

Patterson Township Board of Commissioners
1600 19th Avenue, Beaver Falls PA 15010

Regular Meeting
Thursday, December 8, 2011

The Patterson Township Board of Commissioners held their regular meeting on Thursday, December 8, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. at the Municipal Complex, 1600 19th Avenue. Following the call to order and Pledge of Allegiance, roll call showed Commissioners Leiper, Bonomo, and Policaro present. Commissioners Bradow and Hoover were absent.

The minutes of the Regular Meeting held November 10, 2011 and a Special Meeting held December 1, 2011 were presented for approval. Motion was made by Mrs. Bonomo; seconded by Mr. Policaro approving the minutes as presented. Passed unanimous.

Public Comment: Mr. Gary Gache, Chairman of the Township's Municipal Authority attended the meeting to provide the Board with the status of their projects. The Corrective Action Plan (Southend Sewer Replacement Project) has been completed and noted that it came in \$23,000.00 under budget. There is still a pending claim between the Municipal Authority, Fleming-Walker (contractor) and Ms. Christine Didio (resident at 43 South Old Oak Drive). This is currently being worked on. Mr. Gache also advised the Board that the Municipal Authority has two additional projects. Repairs and/or replacement of the wet well at the Davidson Drive Pump Station. A problem with leakage developed during the project. The estimated cost to replace is \$40,000.00. The Engineer is proceeding with documentation for requesting sealed bids. Finally, the wall that was built adjoining the Moskovitz property on Lindsay Drive during the 1992 sewer project is deteriorating. The Municipal Authority once again has enlisted the assistance of the Engineer (also LSSE) to do this project which entails replacing with steel plates. The estimate for this project is between \$40,000.00-\$50,000.00. Mr. Gache noted that the Municipal Authority will fund both of these projects.

Mr. William R. Livingston attended the meeting to update the Board on recent training that he has taken as the Township's Emergency Management Coordinator. In that training, it was recommended that certain equipment be available for use if a hazardous event occurs. Mr. Livingston noted that with the approval of the Board President (Mr. Leiper), he purchased a ruggedized digital camera equipped with gps tracking capability. He provided the example that, if Ross Hill were to slide again, the gps coordinates will be provided as to the location of the disaster. The cost of this camera was \$388.00 and will be paid for from the Emergency Management line item. He also noted that this camera would be available for use by the Police, Fire, and Public Works Departments if the need arises.

Treasurer's Report: In the absence of Mr. Anderson, the Treasurer's Reports for the General Fund, Sewer Fund, and Other Accounts were submitted for review and approval.

Motion was made by Mr. Policaro; seconded by Mrs. Bonomo approving as presented. Passed unanimous.

Monthly Bills: The monthly bills for December were presented for payment. Motion was made by Mrs. Bonomo; seconded by Mr. Policaro approving payment. Passed unanimous.

Engineer's Report: Mr. Dan Larkin attended the meeting for Mr. Mitrovich and reported on the following items: Corrective Action Plan – final complaints on the project are being handled. As Mr. Gache reported to the Board, two additional projects are being considered. Replacement of the wet well at Davidson Drive pump station and the retaining wall on Moskovitz property (7 Lindsay Drive). Darlington Court – the status of this project has not changed since the last meeting.

Solicitor's Report: Mr. Ross indicated that Attorney Al Torrence has been contacted concerning the recommendation of approving a tolling agreement between Patterson Township and American Southern (bonding company for Darlington Court). Mr. Ross advised that he brought the tolling agreement with him to this evening's meeting and noted that it would be appropriate for the Board to approve. Motion was made by Mr. Policaro; seconded by Mrs. Bonomo to accept the tolling agreement with American Southern for the Darlington Court Project. Passed unanimous. Mr. Ross provided a final note that the permit (NPDES) process is underway.

Committee Reports: Buildings/Grounds – In Mr. Bradow's absence, he requested the Secretary provide his report. An explanation was provided on the Fire Assessment Ordinance (Chapter 91 Article III) regarding the \$2.00/month added on to the sewer customers bill. Section 91-22 (B) was read by the Secretary, noting that these funds can also be used for the operation and maintenance of the fire company; purchase and maintenance of fire apparatus; and construction, repair, and maintenance of the fire department building. On behalf of Mr. Bradow, the Secretary recommended the outstanding invoices (re: last month's meeting) from Horn Trucking (for work done on the 2000 Spartan pumper fire truck) totaling \$4,238.47 be paid from the PLGIT Fire Truck Fund. It was noted that approximately \$14,000.00 is needed annually to pay on the loan, leaving a balance in this account of approximately \$24,000.00 (prior to paying this invoice). Motion was made by Mr. Policaro; seconded by Mrs. Bonomo approving payment of these outstanding invoices of \$4,238.47 to Horn Trucking. Motion passed unanimous on a roll call vote.

The second reading of the General Fund and Sewer Fund Budget(s) was provided by the Secretary. The General Fund Budget revenues are: \$1,075,106.00; expenditures: \$1,149,809.37 indicating a difference of \$ -74,703.37. This is the cash balance needed on December 31, 2011 to balance the budget with no tax increase. The Sewer Fund Budget revenues are: \$529,500.00; expenditures: \$595,000.00 indicating a difference of \$ -65,500.00. This is the cash balance needed on December 31, 2011 to balance the budget with no sewer rate increase. At this reading, the indication is still no tax increase or sewer rate increase. A budget meeting was scheduled (and advertised) in January for Tuesday, December 13, 2011 at

2:00 p.m. at the Municipal Complex, 1600 19th Avenue. A public notice was put in the paper for accepting recycling bids for 2012. They are scheduled to be opened on Thursday, December 15th and will be reviewed and award will take place at the year-end meeting.

Code Enforcement - In Mr. Morrow's absence, his monthly written report was distributed for review.

Fire/Utilities - Mr. Policaro submitted five (5) fire reports for approval in the amount of \$175.50. Motion was made by Mr. Policaro; seconded by Mrs. Bonomo approving payment of the fire reports (27 man hours) in the amount of \$175.50. Motion passed unanimous.

Mr. Policaro reported on the request from last month from Mrs. JoAnn Riser, 1603 4th Street to install an additional street light in the area of 4th Street and 16th Avenue. Mr. Policaro advised that he rode all over the Township and determined that the 4th Street/16th Avenue area is no darker than anywhere else in the Township. He addressed the memo from the Secretary regarding the additional costs involved. Duquesne Light advised that there would be no cost to adding, removing, or relocating a street light. The estimated cost would be \$21.00/month to add a light. Mr. Policaro noted no justification to install an additional light. His recommendation to Mrs. Riser would be to install a dusk to dawn light in the rear of their property for additional lighting in the area. The remaining Board members concurred with this recommendation. Mr. Leiper advised that he would notify Mrs. Riser of this decision.

Mr. Policaro submitted an application for membership to the Fire Department. The applicant's name is Jerome Howleson, of 133 Colonial Oaks Apts, White Township. The background check has been completed; therefore, motion was made by Mr. Policaro; seconded by Mrs. Bonomo to approve membership. Passed unanimous.

Parks/Recreation – In Mr. Hoover's absence, the Board briefly discussed Mr. Hoover's proposal for the 2012 Parks & Recreation Budget in conjunction with what he wants to do behind the Patterson Primary school. The proposal outlines the addition of batting cages, basketball court, refurbishing of recreation building and tennis court. Funding will come from the Blackhawk School District, Blackhawk Area Youth Baseball Association and the Township. In addition to using the funds from 2011 as well as increasing the budget for 2012 (total of \$8,500.00), questions were raised on liability insurance, whether a fee would be charged, supervision, electrical costs, requirement of sealed bids, etc. Additional discussion will be held at the budget meeting.

Public Works – Mrs. Bonomo advised the Board of the damage done to the salt spreader, that by now all were advised. Mrs. Bonomo noted that the Secretary filed an insurance claim, an estimate has been done by Walsh Equipment for repairs and/or replacement and we are presently waiting on an adjuster. The Board will be kept advised of the status.

Police/Township Office/COG/TCC – Mr. Leiper reported the distribution of the monthly police report for review. With there being no questions/comments, a letter of request for payment of 9 unused sick days was submitted by Officer LaValle. Motion was made by Mrs. Bonomo to approve payment. Seconded by Mr. Policaro, the motion passed unanimous on a roll call vote.

Mr. Leiper advised of a follow-up to the special meeting held December 1st, whereby interviews have been held and a recommendation to hire Gwen Reese, 1405 W. 9th Street is being presented to fill the sewer billing clerk/receptionist part-time position. Mr. Policaro once again questioned the lack of advertising for this position and referred the Solicitor to review Section XI of the Township’s Personnel Policy. Mr. Ross reviewed as requested, and provided a legal interpretation that “all regular” (full-time) refers to “full-time” hirings. Since this position is part-time, Mr. Ross advised that it is not against the Township’s hiring procedure and was not required to be advertised. Mr. Ross also noted that there is a body of law regarding incoming/outgoing boards and gave an example concerning a School Board Superintendent. He also noted that he didn’t know whether it applies in this case.

Motion was made by Mrs. Bonomo; seconded by Mr. Leiper to hire Gwen Reese as the part-time sewer billing clerk, noting a one-year probationary period. Passed on a roll call vote 2 ayes (Bonomo/Leiper), 1 naye (Policaro).

Mr. Leiper provided an update on the request by White Township Supervisors to contract Patterson Township for Police Services. The information requested at the Special Meeting from White Township has not been provided as of this meeting.

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

Unfinished Business: Mr. Ross reminded the Secretary that he needs the copies of Township incurred legal/engineering expenses to provide to Attorney Al Torrence for reimbursement on the Darlington Court project.

Township Agencies: Emergency Management Coordinator William Livingston addressed the Board under public comment.

Communications: The Secretary advised of an invitation to the Allegheny Boroughs Association Conference (meeting) at the Westin Convention Center on February 4, 2012.

A letter was received from the Blackhawk School District regarding the Coaches vs. Cancer program. The letter is requesting a donation and all Commissioners received a copy of the letter. Discussion was held and it was noted that the Township funds are not used in this type of request. No action was taken.

New/Miscellaneous Business: The Secretary advised of a memo that she submitted to the Board regarding a request for an actuarial study on the Non-uniform Pension fund to determine whether the fund can handle an increase in the benefit. The current benefit is at 1.2% and it has been several years since any increase was given. The study, if approved, would be paid for from the Non-uniform Pension Fund and recommendations would be made to the Board from Hallett Associates depending on the outcome of funds available. Motion was made by Mrs. Bonomo; seconded by Mr. Policaro authorizing the study by Hallett Associates. Passed unanimous.

Prior to adjournment, Fire Chief Policaro spoke from the audience in regards to the carpet in their social room upstairs at the firehall. He indicated that the tar footprints are still there and questioned what was going to be done about it. Mr. Leiper advised that Mr. Bradow, as Buildings Commissioner will be made aware of this.

Executive Session: Not needed.

There being no further business to be brought before the Board, motion was made by Mrs. Bonomo to adjourn. Seconded by Mr. Policaro the meeting adjourned at 7:57 pm.

Respectfully submitted:

Paula J. Wagoner, CMC
Township Secretary

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