

Patterson Township Board of Commissioners

Regular Meeting

Thursday, August 9, 2012

The Patterson Township Board of Commissioners held their regular meeting on Thursday, August 9, 2012 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, Hoover, Bonomo, Bradow, and Mahosky).

The **minutes** of Thursday, July 12, 2012 were submitted for approval. Motion was made by Mrs. Bonomo; seconded by Mr. Hoover approving the minutes as presented. Passed unanimous.

Public Comment: Mr. Domenic Borello, 1809 20th Avenue addressed the Board regarding the state of his neighbors property. Also, he thanked the Secretary for putting a notice annually in the sewer bills notifying residents that it is a violation to blow grass out on the street when cutting. He advised; however, that this is still being done and requested the police enforce the Ordinance while on patrol. He noted two houses in his area that the grass needs cut and questioned why the Township continues to warn, rather than issue citations. He advised that he took Commissioner Mahosky to view these properties that are in need of work. Mr. Mahosky advised Mr. Borello that he met with Mr. Morrow (Code Officer) who provided documentation of what's being done on these properties. He also read Mr. Morrow's monthly report regarding grass and code violation issues. He assured Mr. Borello that these properties are being taken care of.

Mr. Ronald Fritz, 703 18th Avenue, addressed the Board regarding 3 locust trees on Grant Alley (located parallel to 18th Avenue behind his home). Mr. Fritz questioned whether this is a Township alley and has concern for the locust trees falling during a storm. If the alley is Township owned, he also noted that his neighbor is parking his truck on the alley and has no current tags on it. Mr. Policaro advised Mr. Fritz that this would be referred to Mr. Hoover, as the Street Commissioner to review and make recommendations.

Mr. John Douglas and Mr. John Cox, Villa Court residents, requested the status of the Grgurich property in their neighborhood. Mr. Mahosky advised them that the antenna has been removed and encouraged them to talk to Mr. Morrow for periodic updates. Once again, there is documentation of steps being taken to correct this. Mr. Mahosky noted that there are forms that were offered to the residents in this area to complete on their own to register a complaint with the FCC, of which Mr. Morrow offered. Mr. Morrow's report indicated that he does not always advertise to the neighbors as to what is being done to correct violations.

Mr. William Livingston, as Emergency Management Coordinator, attended the meeting to provide the results of participation in the drill for the nuclear plant, held in June. Prior to

giving his report, he commented on the complaints of the public in attendance. He noted, as the District Magistrate, he requires Mr. Morrow to take the proper steps (notices, time allowance, documentation, etc.) before bringing charges to his office. Mr. Ross agreed with Mr. Livingston on the proper handling of these complaints.

Mr. Livingston addressed the observations made by FEMA and PEMA concerning our participation in the drill. He noted that the knowledge center is the computer program used in the event of an emergency. During the drill the knowledge center went down, causing the use of radios instead. Compliments were given by the observers for the handling of the transition from computer to radios. Mr. Livingston also noted that the computer connection is very slow. He is aware that the Township uses Verizon DSL. Verizon Fios (high-speed internet) is not available in this area; therefore, he asked the Board for consideration to switch to Comcast.

Another item that has been pending since moving into this building is the lack of a back-up generator during power outages. Mr. Livingston pointed out that this location not only houses Patterson Township's EOC, it serves Fallston, Patterson Heights, and possibly in the future White Township. It is also located outside the 10 mile radius, which serves as an invaluable source in the event of an emergency. Mr. Livingston asked for consideration to retrofit the building with a power source. Because of the high cost of doing this project (estimate of \$50,000.00), funding will need to be looked into (DCED grants, FEMA grants, etc.) As a final note, Mr. Policaro advised Mr. Livingston that pricing will be looked into comparing Verizon with Comcast concerning the building's internet connection.

Treasurer's Report: Mrs. Ferrazzano began her report by thanking the office staff for all of the assistance that she has received since being appointed. Mrs. Ferrazzano distributed the Treasurer's Report for the Sewer Fund and the Other Accounts (PLGIT). She advised that the General Fund (first report since her appointment) is more complex and will be provided to the Board when she has completed it. Mr. Policaro thanked Mrs. Ferrazzano for her diligence in dealing with the previous tax office items.

Mrs. Ferrazzano also advised the Board of requests for duplicate tax bills by mortgage companies and at times are 20, 30 + copies. She advised that it isn't a problem providing them with a copy; however, noted that other municipalities charge a fee for this. She canvassed surrounding communities and the fee is from \$5.00 to \$25.00. By charging a fee, this would cover the time involved, along with materials and postage. Mrs. Ferrazzano noted that she would not charge Township residents for a duplicate (for such things as a lost tax bill, etc.). Since additional information was requested by the Board, this was tabled until next month.

Monthly Bills: The monthly bills for July and August were presented for approval. Motion was made by Mr. Hoover; seconded by Mrs. Bonomo approving payment of the bills as presented. Passed unanimous on a roll call vote.

Engineer's Report: Mr. Kevin Breit attended the meeting for Mr. Mitrovich and reviewed the following items on his written report: Corrective Action Plan – The replacement of the wet well (Municipal Authority project) on Davidson Drive is scheduled for August 20, 2012. It is expected to take one week to complete. Darlington Court – Waiting on the revised plans to be submitted by Betters. 2012 Road Program – Pre-construction meeting was held on August 9, 2012. Youngblood expects to begin on September 10, 2012. Steffin Hill Sewer – LSSE reviewed and submitted an opinion of probable cost for the replacement of sections of the sewer line and a proposed alignment. Documentation was attached indicating the estimated cost to be \$633,000.00.

Solicitor's Report: Mr. Ross noted an item on the agenda later in the meeting to proceed with the audit of 2010 and 2011 tax records. He reminded the Board that Mrs. Hebb advised that she is already over her audit costs by approximately \$3,500.00. Motion was made by Mr. Mahosky; seconded by Mr. Hoover authorizing Denise Hebb, CPA to proceed with 2010 and 2011 not to exceed \$15,000.00 (which includes the past work). The motion passed unanimous on a roll call vote.

Committee Reports: Fire - Mr. Mahosky submitted 17 fire reports for July in the amount of \$1,077.37. Motion was made by Mr. Bradow; seconded by Mr. Hoover approving payment of the 165 ¾ man hours or \$1,077.37. Passed unanimous on a roll call vote.

An application for membership into the Fire Department was submitted by Mr. Mahosky. Melissa Graeser, 1827 7th Street was approved on motion by Mr. Hoover. The application indicated that a background check had been done and approved by Assistant Chief Stanislowski. Seconded by Mr. Bradow, the motion passed unanimous.

Mr. Mahosky gave a report on the **Civil Service Commission**, whereby all 10 candidates passed the written portion. The Commission is proceeding with the Oral testing.

Parks/Recreation – Mr. Hoover advised of the distribution of correspondence from the Prevention Network and a “Young Lungs at Play” program. He will review and report back to the Board. He noted that Lee Cain Fencing got the bid to do the batting cage construction. Once done, the basketball hoops will be erected.

Public Works – Mr. Hoover advised of the upcoming road program, whereby Struby Avenue and Jenny Street will be paved, including 700 ft. of wedged curb. The expectation is that it will take approximately two weeks to do. Activities of the public works crew over the last month included replacement of new tires for the truck in the amount of \$780.00; patching potholes; and sewer jetting.

Ordinances/Policies – Mrs. Bonomo had no report.

Code Enforcement – Mr. Morrow's written monthly report was submitted for review.

Police/Township Office/COG – Mr. Policaro advised no report from the COG. The monthly police report was submitted for review. Mr. Policaro distributed a copy of the offer submitted to Patterson Heights to provide police services (24/7) over the next three years. Chief Cindrich assured the Board that the Police Department can handle the extra calls involved in adding Patterson Heights back into patrol. Will wait for the response back from the Heights.

Mr. Policaro commended Officer Bathgate for solving the vandalism case and advised that he will provide a written commendation for his personnel file. He also noted upcoming meetings for the Board to attend. August 21st – 7:00 p.m. Board of Commissioners to meet with the Police Negotiator, Paul Anthony. August 28th – 7:00 p.m. Merger meeting with Fallston Borough and Michael Foreman.

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

Unfinished Business: None (already taken care of under Solicitor’s report).

Township Agencies: No report.

Communications: None (Prevention Network previously noted by Mr. Hoover).

New/Miscellaneous: None

Executive Session: Not needed.

There being no further business to be brought before the Board, motion was made by Mr. Hoover to adjourn. Seconded by Mr. Mahosky, the meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.\

Respectfully submitted:

Paula J. Wagoner, CMC
Township Secretary

Copy: James J. Ross, Esq.
Ned Mitrovich, P.E.
Board of Commissioners