

Patterson Township Board of Commissioners

1600 19th Avenue, Beaver Falls PA 15010

Regular Meeting

Thursday, June 9, 2011

The Patterson Township Board of Commissioners held their regular meeting on June 9, 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 all Commissioners present (Leiper, Bonomo, Bradow, Hoover and Policaro).

The **minutes** of the regular meeting held Thursday, May 12, 2011 were presented for review. Prior to approval, Mr. Policaro pointed out that on page 5, approximately the 5th paragraph down concerning his son's property (David Policaro, 1506 19th Avenue), the curb didn't work. He noted that his basement still flooded even though there was a curb installed by the Township. He is hopeful that, with the repaving project scheduled for 19th Avenue, this issue will be resolved. Motion was made by Mrs. Bonomo; seconded by Mr. Hoover approving the minutes as presented. Passed unanimous.

Public Comment: None

Treasurer's Report: In the absence of Mr. Anderson, the monthly Treasurer's reports for the General Fund, Sewer Fund and Other Accounts were submitted for approval. Motion was made by Mr. Policaro; seconded by Mrs. Bonomo approving as presented. Passed unanimous on a roll call vote.

Monthly Bills: The monthly bills for June were submitted for payment. Motion was made by Mr. Hoover; seconded by Mr. Policaro approving payment. Passed unanimous on a roll call vote.

Engineer's Report: Mr. Mitrovich distributed his monthly report for June and reported on the following items: Corrective Action Plan – the house laterals are complete in the Southend Sewer Project along with the mainline extension. The restoration of the properties is underway and the paving is tentatively scheduled for the last week of June. WODA – the work is finally complete. The Engineer is waiting on the request for bond reduction. Darlington Court – Bond Company (American Southern) has entered into a contract with Kozik Brothers to complete the work. Mr. Mitrovich reviewed the scope of work to be done. Roads, sewer and water lines, stabilization of the land, level off and plant grass (i.e.: site ready for development). The land development will be complete and prepared for construction. At present, it was reported that the Erosion and Sedimentation Plan had expired and is in the process of being renewed. 2011 Road Program – the contract documents were received by the Contractor (Youngblood Paving) and forwarded for execution to the Township. Work will begin once Columbia Gas completes replacement of a gas line on 19th Avenue. MS4 Program – the Annual Report was submitted to PaDEP on June 9, 2011.

Solicitor's Report: Mr. Fawcett reported the submission of a letter and proposed policy to the Board concerning the use of part-time police officers. Mr. Leiper noted the absence of Chief Cindrich and the need to discuss with him first.

Committee Reports: Buildings/Grounds/Finance – Mr. Bradow reported being advised of a leak in the roof of the Fire building. Because the Township has a maintenance agreement with Reno Brothers, he instructed the Secretary to contact them to do the repairs.

Code Enforcement – In Mr. Morrow's absence, his monthly report was distributed. Letters are being sent to property owners with high grass. Also, the rental operating license season is underway. The Secretary advised the Board of the need to thank Mr. Morrow for his help on the shredding of Township records. Last month's meeting indicated an estimate of \$250.00 for shredding. Mr. Morrow assisted with the shredding at no cost as a result of Beaver Borough offering this to outside municipalities.

Fire/Utilities – Mr. Policaro presented seven (7) fire reports in the amount of \$334.75 or 51 ½ man hours. Motion was made by Mr. Policaro; seconded by Mr. Bradow approving payment. Passed unanimous on a roll call vote.

Mr. Policaro noted no further comment on the Fire Department's meeting held May 26th as a follow-up to the Township's May meeting, concerning the letter sent by the Fire Department regarding the primary election.

Mr. Policaro reported no new information on the replacement of the Fire Department's ladder truck. He advised that the Fire Chief is gathering prices, etc.

Parks/Recreation – Mr. Hoover had no report.

Public Works – Mrs. Bonomo had no report; however noted a recent clean-up (jetting) of a manhole in the area of 21st Avenue. Additionally, there are currently some issues with the Davidson Drive pump station being dealt with. When asked what type of problems, Mrs. Bonomo reported the lines have been televised and so far no problem has been found.

Police/Township Office/COG/TCC - Mr. Leiper noted the submission of the monthly Police report for review.

A discussion was held on the recent meeting held with Borough of Fallston Council members and Michael Foreman, DCED. At that meeting, a review was made of the draft Ordinance for merging the two municipalities. During this review of the whole Ordinance, it was recommended by Township Solicitor Jim Ross (who was in attendance) to decide prior to moving forward whether there will be two Fire Departments or one. The resolution (on the advice of Michael Foreman) is to do a feasibility study on merging the Fire Departments into one. Such items to be included would be response time, area to cover, equipment, etc. In

order to have the study done, a letter of intent needs to be submitted by both Municipalities. Once submitted, DCED would assign someone (Fire Official) to do the study. Mr. Policaro questioned whether the Secretary had ever contacted the Township Fire Department to see if they have interest in merging. She advised Mr. Policaro that her job is to bring things to the Board first. She also recalled this subject being discussed at previous meetings with Fallston Borough whereby Mr. Policaro had agreed to discuss with the Fire Department in addition to Mr. Ted Smakosz, Fallston's Fire Chief (and Council Member) who advised that he discussed with them. Mr. Smakosz has also indicated their willingness to merge into one. The Township's Fire Department should've been aware of the potential for merging. At this time, Mr. Bradow made the motion to table the letter of intent until the Township's Fire Department has a chance to discuss at their next meeting. Mr. Leiper advised that this study is the next step and the Board is only approving the letter of intent to be submitted for this study. The results of this study will allow for a decision to be made on how many Fire Departments are needed to serve the community. A second to the motion to table was made by Mr. Hoover. The letter of intent was denied on a roll call vote three ayes (Bradow, Hoover, and Policaro); two nays (Leiper, Bonomo).

The Board was advised that the Council of Governments is sponsoring a symposium regarding Marcellus Shale at Community College of Beaver County on June 21, 2001 from 6:00 pm to 8:30 pm. Since a representative from our Township should attend, Mr. Leiper canvassed the Board for their availability. Mr. Bradow was the only Commissioner in town that evening to attend. He tentatively agreed to attend.

Motion was made by Mr. Bradow; seconded by Mr. Hoover approving all the Committee Reports as presented. Passed unanimous on a roll call vote.

Unfinished Business: None

Township Agencies: Zoning – A letter of resignation was presented from Greg DeLuca, who served as Zoning Officer for the last 22 years. Motion was made by Mr. Bradow; seconded by Mrs. Bonomo accepting his resignation. Passed unanimous on a roll call vote.

Discussion was held on naming a replacement along with naming a temporary replacement. Several suggestions were made; however, on motion by Mr. Bradow authorization was given to advertise for qualified applicants. Seconded by Mrs. Bonomo, the motion passed unanimous. In the meantime, a temporary replacement needs to be named. The Secretary volunteered (only for one month) since she has already been fielding the questions. Motion was made by Mrs. Bonomo; seconded by Mr. Bradow naming Mrs. Wagoner as the acting Zoning Officer until a decision is made. Passed unanimous.

A memo was distributed by the Township Secretary making the recommendation to amend the Section of the Zoning Ordinance regarding political signs. The current restriction is two square feet, which is not allowing for the standard yard signs size. Her recommendation was to increase to four square feet. Discussion was held, whereby Mr. Policaro objected to

changing the regulations in the middle of the election. The Secretary responded that this is to avoid what happened during the primary election, whereby all of the signs violated the present Ordinance (Section 190-59) and none were removed. The Secretary provided the history of adopting political sign regulations, which was to prohibit the large billboards. The two square feet was consistent with temporary signs (i.e. yard sales, real estate open houses, etc.). The revision (four square feet) will accommodate the standard political signs being placed currently. Mrs. Bonomo made the motion to amend the Zoning Ordinance (Chapter 190-Section 59) regarding political signs from two square feet to four square feet. Seconded by Mr. Bradow, the motion passed three ayes (Bonomo, Bradow, Leiper) and two nays (Policaro, Hoover).

An additional item on the memo from the Secretary was a reminder of the need to increase Township fees. In her research on political signs, the Secretary noted the fees were reviewed back in 1988 by submitting them to the Township Planning Commission to review and bring back a recommendation. Motion was made by Mr. Bradow; seconded by Mr. Hoover referring the fees schedule to the Planning Commission for review. Passed unanimous.

New/Miscellaneous Business: A letter was received from the FCC concerning narrowbanding (radio transmission) regulations that are going to change, effective 2013. Since Chief Cindrich was not in attendance, this will be reviewed with him and information will be brought back to the Board. This new regulation also affects the Public Works Department.

The Secretary reported that it is time to transfer the quarterly payment to the Patterson Township Municipal Authority Sinking Fund for payment of the loan. The amount is \$27,194.43, which is three months payment. The Secretary advised that this is a budgeted amount and is regulated by an agreement with the Municipal Authority and asked whether this needs to be on the Agenda each quarter. Mr. Bradow, as Finance Commissioner recommended it be brought to the Board each time. Motion to pay was approved on motion by Mr. Bradow. Seconded by Mrs. Bonomo the motion passed unanimous on a roll call vote.

Communications: A letter was received from the Carnegie Free Library (in Beaver Falls) requesting donations. This was provided as information only or if the Commissioners wanted to donate. The Township has not donated Township funds in the past.

Executive Session: Not needed.

There being no further business to be brought before the Board, motion was made by Mr. Hoover to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Mrs. Bonomo, the meeting adjourned at 8:04 pm.

Respectfully submitted:

Paula J. Wagoner, CMC
Township Secretary

