

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

Regular Meeting
Thursday, January 13, 2011

The Patterson Township Board of Commissioners held their regular meeting on Thursday, January 13, 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, Bradow, Hoover, and Policaro present. Mrs. Bonomo was absent.

Mr. Leiper opened the **Public Hearing** scheduled to allow input concerning the amendment to the Zoning Ordinance (#430) allowing for auto-related sales and service in a C-1 Zoning District as a conditional use. There being no public input, the public hearing was closed. Consideration for adoption will be held under the Solicitor's report.

Minutes: The minutes of the year-end meeting held December 28, 2010 were submitted for approval. Motion was made by Mr. Policaro; seconded by Mr. Hoover approving the minutes as presented. Passed unanimous.

Public Comment: Mr. Bill Shaffer, owner of Auto-Body Works attended the meeting to provide a presentation to the Board regarding his towing and impound service. He distributed a handout and provided information noting the ability to provide a secure impound lot located in Darlington where he has had a salvage license for the last 15 years. He is interested in becoming the sole towing company along with providing impounding of vehicles for Patterson Township. Aspects of motor vehicle accidents were addressed. If an accident occurs and the owner of the vehicle is able to choose a towing company, of course that prevails. Mr. Shaffer noted that they are fully insured and capable of providing this service. He explained his fleet of vehicles, which includes flatbed trucks that are stationed around the area 24 hours/day. He provided pictures of his impound area, which is completely enclosed. He stressed the importance of vehicle storage and the shift of liability away from the Township, once his company takes the vehicle to his impound lot.

Upon the conclusion of his presentation, Mr. Hoover wanted an explanation and/or an example of towing costs from Patterson Township to his impound area. Mr. Shaffer explained that the cost would be approximately \$225.00 from Patterson Township to Auto Body Works and \$40.00/day storage. Mr. Shaffer noted that these rates are competitive with area towers and advised that Auto Body Works is also the AAA tower. He expressed, once again that they are a full service towing company with an impound lot of a 40 ft. fence enclosure and would very much appreciate consideration from the Board to be used by Patterson Township for these services.

Treasurer's Report: In the absence of Mr. Anderson, the Treasurer's Report(s) for the General Fund, Sewer Fund and Other Accounts were distributed for review. Motion was made by Mr. Hoover; seconded by Mr. Policaro approving the report(s) as presented. Passed unanimously.

Monthly Bills: The monthly bills for January were distributed for review. Motion was made by Mr. Policaro to pay the monthly bills; however, prior to a second, questioned whether the pending water bill for the Fire Department was included on the list of bills for payment. The Secretary referred Mr. Policaro back to the December Year-end Meeting minutes indicating what had transpired regarding the \$604.78 still pending. A recap of the status was given noting that Mr. Policaro was to meet with a serviceman from Beaver Falls Municipal Authority following the year-end meeting since this had not been done by the Fire Department (as previously reported) to determine the problem. Mr. Policaro reported meeting a serviceman from BFMA following the year-end meeting and advised that there was nothing substantially found in the way of a leak. The Secretary advised receiving a copy of the service report from BFMA, which indicated that the source of the leak was the ice machine. Additional attendees at this meeting were Fire Chief Policaro, Fire Department President Philip Graeser, and Line Officer Hank Crognale. A detailed discussion ensued whereby they questioned why they are responsible for any utility bills at the firehall comparing it to other Township owned buildings. The Secretary explained that the other Township buildings are occupied on a daily basis, which will catch any problems (such as leaks). This water bill is for water usage of 155 thousand gallons between the end of June through September, 2010. The Township paid the prior high water bill (\$255.00) and notified them of a potential leak somewhere in the fire building. The next quarter revealed higher usage and a water bill for \$575.98. Following past practice, the Secretary sent the bill to the Fire Department to make payment. Because it was not paid, penalties were assessed and the current bill is \$604.78. The question was also raised as to why the 15% of rentals paid to the Township quarterly is not deposited into a separate account to go towards Fire Department utilities. The Secretary noted that the amount received (representing 15% rentals) is deposited into the general fund. Also, all of the utility bills are paid from general fund. She provided the example of the 4th quarter rental payment (being submitted at tonight's meeting) at \$360.00 versus the current month's gas bill for the firehall at over \$1,063.00. Mr. Policaro reiterated that this high water bill should be paid by splitting it with the Fire Department. On that recommendation, Mr. Hoover made a motion to pay one-half of the water bill (\$302.29) with the Fire Department paying the remaining one-half. Seconded by Mr. Policaro, roll call showed 2 ayes (Hoover, Policaro); 2 nays (Bradow, Leiper). Motion defeated.

Because of the defeated motion, Mr. Policaro expressed to the Board that their action is shutting down the Fire Department. Fire Chief Policaro noted that he would be contacting the Pennsylvania Fire Commissioner to report the Board. The Secretary reminded Mr. Policaro of the Beaver Falls Municipal Authority's policy not to shut off the water at Fire Departments. As the discussion was becoming heated, Mr. Leiper expressed the desire to continue with the meeting. At this time, Mr. Graeser was escorted out of the meeting by Chief Cindrich. (Note: See action at the end of the minutes).

Engineer's Report: Mr. Mitrovich distributed and reviewed the monthly report. The items discussed were as follows: Corrective Action Plan – the mainline sewer line is complete. Paving will be done in the spring; lateral replacement is presently being bid. 16th Street Sanitary Sewer – project is complete. Waiting for record drawings to close project (expected in February). WODA Development – Status the same (i.e. road repairs incomplete). Letter sent by LSSE on December 17, 2010. Fourway Properties – mainline sewer line is complete. Documents for dedication of this line are presently being reviewed for final adoption. Letter sent to Three's Company Trust (i.e. Fourway Properties). Darlington Court – LSSE met with American Southern Insurance (bonding company) on January 6, 2011. Meeting addressed unfinished work.

Solicitor's Report: Mr. Ross presented Ordinance #430 for adoption advising that it is an amendment to the Zoning Ordinance allowing auto-related sales and service in a C-1 Zoning District. The required public hearing was held. The points of the Ordinance were explained. Motion was made by Mr. Hoover; seconded by Mr. Policaro to approve the adoption of Ordinance #430. Passed unanimous on a roll call vote.

Mr. Ross also presented Ordinance #431, which amends the Township Code – Chapter 30 (Pensions) replacing any reference to "Chairman" throughout the chapter with "President" to bring the pension regulations into compliance with the First Class Township Code. Motion was made by Mr. Policaro; seconded by Mr. Hoover adopting Ordinance #431 as requested by the State Auditor. Passed unanimous on a roll call vote.

Committee Reports: Buildings/Grounds – Mr. Bradow provided an update on the grant application that was prepared for submission in the amount of \$13,000.00 for security cameras at the Municipal Complex (inside and out). The grant packet has been sent in along with a copy mailed to Congressman Altmire, Senator Vogel, and Representative Christiana requesting their support.

Mr. Bradow advised that he and the Township Secretary are looking into purchasing a desk for Code Officer, Randy Morrow who is presently using a table. Various options along with pricing is being explored since he is lacking the space needed for him to work.

Code Enforcement: Mr. Morrow's monthly report was distributed for review by the Board. There were no questions asked.

Fire/Utilities: Mr. Policaro submitted 10 fire reports in the amount of \$442.00 or 68 man hours. Motion was made by Mr. Policaro; seconded by Mr. Hoover approving payment. Passed unanimous.

Mr. Policaro also advised of receipt of the 4th Quarter (15%) rental fees in the amount of \$360.00 towards their utilities. This is based on \$2,400.00 collected for rentals by the Fire Department from October, 2010 through December, 2010. The \$1.00 lease payment for 2011 was also received.

Parks/Recreation: Mr. Hoover had no report.

Public Works: In the absence of Mrs. Bonomo, it was noted that details for purchasing a new one-ton dump (plow) truck will be provided at next month's meeting.

Police/Township Office/TCC/COG – Mr. Leiper advised that there is nothing to report from the Tax Collection Committee and Council of Governments at this time.

The monthly police report was distributed for review. Mr. Leiper advised that the new 2011 Ford Crown Vic police car was picked up from Day Fleet. The final cost that was set up as a 3-year lease through Dollar Bank was \$22,665.00. The next step is the equipment switchover whereby Chief Cindrich provided Mr. Leiper with 3 proposals as follows: Saber (Coraopolis) - \$2,608.00; Ibis Tek (Butler) - \$2,825.00; and Day (Murrysville) - \$4,500.00. After discussion on the comparisons of each quote, it was determined that the labor is included; therefore, motion was made by Mr. Policaro; seconded by Mr. Bradow to approve Saber's bid in the amount of \$2,608.00. Passed unanimous on a roll call vote.

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

Unfinished Business: None

Township Agencies: No report.

New/Miscellaneous Business: The City of Beaver Falls 4th Quarter 2010 Joint Sewer Maintenance invoice was received in the amount of \$57,616.00. Motion was made by Mr. Policaro; seconded by Mr. Hoover to pay this invoice. Passed unanimous on a roll call vote.

The Secretary noted the receipt of the Pension Plan Audit by the Auditor General's office for both the Police and Non-Uniform plans. The contents were previously reviewed and provided to the Board (as per Ordinance #431). This report will be kept on file. As a follow-up to receipt of this report, the Secretary reminded the Board that they have had two presentations concerning the pension funds (AIG Valic / Morgan Stanley). If any changes are going to be considered, the Secretary recommended meeting with the current agencies that provide service to the pension plans (Huntington, MetLife, and Hallett Associates). No meeting date was set at this time.

Communications: Information was received on the application process for the Community Development Program of Beaver County. The Secretary requested input from the Board as to possible projects. The deadline for submission is February 18, 2011.

A letter and documentation was received from the Chippewa Township Sanitary Authority providing their 2011 Budget along with an estimate as to what Patterson Township costs will be for 2011.

An invitation was received to the Allegheny League of Municipalities Conference on April 7-10, 2011 at Seven Springs Conference Center.

At this time, Mr. Hoover asked Mr. Leiper for an executive session to discuss a personnel issue. Mr. Leiper approved, noting the time for the executive session at 8:31 p.m.

Back in session at 9:03 p.m. a discussion was held on Robert's Rules of Order regarding the President and/or Chairman casting a vote on motions. Mr. Ross noted that he would look into for the next meeting.

Reconsideration was given for the pending water bill at the Fire Department in the amount of \$604.78. Mr. Bradow made the motion to pay one-half of the bill (\$302.39); noting the Fire Department to pay the remaining half. Seconded by Mr. Hoover, the motion passed unanimous on a roll call vote.

A question was raised as to whether the December bills were approved to be paid previously in the meeting. Motion was made by Mr. Hoover; seconded by Mr. Bradow approving payment. Passed unanimous on a roll call vote.

There being no further business to be brought before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 9:11 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Paula J. Wagoner, CMC
Township Secretary

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