

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

Regular Meeting

Thursday, October 13, 2011

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

Minutes: The minutes of the previous meeting held September 8, 2011 were presented for approval. Motion was made by Mr. Policaro; seconded by Mr. Hoover approving the minutes as presented. Passed unanimous.

Public Comment: Mr. David Kane, of W. 9th Street attended to provide a report on the clean-up day that was held last Saturday. He advised that there were six (6) people who helped with the clean-up of 8th Street Hill and thanked the Police Department (specifically Officer Bathgate), the Secretary, and the workers for their assistance. He noted that by holding two of these events annually it is noticeable that less garbage is being picked up. He noted the next event will be held in the Spring and invited the Board to participate. He will be back with the date at that time. Mr. Leiper thanked Mr. Kane on behalf of the Board for his efforts.

Monthly Bills: The monthly bills for October were presented for payment. Motion was made by Mr. Hoover; seconded by Mrs. Bonomo approving payment. Passed unanimous on a roll call vote.

Treasurer's Report: In the absence of Mr. Anderson, the written Treasurer's reports for the general fund, sewer fund, and other accounts were presented for review and approval. The Secretary noted the maturity of the general fund CD in the amount of \$200,000.00 in September, which will aid in the payments of bills for the remainder of the year. Motion was made by Mr. Bradow; seconded by Mr. Policaro approving the Treasurer's report(s) as presented to the Board. Passed unanimous on a roll call vote.

In the absence of the Engineer (entered later), the Solicitor's report was given.

Solicitor's Report: Mr. Fawcett provided an update on the recent meeting with Fallston Borough concerning the merger of the two municipalities. The next step is to prepare a draft of an Ordinance that will include language in the Ordinance for the merger. He will be submitting the draft to Mr. Foreman (DCED) and Mr. Budicak (Fallston Borough Solicitor) for review prior distributing to the respective Boards. The current study regarding the merging of the prospective Fire Departments should also be underway. A review by the Boards will be done at the next meeting, to be held Thursday, November 3rd. Scheduled for referendum in the Spring.

Mr. Fawcett also reported that he sent the tolling agreement (authorized last month) to the Bond Company for Darlington Court for review and approval.

Acknowledging the attendance of residents from the Struby Plan regarding the home owned by Jasper's (1325 Book Avenue), Mr. Leiper asked Mr. Fawcett to address the process for condemning houses. It was noted by Mr. Leiper that Mr. Morrow (Code Officer) has been in contact with the owner (Mrs. Jasper) and is in the process of citing for code violations. Mr. Fawcett advised that just because the house is empty, does not mean it is to be condemned and Mrs. Jasper has the right to appeal every step of the process. The residents questioned whether Mr. Morrow has been inside the house and revealed that it is full of junk. In addition, they complained of open windows, open garage door, grape vines growing on the fence, and the potential for a rodent problem. Mr. Leiper cautioned the residents concerning going on the property to look in the windows, etc. noting they should stay off the property. Mr. Fawcett noted that there are procedures in place for handling such properties and at present, the Code Officer is doing that. If, in fact, there are safety issues, Mr. Fawcett advised that the proceedings can be expedited by declaring an emergency status and have the Township's Public Works Department go on the property and board up the windows, secure the doors, and garage door. At this point, a motion was made by Mr. Policaro to authorize Mr. Morrow to take the necessary steps to secure the house and any costs involved by the Township will be assessed as a municipal lien. Mr. Bradow suggested an amendment to the motion, advising Mr. Morrow to be careful to follow the law and seek advice from the Township Solicitor as he moves forward with the necessary steps to secure the property (barricade of windows/doors). The motion was seconded by Mr. Hoover and passed unanimous on a roll call vote.

Committee Reports: Buildings/Grounds/Finance – Mr. Bradow provided a report on the Fire Department roof, whereby the Township Public Works Department tarred the seams of the roof that seemed to be leaking. Hopefully, this will take care of the problem. Under Finance, Mr. Bradow advised that the 1st Reading of the 2012 Budget will take place at the November meeting. He noted that any special suggestions/concerns should be provided to him and/or the Secretary by October 27th.

Mr. Bradow reminded the Board that he questioned the high utility costs at last month's meeting and asked Mr. Policaro for a report. Mr. Policaro noted the \$1,300.00 electric bill for August and provided that the firehall was rented 21 times in July; 19 times in August and research indicated that the National Weather Service indicated 27 days in July whereby the temperature was over 87 degrees and 18 days in August were in the high 80's. Air conditioning would have been used more. Mr. Policaro did; however, note that there is a hole in the duct work of the old system on the roof of the firehall that needs to be repaired. Reno Brothers actually found during their routine maintenance check. The duct work rusted through allowing the cool air to escape and with the upcoming winter season, will allow the heat to escape. Mr. Policaro made a motion to consider this an emergency repair and have it fixed immediately. Seconded by Mr. Bradow, the motion passed unanimous on a roll call vote.

Mr. Leiper addressed Mr. Bradow's concern for the overage on unleaded gasoline used in the police cars. Mr. Leiper reminded Mr. Bradow that we are covering more area by patrolling Fallston Borough, along with the fluctuating gas prices over the last year. Mr. Leiper advised the only way to reduce spending is for the officers to cut back on patrolling, of which he does not recommend. The Secretary noted the budget as a guide and some of the line items are difficult to determine how much to allot. Fuel is one of those line items. Mr. Hoover recommended taking last years figures (re: miles driven by both vehicles and the number of miles patrolled) and compare with this year to determine an amount for 2012. Mr. Bradow noted the resolution to be budgeting additional funds for gasoline in 2012. A review will also be made of the diesel fuel account used by Public Works.

Code Enforcement - In Mr. Morrow's absence, the monthly report was distributed for review. Mr. Leiper advised of the grass/weeds being cut at Darlington Court, along with the vacating of a house at 400 16th Avenue, which was done under Mr. Morrow's direction.

Mr. Leiper advised of an upcoming fundraiser for Randy Morrow's wife (Sharon) who was diagnosed with cancer. A spaghetti dinner will be held this Sunday (October 16th) at Vanport Fire Department. Mr. Leiper urged all Commissioners to attend.

Fire/Utilities – Mr. Policaro submitted 12 fire reports for 111 ½ hours or \$724.50. Motion was made by Mr. Policaro; seconded by Mr. Hoover approving payment. Passed unanimous on a roll call vote.

Mr. Policaro also advised of the receipt of the State Fire Relief Funds in the amount of \$28,829.47. He noted last year's amount of \$19,158.28 and reported a letter received from the State explaining the higher amount received. Because of the Department of Revenue's efforts in collecting gross premium receipts for the Act 205 Fund, an additional \$9,671.19 was received. It was explained as a one-time payment and advised to budget the normal amount (approximately \$19,000) for next year's budget.

Engineer's Report – Mr. Kevin Brett (attending for Mr. Mitrovich) arrived at the meeting and distributed the monthly report for review. The following items were discussed: CAP: the PTMA is addressing miscellaneous complaints as the project is completed. Darlington Court: no change in the status (NPDES permit still pending); 2011 Road Program: following a field review held September 15th, a punch list was made for Youngblood Paving (still pending). Struby Plan: estimates were provided by an attachment for the probable cost of road repairs on the five (5) streets involved. The estimate is \$408,148.00. Mr. Brett recommended a multi-year plan to accomplish restoration of the roads in this area. A five-year plan would divide the total cost into the approximate amount received from liquid fuels each year. The general consensus of the Board agreed with this idea to pursue road repairs in this manner.

Parks/Recreation – Mr. Hoover reported attending the BAYBA (Blackhawk Area Youth Baseball Association) meeting recently and noted their plans to install dug-outs in the ballfield. He noted his reason for attending was to offer any assistance from Patterson Township and was

told that the Recreation Building was unsafe to use. Upon his own investigation into the recreation building, he did not see that it was unsafe, but observed some work that needs to be done. He reported that the repairs can be made over a two year period and would like to keep his budget (not spent) and utilize it next year. He advised that he would provide the labor along with some help from the fathers (of BAYBA); therefore the only cost to be for materials. He also suggested changing the tennis courts into basketball courts and provided the preliminary cost to resurface. Sealcoating or cold patch would cost approximately \$1,400.00 and hot patch \$1,600.00. The construction of one hoop would cost approximately \$1,100.00. He will keep the Board updated on this venture.

Public Works - Mrs. Bonomo proceeded to open the sealed bids received for the 2003 Ford F-550 dump truck. The bid results are as follows:

Name	Bid Amount	10% Bid Bond
Glenn Freed	\$19,571.00	No
Tri-State Maintenance	\$17,201.00	Yes
Jim Mansell Trucking	\$19,650.00	Yes

Motion was made by Mr. Policaro; seconded by Mr. Bradow accepting the high bid from Jim Mansell in the amount of \$19,650.00. Passed unanimous on a roll call vote.

Mrs. Bonomo also presented the renewal of the Winter Snow Agreement with Fallston Borough and recommended the amount remain the same. The 2010-2011 amount was \$50.00/ trip for Par Drive and Divot Lane. Motion was made by Mr. Hoover; seconded by Mr. Policaro approving the adoption of this agreement between Patterson Township and Fallston Borough. Passed unanimous on a roll call vote.

Mr. Leiper requested Mrs. Bonomo review the Road Program for next year (as a result of information provided on Struby Plan) and come back with a recommendation.

Police/Township Office/COG/TCC – Mr. Leiper noted the distribution of the monthly Police Report for review. He advised of a recommendation from Officer Bathgate to borrow and/or purchase one of the portable speed signs from PennDot. These speed signs are being used in neighboring municipalities for awareness in slowing traffic down. One area for use in the Township would be School Street.

Mr. Leiper reported no additional information for the TCC (Tax Collection Committee) and addressed the material distributed from the COG (Council of Governments) regarding participation in a joint appeals board. Discussion was held regarding the Township’s current regulations, which at present earmarks our Zoning Hearing Board as the Township’s appeal board for Property Maintenance. A change in the current regulations would have to be made if participating. Mr. Leiper also advised that a joint appeals board would be responsible for knowing the regulations of each municipality. Mr. Fawcett provided an opinion regarding the three member board in that the Board might want to keep it citizens of Patterson Township.

After further review, a motion was made by Mr. Bradow; seconded by Mr. Policaro to refrain from participation at this time. Passed unanimous.

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

Unfinished Business: No report.

Township Agencies: No report.

Communications: A letter/invoice was received from Patterson Heights requesting the annual sewer rentals (as per agreement) in the amount of \$2,255.40. The Secretary noted the letter indicated payment enclosed for the Township sewer rentals in the amount of \$72.00. The check was not enclosed and the Secretary left a message for the Borough Secretary. Motion approving payment was made by Mr. Hoover. Seconded by Mr. Policaro, the motion passed unanimous on a roll call vote.

A letter was received from the Beaver County Planning Commission inviting the Township to participate in the joint ad for the MS4 Municipalities. This ad satisfies the requirement by DEP regarding stormwater management. The Secretary noted previous years' cost to be approximately \$25.00 for the Township's share. Motion was made by Mr. Bradow; seconded by Mr. Policaro approving participation in the countywide ad. Passed unanimous.

A letter was received from the City of Beaver Falls Water Pollution Control Plant advising the Township of an upcoming rate increase. The joint sewer rate will remain the same for 2012 (\$3.70/per thousand); however an increase to \$3.81 per thousand will commence in 2013.

New/Miscellaneous Business: The Secretary reported the receipt of the pension check in the amount of \$65,850.30. The amount is approximately \$27,000.00 more than previous years. As in the case of the fire relief funds received, the pension check reflects additional monies collected by the Department of Revenue. A letter was received along with this pension check explaining as a one-time payment. The Secretary prepared a letter for deposit to Huntington Bank designating the required funds in each of the pension funds (Police & Non-Uniform) as per the MMO, with the excess being deposited into the Non-Uniform Fund (as done in previous years). The deposit to be as follows: \$41,952.00 (Police Plan); \$23,898.30 (Non-Uniform) and \$4,264.30 (difference) into the Non-Uniform Plan.

Additionally, the premium notices have been received from MetLife for the annuities and life insurance. Huntington will be instructed to pay \$10,816.83 for the Police Pension Annuities and \$10,577.00 for the Non-Uniform Annuities and \$306.26 for Chief Cindrlich's life insurance premium. Authorizing payment was made on motion by Mr. Policaro. Seconded by Mrs. Bonomo the motion passed unanimous on a roll call vote.

An invoice was received from the City of Beaver Falls for the 3rd quarter joint sewer maintenance in the amount of \$68,993.90. Motion was made by Mr. Policaro approving payment. Seconded by Mrs. Bonomo the motion passed unanimous on a roll call vote.

Prior to adjournment, Mr. Policaro questioned the political signs being erected that are too large as per the new Ordinance. The Secretary advised the new Zoning Officer (Bill Witkouski) is aware of the signs and will take care notifying those who are in violation.

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 8:24 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Paula J. Wagoner, CMC
Township Secretary

Copy: Mr. Ken Fawcett, Esq.
Mr. Ned Mitrovich, P.E.
Board of Commissioners