insurance is needed if help is to be provided by the Township. Mr. Wuenschel also requested permission to put a notice in the monthly sewer bills with the details and had also discussed with the Township Secretary. She expressed that she had no objection and the office staff would be willing to do for them. It was also noted that this fundraiser will not be restricted to Township residents. All are welcome to dispose of their unwanted items.

Mr. Mahosky asked whether this fundraiser can be postponed until October in order for questions to be answered. Mr. Wuenschel advised that there are no open dates. The Fire Department is going to move forward with this project. The only immediate question is to authorize putting a notice in the sewer bills. Mr. Hoover will check on use of the backhoe for the day. Motion was made by Mr. Mahosky; seconded by Mrs. Bonomo authorizing a notice in the upcoming sewer bills announcing this fundraiser. Passed unanimous on a roll call vote.

Mr. Wuenschel noted that he has a personal issue to address. He advised of a tree in his neighbor's yard that has caused damage to his home by tree limbs flying during recent storms. He has evidence (pictures) of damaged gutters, pierced roof, etc. It was noted that next door is formerly the Aiken property. Mr. Policaro advised that this is a civil matter between him and his neighbor; however, he would check with Mr. Morrow as to whether there are any property maintenance issues.

Mr. Bradow advised Mr. Policaro that prior to moving on with the meeting, he wanted to re-address the siren issue. Mr. Bradow noted that this is the second meeting that residents have attended regarding the siren. He suggested a public meeting between the residents involved, Fire Department Officers, Beaver County Emergency Services and this Board so that answers can be gotten quicker and another month will not go by. Although there was opposition to such a meeting, for the reason that answers will continue to be sought, motion was made by Mr. Bradow; seconded by Mrs. Bonomo to hold a public meeting as soon as possible with those in attendance as described above. The motion passed on a roll call vote 3 ayes (Bradow, Bonomo, Mahosky); 2 nays (Policaro, Hoover). Mr. Policaro requested Mr. Mahosky to check with the Fire Chief and make the arrangements for this meeting to take place.

Mr. Perry Small, 110 Darlington Road at this time also addressed use of the siren. He noted that this is a nationwide issue and thanked the Board for taking this action. Mr. Mahosky expressed a final comment, if it is determined that it (the siren) is necessary, then what?

Treasurer's Report: In Mrs. Ferrazzano's absence, the Treasurer's Report for the General Fund, Sewer Fund, and Other Accounts were presented for approval. Motion was made by Mr. Hoover; seconded by Mr. Bradow accepting the Treasurer's Report as received. Passed unanimous.

Monthly Bills: The monthly bills for July/August were submitted for approval. Motion was made by Mr. Hoover; seconded by Mrs. Bonomo approving payment. Passed unanimous.

Engineer's Report: Attending from Lennon, Smith, Souleret Engineering was Mrs. Emily Palmer, who distributed and gave the following report: Darlington Court – latest developments include a request for variance and subdivision by Betters that was discussed at the August 1st work session with the Board of Commissioners. Developer was advised to proceed with variance; 2013 Road Program – Contracts for East Coast Paving to do the project were submitted to the Township for execution. Pre-construction meeting will be scheduled the week of August 12th; 2011 Road Program – LSSE recommends action be taken against Contractor's (Youngblood Paving) Maintenance Bond as noted in LSSE letter. Upon further discussion, motion was made by Mr. Hoover; seconded by Mr. Bradow authorizing the Township Solicitor to send Youngblood a letter. Passed unanimous. Steffin Hill Sanitary Sewer – Permit paperwork has been provided to the Township for signing and processing appropriate fees to move forward with the NPDES permit. The Secretary noted that the checks required have been expensed from the Sewer Maintenance Fund. MS4 Program – Year 2013 sampling is complete. The Plan for Control Measures is currently being drafted for adoption at the end of the year. Mr. Hoover asked the status of the pending agreement with Scott Donley, Jenny Street. The Secretary advised that the agreement has been signed by all parties; however, Mr. Donley had wanted a section eliminated. Municipal Authority taking care of this issue.

Solicitor's Report: Mr. Fawcett advised that the Bankruptcy hearing that he was authorized to attend at last month's meeting regarding resident Richard Alberti, was resolved; therefore did not have to appear at the hearing.

Mr. Fawcett also expressed that the Township Treasurer/Tax Collector is finally bonded after months of trying!

Motion was made by Mr. Hoover; seconded by Mr. Mahosky approving the Engineer's and Solicitor's report. Passed unanimous.

Committee Reports: Fire/Finance – Mr. Mahosky submitted the nine (9) fire reports for July in the amount of \$292.50 or 45 hours. Motion was made by Mr. Hoover; seconded by Mrs. Bonomo approving as presented. Passed unanimous.

Mr. Mahosky submitted a membership application for Daniel Snyder, 1800 Darlington Road. His background check was attached to the application. Motion was made by Mr. Hoover; seconded by Mr. Mahosky approving this application for membership. Passed unanimous.

Mr. Mahosky advised the Board that upon researching the savings over the last year for the installation of the energy savings bulbs in the Township Municipal Building, the amount is \$727.13. He noted that all may not be savings since there may be a fluctuation in the usage.

Parks/Recreation – Mr. Hoover presented Brandon Lough, Eagle Scout who provided a presentation on the work done in the Township Park. The slide power point presentation provided the Board and those in attendance with pictures of what was done in the Township Park as his Eagle Scout Project. Brandon advised that he raised funds in the amount of \$1,125.00, and put in 180 man hours to repair bridges, steps, broken railings and install new signs. Following the presentation, Mr. Hoover noted that the actual expenses incurred were \$1,157.58, indicating a shortfall of \$32.58. Mr. Lough (Brandon's father) was also in attendance and advised that they just provided the additional funds on their own. Mr. Hoover recommended that reimbursement be made to the Lough's for the additional expenses incurred (not covered by donations). Motion approving this was made by Mr. Mahosky; seconded by Mrs. Bonomo. Passed unanimous. Mr. Hoover summed up this project with 20 volunteers, 3 trails worked on, bridges repaired and thanked Brandon for his efforts in our Township Park. Job well done. It was noted that the entire presentation was given to Mr. Hoover for future use.

Mr. Hoover advised that additional Park signs are needed and that he will continue by using the park budget to finish. Mr. Hoover advised that he wants to focus on the Township Park. He noted that recently, the Public Works Laborers spent 3 days in the Park clearing the trails of trees, limbs, etc. to get the trails reopened. Mr. Hoover reported 18 signs are needed to mark all of the trails and as a future project would like to reinstall the lighting. He has reached out to the local scout troops (Troop #407 & 408) to request adoption of our Township Park to assist with keeping it cleaned up and repairs made. It was suggested that Brandon's presentation be added to the Township's web-site.

Mr. Hoover advised that the Recreation Project behind the Patterson Primary School is wrapping up. Basketball Courts, tennis courts, etc. are complete. The electrical service still pending is to be installed by Blackhawk School District Maintenance Department. Mr. Hoover estimated over \$25,000.00 was spent on this project. All but \$4,000.00 (earmarked by Patterson Township) were from donations made by Blackhawk School District, Blackhawk Area Youth Baseball Association, and the Pittsburgh Pirate Grant.

Ordinances/Policies – Mrs. Bonomo had no report.

Code Enforcement – Mr. Morrow's written monthly report was distributed for review. No questions or comments were made.

Police/Township Office/COG – Mr. Policaro advised of no report from the COG.

The written monthly Police Report for July was submitted for review. Mr. Policaro advised of the receipt of a letter from Fallston Borough requesting a proposal for continuing police services to the Borough for the next 2 years. This will be further discussed in an executive session at the end of the meeting.

Mr. Policaro advised that Dishler Roofing did roof repairs on the Municipal Building at a cost of \$1,000.00. Authorization was previously given to move forward with this repair.

Mr. Policaro advised that there is a tentative date set for a Fundraising Spaghetti Dinner for Officer Mark LaValle, who is on disability for lung cancer. The date is August 25th at the firehall.

Prior to moving on, it was noted that Mr. Hoover missed the memo regarding proposals and/or recommendations for the purchase of a riding lawn mower for the Public Works Department. Various proposals were submitted from Home Depot (Cub Cadet); Sears (Craftsman); Csizars, located in Industry. A trailer to haul the riding mower is also included from Tractor Supply at a cost of \$599.00. In lieu of making a decision on which machine to buy, Mr. Hoover requested permission to continue reviewing this potential purchase and requested authorization to spend up to \$2,400.00. Motion approving this request was made by Mr. Hoover; seconded by Mr. Bradow. Passed unanimous on a roll call vote.

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

Unfinished Business: The Secretary provided a reminder that the Pension Consultants will be attending the next work session of the Board, Thursday, September 5, 2013.

The Secretary also advised that a question was raised last month on the use of the proceeds from Act 13 (gas/oil receipts), as to whether the check (\$2,027.74) representing 2012 could be used towards the generator. Upon research, she noted depositing this check in the generator project is allowed and appropriate. Motion was made by Mr. Bradow; seconded by Mr. Hoover to deposit these funds in the Generator Fund. Passed unanimous.

Township Agencies: Approval to transfer funds for the loan of the Municipal Authority was authorized on motion by Mr. Hoover. Seconded by Mrs. Bonomo, the \$27,424.29 will be transferred from the Sewer Fund Budget. Passed unanimous.

Communications: A letter was received from the Beaver County Humane Society advising that they are settled into their new building on Brodhead Road and that a director has been named. As their billing has been behind for some time (with the transition), the letter indicated that they are waiving the fees and starting new with this quarter.

A letter was received from the City of Beaver Falls Water Pollution Control advising of a rate increase effective January 1, 2014. The increase is from \$3.81 per thousand gallons (current) to \$3.92 per thousand gallons. The minimum usage charge is \$16.00. This will affect the Township's Sewer Budget.

New/Miscellaneous Business: A road closing request has been received for 11th Street from Darlington Road to Highland Avenue from the Riverview United Methodist Church's

Annual Applefest to be held on Saturday, September 21st. Motion was made by Mr. Hoover; seconded by Mr. Mahosky approving the road closing. Passed unanimous.

Mr. Policaro noted the completion of the Pension Audit for both plans (Non-Uniform and Police Pension) by the Auditor General's Office. The Exit Conference results indicate the need for an amendment to the Ordinance regarding the killed in service benefit. The current Ordinance states that the Township will provide the benefits for the killed in service benefit. As per a change in the regulations, the state will now pick up this cost; therefore needing a change in the wording. Motion was made by Mr. Bradow; seconded by Mr. Hoover authorizing the Solicitor to amend the Ordinance as needed. Passed unanimous.

An additional item on the exit conference noted an error on a report submitted by the Township to the State. Because it was an error that prompted additional monies being received for the pension, \$1,130.00 will have to be paid back to the State. This concerns the Non-Uniform Plan and it was noted that it will be paid from the Fund held at Huntington Bank, once the final Audit Report is released.

Executive Session: The Board recessed for an executive session at 8:35 p.m.

Back in session at 9:01 p.m. discussion was held on the pending offer to Fallston Borough to continue to provide police services. The offer needs to be submitted to the Fallston Borough Council by August 21st.

Numerous motions were made as follows:

Motion was made by Mr. Bradow to offer 0% increase in the first year; 3% in the second year; and 4% as an optional 3 year contract. (Fallston was asking for 2 year) The motion died lack of a second and was withdrawn.

Mr. Mahosky made a motion to provide 2 proposals: 0% first year; 4% second year. Second proposal: 3% first year; 4% second year; and 0% third year. Upon discussion, this motion was also withdrawn.

Mr. Mahosky attempted to amend his motion by proposing 3% the first year; 3% the second year and 0% the optional third year. A second option would be proposed as 0% the first year; 4% the second year. Also, more discussion was held and the motion withdrawn.

An additional proposal was made on motion by Mr. Mahosky as follows: 3% first year; 4% second year; 0% third (optional) year or 3%, 3%, 0%. The motion died lack of a second.

Final motion was made after much discussion in an effort to keep Fallston Borough provided with police services. Motion was made by Mr. Hoover to offer the following proposal: 0% first year (2014); 3% second year (2015). As an option to sign the third year, 3% for 2016. Motion was seconded by Mr. Bradow and passed unanimous on a roll call vote.

There being no further business to be brought before the Board, motion was made by Mr. Bradow to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Mr. Hoover, the meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Paula J. Wagoner, CMC
Township Secretary

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