

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

Year-end Meeting
Thursday, December 29, 2011

The Patterson Township Board of Commissioners held their year-end meeting on Thursday, December 29, 2011 at 2:00 p.m. at the Municipal Complex, 1600 19th Avenue. Following the call to order roll call showed all Commissioners present (Leiper, Bonomo, Bradow, Hoover and Policaro). Mr. Mahosky and Mrs. Wagoner were also present.

The minutes of the Regular Meeting, held December 8, 2011 and the Budget Meeting, held December 13, 2011 were presented for review. Motion was made by Mrs. Bonomo; seconded by Mr. Policaro approving as presented. Passed unanimous.

Public Comment: Mr. Philip Graeser, President of the Fire Department attended the meeting to address the heat (or lack of) in the kitchen of the fire building. Mr. Bradow advised that Reno Brothers shut the unit down during the last routine maintenance check, due to a crack in the block of the furnace. It was noted that the large furnace on the roof (replaced last summer) heats the big room of the firehall. Reno Brothers advised to keep the door open between the two rooms to provide heat into the kitchen area. Mr. Graeser advised that the kitchen is cold along with the bathrooms and was requesting replacement.

Mr. Bradow reported asking for a legal opinion on whether the Township can use tax monies on Fire Department owned property. The kitchen area was built by the Fire Department and is not on the deed with the main building. He made reference to an agreement from 1993 that the Fire Department would pick up the costs of the utilities for this new section of the building. Mr. Graeser responded noting that the 15% provided to the Township on rentals was supposed to be for this section of the building. Mr. Fawcett responded that although the kitchen is sitting on Fire Department property, it would be up to the Board to decide whether to replace the furnace or not. He advised that the Board is under no obligation to replace, but noted that there are probably other municipalities out there that provide funds for such things.

Mr. Policaro asked whether there were any proposals sought for replacement. Mr. Graeser submitted three proposals from Reno - \$9,800.00; Meier - \$7,800.00; Humbert - \$7,800.00. Mr. Policaro also recommended looking into installing a residential type unit on the same floor, kitchen area to heat this portion of the building. It may not be as costly. Also discussed was running ductwork from the large, new unit that was installed last year. Mr. Graeser was asked whether the Fire Department would consider this as a shared venture and he noted that he would have to take it back to the membership. Mr. Graeser also reported that the roof is still leaking. Mr. Bradow advised that he is still waiting for proposals for fixing since the tar job done a few months ago didn't hold.

Final Bills: The final bills for December, 2011 were distributed for review and approval. Motion was made by Mr. Bradow; seconded by Mr. Hoover approving payment of the final bills. Passed unanimous on a roll call vote.

Budget Report/Transfers: The final budget report along with a memo for the budget transfers were distributed for review. Motion was made by Mr. Bradow to approve the budget and transfers. Prior to a second, Mr. Hoover questioned a number of line items throughout the budget for clarification on what was spent, what the line item was spent on, and on certain items, the amount budgeted for 2012. The Secretary answered all questions pertaining to the 2011 budget, 2012 budget and line items within. Mr. Hoover requested additional information on the line item for unleaded gas / diesel concerning how many gallons were purchased and how much was paid. The Secretary noted that the Township purchases the gas through the COG, which presently is Reed Oil and the price per gallon fluctuates. It was also noted that the Township does not pay taxes on the gas/diesel purchased. The motion to approve the final budget and transfers was seconded by Mr. Hoover. Passed unanimous on a roll call vote.

Ordinance Adoption: Mr. Bradow made the motion to adopt Ordinance #434, setting the tax rate (16.25 mills) and budget appropriations for 2012. Seconded by Mrs. Bonomo, the motion passed unanimous on a roll call vote.

Final Committee Reports: Buildings/Grounds – Mr. Bradow had no report.

Fire/Utilities – Other than the furnace project at the Fire Department, Mr. Policaro had no report.

Public Works – Mrs. Bonomo reported the status on the damaged spreader. A letter was distributed from Walsh Equipment noting repairs at \$3,962.00 and replacement at \$8,790.00. An insurance claim has been filed, an adjuster has reviewed the damages and approval for repairs has been provided. The policy has a \$1,000.00 deductible. Walsh provided an updated letter recommending replacement in lieu of repair. The letter (dated today) has been submitted to the Insurance Adjuster for review. The repair will not be guaranteed and will take considerably longer, since the spreader shell's estimated ship date is April, 2012. Mr. Bradow raised a public safety concern, with the winter season upon us. After some additional discussion, Mr. Bradow made the motion to purchase the 9 ft. spreader (on stock) from Walsh Equipment in the amount of \$8,790.00. It was noted that the minimum reimbursement from the Insurance claim would be \$2,962.00. The net cost is \$5,628.00. Prior to a second, Mr. Hoover questioned the need to shop around for a better price on a replacement spreader. Mr. Bradow expressed that he will not put the public's safety in jeopardy. Although it was confirmed by calling Mr. DeLuca during the meeting that Walsh is the main distributor for spreaders, the Secretary offered to check into the Costars program. The spreader from Walsh is through SHACOG. The motion, seconded by Mrs. Bonomo, passed on a 3 ayes, 2 naves vote (Hoover, Policaro). Mr. Hoover advised that his no vote was based on the Board's neglect to get three proposals prior to purchasing the spreader from Walsh Equipment.

Parks/Recreation: Mr. Hoover responded to questions raised at previous meetings regarding the Recreation Project he is proposing for 2012. He noted meeting with Blackhawk Superintendent Michelle Miller, who rejected the idea of a long term lease agreement. She explained that she does not want any restrictions on the school's property in the event that future development would bring a change to Patterson Primary. Mr. Hoover emphasized that there are no changes being considered at this time. Because the School District owns the land, the liability will fall on them. He advised that there are no plans for supervision of the batting cages, the pitching machine will be operated by BAYBA, and there are no plans for charging any fees in order to allow public use. Mr. Hoover does not expect much of an increase in the electric, of which the Township will pick up and he will abide by the bidding requirements for this project. Mr. Bradow noted that he recently saw an article whereby the bidding requirements have been increased to over \$10,000.00.

Police/Township Office/COG/TCC: Mr. Leiper noted no report for Police, COG, and Tax Collection Committee. He advised the Board of a memo distributed from RA Services (IT Tech), Township Secretary, and Attorney Ross concerning the computer tampering issue of Tina Seery's computer. RA Services found no viruses, no evidence of tampering (at this point), and indicated her computer information to be intact. As to the alleged accusations against Mr. Policaro regarding this issue concerning Mrs. Seery, Mr. Policaro advised that he would be okay with an in-house investigation. Mr. Fawcett advised that if this subject was going to be discussed any further because it is a personnel issue, he recommended an executive session.

The Board went into an executive session at 3:15 p.m.

The meeting reconvened at 3:45 p.m.

Unfinished Business: In proceeding with the Agenda, the results of the recycling bids were provided. The Secretary noted that Brunner's made a mistake on the bid form. Their bid indicated \$1,350.00 for 2012 and \$1,400.00 for 2013. In calling Joseph Brunner, the bid was supposed to be \$2,350.00 and \$2,400.00. Valley Waste Service bid was \$2,390.00 for 2012; and \$2,390.00 for 2013. The Secretary consulted with Attorney Ross, who advised the Township to go with what is written. If Brunner's withdraw (which they did), then it would be in order to award the bid to Valley Waste. Motion was made by Mr. Bradow; seconded by Mr. Policaro to award the bid to Valley Waste for one year. Passed unanimous.

Miscellaneous: A letter was received from Chippewa Township Sanitary Authority including their budget for 2012. This budget is the basis for the sewer maintenance charges to Patterson Township for use of their sewage treatment plant.

A letter was received and distributed from the Upper Beaver Valley Veteran's Service Center requesting a donation. No action taken.

An invoice was received from the Beaver Falls Water Pollution Plant for the 4th Quarter Sewer Maintenance in the amount of \$63,429.10. Motion was made by Mr. Bradow; seconded by Mrs. Bonomo approving payment. Passed unanimous on a roll call vote.

Prior to adjournment, Mr. Fawcett advised that the tolling agreement with American Southern (bond company for Darlington Court) has been signed. Surveyors were on-site and they are closer to securing the NPDES permit.

Mr. Fawcett also advised that an amendment is in order to the Pension Ordinance regarding Act 44. A procedure needs to be added to the Ordinance in the event that changing companies (such as actuary, insurance, investments) is desired. Mr. Fawcett will prepare for the February meeting.

Mr. Fawcett also advised that it would be wise to remind employees of the Township's Sexual Harassment Policy; a section of the Patterson Township Personnel Policy. Mr. Leiper advised that he would prepare a memo. Mr. Leiper noted that the computer tampering issue on the agenda was addressed in executive session. Mr. Leiper confirmed with Mr. Policaro the course of action is to have a meeting with Mrs. Seery, along with Mr. Fawcett to resolve this issue immediately following adjournment of this meeting. Mr. Policaro agreed.

There being no further business to be brought before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 3:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Paula J. Wagoner, CMC
Township Secretary

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