

Patterson Township Board of Commissioners

1600 19th Avenue, Beaver Falls PA 15010

Regular Meeting

Thursday, September 8, 2011

The Patterson Township Board of Commissioners held their regular meeting on Thursday, September 8, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. at the Municipal Complex, 1600 19th Avenue, Beaver Falls. Following the call to order and Pledge of Allegiance, Mr. Leiper took roll call noting Commissioners Bradow, Policaro and Hoover also present. Mrs. Bonomo was absent.

The **minutes** of the meeting held August 11, 2011 were presented for review. Motion was made by Mr. Hoover; seconded by Mr. Policaro approving the minutes as presented. Passed unanimous.

Public Comment: Mr. David Kane, W. 9th Street attended the meeting to advise of the upcoming clean-up day (Project Greensweep) scheduled for Saturday, October 8, 2011. The details are the same as in the past. PennDot provides the materials (gloves, bags, etc.) and the meeting place is Riverview Methodist Church at 8:00 a.m. Because there was several residents in attendance, Mr. Kane extended an invitation to all present to participate. He thanked the Board along with Chief Cindrich for the cooperation in the past.

Several residents of the Struby Avenue area attended the meeting. Spokesperson for the group was Bob Clendennen, 1410 Struby Avenue who submitted a petition signed by the residents requesting paving of Struby Avenue. A discussion was held on the stormwater run-off in the area, which is creating the roadway to deteriorate. This will also need addressed prior to paving the road. Mr. Policaro questioned whether a storm sewer can be installed in this area and how much it would cost. Mr. DeLuca was in attendance and explained the drainage in the area and was not sure (along with Mr. Mitrovich) how much it would cost to install another storm sewer. Mr. Leiper advised the residents that the road project has been completed for this year but could be considered for next year. Mrs. Muriel Rozmus, 1409 Struby and Ms. Alice Perrott, 1407 Struby conveyed that the road gets slippery during the winter season, making it difficult to access their mailboxes. They asked whether additional paving could be done now. Mr. DeLuca responded that he doesn't believe additional patching of the road will work and he is very diligent in salting the area during bad weather. Ms. Perrott noted that to be true. Mr. Leiper recommended the Township Engineer (Mr. Mitrovich) get together with Mr. DeLuca to come up with alternatives for improving the road prior to it being paved. It was agreed that this could be done within the next week. This will be reported on at the next meeting.

Additional public comment was provided by Mrs. Cathy Stanyard, 1305 Struby Avenue and Mr. Ted Dewhurst, 1303 Struby Avenue concerning the condition of the empty house at 1325 Book Avenue owned by Marion Jasper. The house has been empty for 9 years and there is cause for concern with high weeds that a rodent problem exists. The Secretary advised driving by and noticed the grass was cut; however the residents noted that the back of the

house has a brush pile and the grass is high. She noted that the Township's Code Officer Randy Morrow has been in touch with Marion Jasper (owner) and she expressed that she will take care of securing the property and have the grass cut. Mr. Ross noted that the Board could do a site inspection, as they have done in the past, and issue a list of items that need to be rectified to bring the house up to code if needed. The residents expressed concern for this problem continuing since it has gone on 9 years. Mr. Ross noted that he has served as Township Solicitor for the past 8 years and this is the first it has been brought to the Board. The Board also expressed that this property has never been presented as a problem. Mr. Leiper will consult with Mr. Morrow to see what the status is with Mrs. Jasper and proceed with any necessary steps.

Treasurer's Report: In the absence of Mr. Anderson, the Treasurer's Reports for the General Fund, Sewer Fund, and Other Accounts were presented for review. Mr. Leiper noted the additional paperwork at the back of Mr. Anderson's report regarding the breakdown of deposits. The Secretary advised of the maturity of a CD in the amount of \$200,000.00 in the General Fund in September to assist with paying the final quarter bills. Motion was made by Mr. Policaro; seconded by Mr. Hoover approving the Treasurer's Reports as presented. Passed unanimous on a roll call vote.

Monthly Bills: The monthly bills for September were presented for approval. 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 and advised of the following: Corrective Action Plan – the lawn restoration and miscellaneous complaints are being addressed for the Southend Sewer Project. A punch list has been prepared for Fleming-Walker (main line contractor). Mr. Leiper asked whether a punch list will be prepared for the lateral contractor (Greenawalt). Mr. Mitrovich advised that there will also be a punch list forthcoming for the laterals. Darlington Court – Mr. Mitrovich noted that Mr. Ross has additional information concerning Darlington Court. On the Engineer's end, there has been no change since the last meeting. 2011 Road Program – All road work has been completed. A final review is scheduled for September 15, 2011.

Solicitor's Report: Mr. Ross provided a report on Darlington Court. Following the last meeting, Mr. Ross sent a letter to Attorney Al Torrence, legal representative for the bond company, requesting any legal and engineering fees paid by the Township be reimbursed. The original agreement with Integra Group agreed to pay these fees. Since the last meeting, Mr. Ross did receive a response from Attorney Torrence, who requested a copy of the agreement with Darlington Court showing this requirement, along with the amount sought with supporting documentation. As of today, Mr. Ross provided Mr. Torrence with a copy of the Developer's Agreement which indicates a clause for reimbursement. As of late this afternoon, Mr. Ross had a telephone conference with Mr. Torrence who advised that the American Southern (bond company) is in the process of securing an Engineering firm to get the NPDES permit needed to proceed. A discussion was held on the pending weeds, high grass, etc. It was noted that Mr. Morrow has been in contact with Mr. Robert Miller (representative from bonding company) to

get the weeds and grass cut. There have been e-mails relating to this of which the Secretary brought with her to the meeting. Mr. Miller provided copies of e-mails seeking bids to brush hog the area of Darlington Court. A recommendation was made by Mr. Ross to have Mr. Morrow go out and inspect the property and cite for the weeds not being cut. Mr. Leiper will talk to Mr. Morrow tomorrow.

Prior to moving on, Mr. Ross advised of a discussion with his associate Mr. Fawcett regarding the need for an agreement with the bond company. An extension was granted some time ago; however, in order to keep the bond in place, a tolling agreement would be appropriate. Motion was made by Mr. Hoover; seconded by Mr. Bradow authorizing Mr. Ross to generate a tolling agreement. Passed unanimous on a roll call vote.

Committee Reports: Buildings/Grounds/Finance – Mr. Bradow reported the need for some roof repairs in the Public Works Department buildings. The building in the quarry that houses the backhoe needs repaired and Mr. DeLuca provided an estimate of approximately \$500.00. Mr. Bradow noted that this repair might be done by Mr. DeLuca and Mr. Cipolla (tar the area that is leaking). The second roof issue is the Maintenance Building. Mr. Bradow advised that proposals will be sought and perhaps included in the budget for repair next year.

Mr. Bradow noted two items under finance. He noted that the fuel line item is in the red by approximately \$-900.00 and requested Mr. Leiper and Mrs. Bonomo provide a remedy for this at the next meeting. The fuel is unleaded and Mr. DeLuca advised that their trucks use diesel. A discussion was held on Reed Oil topping off the tanks when they are in the area and whether this is costing the Township extra money. Mr. DeLuca noted that the Township is the only municipality that doesn't top off (advised Reed to stop) but it would not make a difference. The fuel is purchased through the Council of Governments and fluctuates as the fuel goes up and down per gallon. It was noted that this line item will need to be adjusted higher for 2012 due to the extra patrol being provided to Fallston Borough.

Mr. Bradow also requested Mr. Policaro look into the \$1,357.80 electric bill for the Fire Department for August and come back with an explanation and/or solution to lowering.

Code Enforcement – Mr. Morrow's monthly report was distributed for review and comment. Mr. Leiper noted that he will provide Mr. Morrow with instructions to cite Darlington Court if they don't comply with removing the weeds / high grass, etc.

Fire/Utilities – Mr. Policaro presented nine (9) fire reports for 75 ½ man hours or \$490.75. Motion to pay was made by Mr. Hoover. Seconded by Mr. Bradow the motion passed unanimous on a roll call vote.

Parks/Recreation – Mr. Hoover wanted to publicly thank Greg DeLuca and Joseph Cipolla for handling the Beaver County Inmate Program for repairs to the Township Park. The lower end of the Township Park looks good and Mr. Hoover noted that they will be returning to work in the upper part of the Park.

Public Works – Mr. Leiper noted the absence of Mrs. Bonomo and reported that her absence is due to dealing with some health issues she is experiencing.

Police/Township Office/TCC/COG – The monthly Police Report was distributed for review and comment.

Tax Collection Committee - Mr. Leiper noted that Centax, chosen as the county's EIT Collection company, is having several upcoming training sessions for employers. A list was provided to all of the municipalities.

Council Of Governments - Mr. Leiper noted projects that are currently being worked on, one of which is a joint Code Enforcement Officer for municipalities to use.

Mr. Leiper gave a report on the last meeting held with Fallston Borough and noted the need to approve the scope of services for the fire study to be done. Motion was made by Mr. Policaro; seconded by Mr. Hoover approving the scope of services for a study regarding the merger of both fire departments. Passed unanimous on a roll call vote.

Mr. Leiper also noted that last month he reported the need to address the police contract with Fallston Borough for 2012. His recommendation is to keep the same amount in 2012, which is \$27,500.00. The justification for this includes number of calls, no bar problems, and the idea that they will stay with the Township, versus shopping elsewhere for police coverage. He also recommended going with a 2-year contract with a 3% increase going into 2013. If the merger happens before then, the contract won't be necessary. Mr. Policaro questioned keeping it the same amount in 2012, since the budget indicates higher fuel prices and the fact that the Township budget will increase. Mr. Bradow noted the need for a potential increase in 2012 because of an increased budget.

Mr. Hoover made reference to Patterson Heights Borough, whereby the Township at one time provided police services and lost the borough as a result of annual increases. Because the bars on Route 51 are not a problem and traffic problems are not the case, the decision to keep it the same should be factored into the decision. At this point, Mr. Bradow made the motion to stay the same in 2012 (\$27,500) and request a 2 year contract with a 3% increase going into the second year (2013). Seconded by Mr. Hoover, the motion passed unanimous on a roll call vote.

Mr. Leiper brought up the unfinished discussion from a few months ago regarding the hiring of an additional part-time police officer. Mr. Leiper touched on the overtime costs of 2010 versus the current status of overtime costs in 2011. Presently, the budget figure is much lower at this point as last year. Chief Cindrach reported on the extreme amount of hours that Officer Girting is working. Mr. Leiper noted the original request from the Chief to put an extra car on the road and overlap shifts as needed to give an additional part-time officer some time. Mr. Hoover noted conversations held several months ago concerning the willingness of part-timers to work for the Township in conjunction with their availability. Chief Cindrach provided an example of one officer turning in his schedule late (after the 23rd deadline), and advised if he

was scheduled anyway (which is what Chief Cindrlich said he would do), he would call off if not agreeable.

Mr. Leiper advised that the Township is going to have a certain amount of overtime. He also expressed that he does not want to put a second officer on during regular shifts at this time. Mr. Hoover noted that if the part-time officers don't want to provide the time to the Township, the Township should find someone else. He also expressed that the Board of Commissioners should do everything possible to keep costs down and agreed with not hiring of an additional part-time officer. By general agreement, Mr. Leiper put this subject to rest at this time.

Prior to approving Committee Reports, Mr. DeLuca advised of the need to set a minimum bid for the 2003 Ford truck. Authorization to accept bids for this truck was done a couple of meetings ago, but with no provision for a minimum bid. Motion was made by Mr. Policaro; seconded by Mr. Bradow to set the minimum bid of \$16,500.00 for the 2003 Ford truck. The public notice will include this provision. Passed unanimous on a roll call vote.

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

Unfinished Business: None
Township Agencies: No report.
Communications: None

New/Miscellaneous Business: The Secretary distributed a copy of Resolution #2011-006 regarding the Pension MMO (Minimum Municipal Obligation) for adoption. She noted that the law requires this resolution be adopted by September 30th of each year designating whether there are to be member contributions. At present, the resolution indicates none for the year 2012. As the budget process is done, changes are allowed to be made to the status of member contributions up to December 31st, if applicable. Motion was made by Mr. Bradow; seconded by Mr. Policaro adopting Resolution 2011-006. Passed unanimous.

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 Mr. Policaro, the meeting adjourned at 8:16 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Paula J. Wagoner, CMC
Township Secretary

