

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

Regular Meeting

February 14, 2013

The Patterson Township Board of Commissioners held their regular meeting on Thursday, February 14, 2013 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, Bonomo, Hoover, and Mahosky).

Mr. Policaro opened the meeting with a moment of silence for Mr. John Stuber, 1308 19th Avenue, longtime member of the Township Municipal Authority, who recently passed away.

The minutes of the previous meeting held January 10, 2013 were presented for approval. Motion was made by Mrs. Bonomo; seconded by Mr. Hoover approving the minutes as presented. Passed unanimous.

A correction was made to the December 13, 2012 meeting minutes by the Secretary regarding the purchase of the new police vehicle (discussion and action was omitted). Motion was made by Mr. Hoover; seconded by Mr. Mahosky approving the minutes as corrected. Passed unanimous.

Public Comment: Mr. Daniel Spiker, 410 North Tower Road, Fombell PA attended the meeting from Troop 452. He provided a powerpoint presentation on the renovation of Beegle Hill Road to provide a trail as an Eagle Scout project. He provided current pictures of the area and advised that a portion of the road was vacated by the Township many years ago. The maps that he obtained are not clear on who owns the property.

Mr. Hoover expressed concerns on the Township's end of this project and requested input from Township Solicitor Attorney Jim Ross. Mr. Ross advised Daniel that he needs to determine ownership of the property first and foremost. If the Township takes on the responsibility of the maintenance, once the project is complete, the liability will fall on the Township. He stressed the importance of ownership of the property in his proposed project area, because he would need to get their permission first regarding what he wants to do. Mr. Ross recommended a title search at the Recorder of Deeds office at the Beaver County Courthouse before proceeding. He advised that this project is more complex than what you think. Daniel was instructed to determine ownership prior to coming back to the Board. The suggestion was made to consider improvements to the Township Park instead since there are lots of items to do.

A second presentation was given by Brandon Lough, 131 Sanger Drive (North Sewickley) from the same Troop #452 to earn Eagle Scout status. He is proposing improvements to the J. Beegle Naturalist Area (also known as the Patterson Township Park). His proposal included bridge repairs, cleaning and marking trails, remove hazards from existing stairs, rails, etc. and remove debris (logs, fallen trees). This proposed project is to make improvements and remove the hazards that currently exist. Mr. Hoover advised that the project could be overseen by the Township's Street Foreman and that the Township has participated in the Beaver County Jail inmate program in the past for park renovations. It was noted that this proposed project is different than Daniel Spiker's in that the Township owns this property. The Township Secretary will contact the Township's Insurance carrier for liability coverage for this project.

Treasurer's Report: Mrs. Ferrazzano provided the January Treasurer's Reports for the General Fund, Sewer Fund, and Other Accounts. Motion was made by Mr. Hoover; seconded by Mrs. Bonomo approving as presented. Passed unanimous.

Monthly Bills: The monthly bills for January and February were submitted for approval. Motion was made by Mr. Hoover; seconded by Mr. Mahosky approving as presented. Passed unanimous on a roll call vote.

Engineer's Report: Mr. Robert Firek, (LSSE) distributed the monthly written report and provided a report on the following items: Darlington Court – No change; 2012 Road Program – Punchlist items will be done in the Spring; Steffin Hill Sanitary Sewer – As authorized LSSE is preparing construction plans and permit applications; MS4 – Permit application being reviewed by DEP; Beaver Falls Wasteload Questionnaire – Document was completed and submitted for the Township to the City of Beaver Falls as required.

Mr. Hoover asked the status of Scott Donley's request (from last month) concerning fill for his yard in conjunction with the existing sewer line. Mr. Policaro advised that Attorney Douglass and Mr. Mitrovich attended the work session on behalf of the Township Municipal Authority and advised that they are going to meet with Mr. Donley.

Solicitor's Report: Mr. Ross provided a report on the new legislation (Act 188) regarding the elected position of Treasurer, in the Townships of the 1st Class. He provided some background whereby many years ago it was the Tax Collector that was elected and the Treasurer was appointed. At some point, it became an elected Treasurer and an appointed Tax Collector. With the passing of Act 188, the positions are being separated and it is reverting back to an elected Tax Collector and an appointed Treasurer. The Ordinance required was supposed to be adopted by February 15th. The purpose was so that compensation could be set in order for those who want to run for the position knows what it pays. The law allows for an Assistant Treasurer or a Deputy Treasurer, of which compensation must be set. Since this is still pending, and additional questions need to be answered, Mr. Ross suggested consulting with the neighboring 1st Class Townships to see what they've done. Mr. Ross will contact Vanport and Harmony Township's Solicitor and Mr. Policaro advised that he would call Hopewell Township.

The PA State Association of Township Commissioners may also be a good source. The Ordinance will be prepared as soon as possible for next month's adoption.

Mr. Ross advised that a letter was received from the Bureau of Elections advising that the Merger referendum will be placed on the ballot for the May 21st Primary election. Mr. Policaro advised that the public meetings for the residents have been scheduled for March 19th in Fallston (Borough Building) and March 21st in Patterson Township (Firehall) at 7:00 p.m.

Committee Reports: Fire - Mr. Mahosky submitted 3 Fire Reports for a total of \$178.75 (27 ½ man hours). Motion was made by Mr. Hoover; seconded by Mrs. Bonomo approving payment. Passed unanimous.

Mr. Mahosky provided an update on the generator project, whereby notice was received that the grant has been awarded through the DCED Municipal Assistance Program. The amount, \$22,300.00 represents 50% of the estimated cost including installation of the generator at the Municipal Complex, 1600 19th Avenue. This grant was submitted on behalf of Patterson Township Emergency Management, of which includes Patterson Township, Patterson Heights, Fallston Borough and soon to be added White Township. Mr. Livingston, as EM Coordinator, is seeking additional funds through the Beaver County Emergency Services. Patterson Township, along with the assistance of the neighboring municipalities will make up the rest of the funds.

Mr. Mahosky also advised that he was notified by the Federal Surplus Property Program that they have used generators valued at \$52,000.00 (which indicates a larger generator) for \$1,750.00. He noted that this only includes the generator (on wheels). The electrical, installation, pad, etc. will have to be done along with driving to Harrisburg to pick up. Mr. Mahosky noted that he does not know the number of hours that these generators were used and that they would come with no warranty. He advised the Board that a decision needs to be made on whether to pursue the used generator at a lower cost (with more work involved in installation) or accept the grant for the new generator. Mr. Bradow expressed the importance of the generator, which is to provide back-up power to this building during a power outage. He expressed that he prefers to go with the new. At this point, there is nothing to do until the contract documents are received. Mr. Mahosky noted that perhaps one of the used generators would be good for the Fire Department's use.

A membership application for the Fire Department was received from Jim Bologny, 744 8th Avenue, Patterson Heights. Motion was made by Mr. Hoover; seconded by Mr. Mahosky to accept this membership. Passed unanimous.

Mr. Mahosky reported that he and Mr. Hoover are working on improvements at the Firehall in order to create an office for the Fire Officers and a computer. He noted that it will cost less than \$1,000.00; therefore can continue without formal approval of the Board.

Parks/Recreation: Mr. Hoover noted report was covered under public comment.

Public Works: Mr. Hoover provided a summary of the activities in the Public Works Department over the last month. MS4's preparation, emergency repairs to the backhoe, road materials use (salt, cinders). A letter was received from resident and former Commissioner Lenny Leiper commending the Road Department for the great job done during the recent winter storm.

Mr. Hoover advised of the ongoing sign project. Mr. DeLuca advised that he would like to replace the Darlington Road signs next. A reminder was given of the previous discussion held concerning placement at the major intersections instead of each street. That reduces the cost dramatically. The estimated cost for this phase of the project is \$2,258.00. The deadline for replacing all of the signs is 2015. Mr. Hoover noted \$2,500.00 budgeted. Motion was made by Mr. Hoover; seconded by Mr. Bradow approving this phase of the sign project by purchasing the signs from Municipal Sign at a cost of \$2,258.00. Passed unanimous.

Ordinances/Policies – Mrs. Bonomo referred her report to Mr. Bradow who proposed a policy for building utility use. The policy is as follows:

Occupied Buildings – Temperatures shall be no higher than 72 degrees
Air Conditioners shall be no lower than 70 degrees
Lights shall be used only in areas occupied

Unoccupied Buildings - Temperatures shall be no higher than 60 degrees
Air Conditioning shall be no lower than 70 degrees
Lighting shall be only for security of the building
Water use shall be as needed and will be monitored
After occupation for shutoff and or leaks.

The Commissioner responsible for each building shall appoint a person to monitor this policy.

Mr. Policaro advised that this is a housekeeping issue and that each Commissioner should oversee building utility use and be a watchdog for energy conservation. Motion was made by Mr. Bradow; seconded by Mrs. Bonomo to adopt the above policy. The motion was defeated 2 ayes (Bradow/Bonomo); 3 nays (Hoover, Mahosky, and Policaro).

Code Enforcement – Mr. Morrow's monthly report will be provided at the next meeting.

Police/Township Office/COG – Mr. Policaro advised no new report from the Council of Governments. The monthly Police Report was distributed for review.

Mr. Policaro noted receipt of an email from Representative Jim Christiana's office requesting a meeting with the Board in the near future. The Secretary advised that she responded with a schedule of the Commissioner's meetings. The Board will wait to hear back from him.

A memo was distributed by the Secretary to request permission to recycle the Township's used electronics. The memo included hard drives, monitors, printers, and keyboards for recycling. She estimated that the cost to take these items to the Beaver County Recycling Center (Bradys Run) will be estimated at \$50.00. Motion was made by Mr. Mahosky; seconded by Mr. Hoover approving this request to discard the electronics by recycling them.

A memo was distributed by the Secretary (request from last month) providing information on the current loans of the Township. The memo included original loan amounts, interest rates, and current balances. It also included information from a meeting held between the Secretary and Louis Frischkorn, Vice-President of Commercial Lending with ESB. He will review the two loans to see if there is a lower rate available. The fire truck loan is with First National Bank at 2.1%.

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

Unfinished Business: None

Township Agencies: Emergency Management – As per the request of Emergency Management Coordinator, Bill Livingston, the Secretary advised that internet access has been changed from Verizon DSL to Comcast (high-speed internet). The change was bundled with the four (4) phone lines in the municipal building, which reduced the monthly costs over the next 2 years by 50%. The installation is scheduled for February 18th.

Communications: An invitation was received from the PA State Association of Township Commissioners to the 88th Annual Conference on June 27-30th at the Lancaster Host Resort, Lancaster, PA.

An invitation was received from the Beaver-Lawrence Central Labor Council Annual Banquet on April 27th at the Fez.

A letter/notification was received from Chesapeake Energy advising of a permit application for a drilling site in Chippewa Township. The letter indicates neighboring municipalities are to be notified.

A letter/documentation was received from Chippewa Township Sanitary Authority noting 2012 expenses. The letter indicated a balance owed by Patterson Township for 2012 in the amount of \$474.29. Motion was made by Mrs. Bonomo; seconded by Mr. Hoover approving payment. Passed unanimous.

A letter/application was received from Job Training of Beaver County. This group has made improvements in the Township Park in previous years, such as repairs/rebuilding bridges and steps, clearing paths, miscellaneous painting, etc. Mr. Hoover requested the Secretary submit the application to include general clean-up items.

New/Miscellaneous Business: The Secretary noted the receipt of the 2012 Franchise Fee check from Comcast in the amount of \$49,150.80.

A check was also received from White Township in the amount of \$5,000.00 for the 2006 Steffin Hill Sewer Project, indicating a balance owed at \$15,000.00.

A check was received from the Township's former insurance carrier (First National Insurance) representing profit sharing in the amount of \$354.94 for the year 2009. This will be deposited in the General Fund.

The quarterly transfer from the Sewer Fund to the Patterson Township Municipal Authority's Sinking Fund is due. The amount, \$27,424.29, is for the purpose of paying the authority's loan. Motion was made by Mrs. Bonomo; seconded by Mr. Hoover approving payment. Passed unanimous.

Executive Session: The Board went into executive session at 8:50 p.m. to discuss a legal and personnel issue.

Back in session at 9:15 p.m., the following action was taken. Mr. Hoover made a motion instructing the current Tax Collector, Mrs. Ferrazzano, to contact those taxpayers, who's checks have now expired, to reissue and resolve these outstanding items (pending from former Tax Collector) with the assistance of the Township Secretary. Seconded by Mr. Mahosky, the motion passed unanimous on a roll call vote.

There being no further business to be brought before the Board, motion was made by Mr. Hoover; seconded by Mrs. Bonomo to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Paula J. Wagoner, CMC
Township Secretary

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

