

Patterson Township Board of Commissioners

Agenda (Pre) Meeting

November 9, 2017

Attendants:

**Commissioner Policaro
Commissioner Inman
Commissioner Hoover
Police Chief David Stanislawski
Phil Graeser, Fire Chief**

**Commissioner Bradow
Commissioner Mahosky
Rebecca Keller, Secretary
Ken Fawcett, Solicitor**

Items discussed:

Mr. Policaro stated we have received a request for a proposal from Patterson Heights for police services for the next three (3) years. Mr. Policaro and Chief Stanislawski are working on the proposal which will be submitted to Patterson Heights on Monday, November 13, 2017. Mr. Hoover questioned when Patterson Heights meeting would be held. Mr. Policaro replied Patterson Heights meeting will be held on Thursday, November 15, 2017 and a possible decision would be made at that meeting but they may not make a decision until the meeting held on December 20, 2017.

Chief Stanislawski advised the Board of a drug complaint received by the Police Department in White Township. A drug raid was conducted on November 25, 2017 at 6:00 am where drugs, a weapon, and other paraphernalia were confiscated.

Congratulations was extended to Mr. Inman, Mr. Bradow, and Mr. Hoover for their re-election to the Board.

Mr. Inman provided information regarding the Spinnenweber property donation which was distributed to the Board and sent to Lennon, Smith, and Souleret Engineering in order to start the process of acquiring the property. The Spinnenweber family would like to donate the lot and the requested property where the stream is located. Mr. Inman suggested using this property with the stream as a possible MS4 project area. Mr. Mahosky stated there is currently no parking at this entrance to the park. Mr. Inman suggested with this donation of property there might be a potential to place a small lot.

Mr. Inman advised he has received bids for a new sewer maintenance truck. The price from Baierl Ford who works with U.S. Municipal for the truck, plow, lights and light package is \$43,349.00, being the lowest price. Mr. Policaro questioned if all bids were done through state bidding. Mr. Inman advised they were all CoStars bids. Mr. Inman requested the funding to be taken out of the Sewer Fund.

Mr. Mahosky advised regarding the risk control recommendations, an Eagle Scout, Nate Biernesser, would be attending the regular meeting to review ideas about projects he is planning at the Township Park.

Mr. Mahosky explained he is continuing to work on the pursuing cameras in the township, requested this item to be removed from the agenda at this time.

Mr. Mahosky stated he is ready for the first reading of the 2018 budget which will be presented at the regular meeting. Mr. Mahosky advised we may have to revisit the budget for the following pending items: police contract with Patterson Heights; the MS4 program; and the Act 172 Tax Credit.

Mr. Hoover stated, regarding the Act 172, currently the firefighters are compensated for responding to calls, being in sense receiving an incentive. Mr. Hoover questioned whether we are able to enact Act 172 and still keep in place the payment for responding to calls. Mr. Fawcett explained there is nothing in either statuette that precludes you from doing one or the other or both. Mr. Bradow stated he has information on the Act 172 and plans to meet with Commissioner Hoover and the Fire Chief in the future to discuss the possibility.

Mr. Bradow advised the main door and the men's room door at the Municipal office are in need of repair or replacement and he has contacted two contracting companies: Skerlec Contracting and Beaver Valley Remodeling. Mr. Bradow recommended the office door to be replaced. Mr. Policaro questioned whether a glass door or a metal door was being looked into for the replacement of the front door. Mr. Bradow is to request quotes for both. Chief Stanislawski suggested to receive a quote from Mr. Mike Bacorn who would be interested.

Mr. Bradow advised the Board meetings are being held in regards to a change in the firework law in Pennsylvania. He requested the secretary to send a letter requesting a meeting to be held locally, potentially the Park Inn in Beaver Falls.

Mr. Bradow advised of a potential law allowing local police officers to use radar. Mr. Bradow requested a letter be sent to our local senator asking to support this law. Mr. Policaro stated Pennsylvania is the only state in the US that does not allow local police officers to use radar.

Mr. Hoover advised the fire department is looking to move forward with the Active 911 software in the new year. Chief Graeser stated they have decided to go with the Active 911, after much research, after the first of the year. Also stating he is not sure how it is to be paid for yet.

Mr. Policaro questioned Chief Graeser as to how long it would take to build a new pumper truck. Chief Graeser stated he was not sure, but thought it was approximately one year. Chief Graeser continued, everything would have to be custom built for the truck due to the doors at the fire station only being 10 feet tall and believes it would cost around \$6-\$700,000. Chief Graeser explained pumper trucks are normally 12 foot to 12 foot 4 inches. A discussion was held regarding the possibility of increasing the door opening to 14 foot.

Mr. Hoover explained he has tasked the Fire Chief with finding comparable quotes on what our current engine is worth, look for pricing if we would purchase an engine that is 5-7 years newer than our current truck, look for pricing if we would purchase something that is currently 5-7 years old in order to compare to the price of refurbishing our current truck. Chief Graeser stated he is working on researching the pricing. The Chief stated he feels the best solution, for the money, is to refurbish the current truck. Mr. Policaro questioned the longevity of the truck if we refurbished. Chief Graeser stated it would add an additional 15 years to the life of the truck, upon the recommendation of the refurbishment company and our current fire truck mechanic. Mr. Hoover advised the refurbishment would include upgrading the paint, new tires, new lighting package, new plumbing installed for the deck gun. Chief Graeser stated he is having difficulty finding trucks to compare due to our size restriction. Mr. Mahosky questioned if we refurbish verses purchasing new, how that effect our ISO rating. Chief Graeser stated because we are placing two more 2.5 inch outlets on our pump we are going to put a deck gun on the truck that wasn't offered when we originally purchased the truck, planning to also add a 2 inch three connect cross lay, this may increase our ISO rating, but is not a guarantee. The pump is currently at 1,500 gallon per minute, after the refurbishment it will be at 1,700 gallon per minute. Mr. Inman expressed his concern that our ISO rating is based on two pumper trucks, one of which is Patterson Heights, and there would need to be an agreement filed with the County in order for this to be acceptable. Chief Graeser stated this is currently in place. Mr. Hoover followed up by stating this is the agreement that is in place today, but it is not a written agreement.

Mr. Hoover stated the work to upgrade the rescue truck has been performed at a total of \$2,490.00 which has been submitted to the Township Secretary. Mr. Hoover presented a bill for \$496.00 for gloves. Mr. Hoover stated the spending for the fire department should be done for the remainder of the year.

Mr. Policaro stated he has tried to contact Mr. Landman in regards to the emergency management position who was having phone issues and did not receive the message. Chief Stanislawski has been in contact with him and we will try to work out some type of arrangement. Mr. Hoover stated if Mr. Landman does not work out the Board may wish to consider Mr. Tim Staub or Mr. Schonoweis, who is a retired state trooper. Chief Stanislawski is to reach out to Mr. Staub and Chief Graeser is to reach out to Mr. Schoeneweis.

Mr. Policaro stated we are currently looking to fill the position of zoning officer. We are in receipt of one application. Mr. Hoover questioned who the applicant was. Mr. Policaro advised we received an application from Mr. John Marzano. Chief Graeser questioned the qualifications necessary for the position. Mr. Inman stated it should be someone familiar with building codes.

Mr. Policaro advised the new folding machine has been received and working well. It will folding the papers, insert them into the envelope and seal the envelope.

Mr. Fawcett requested clarification on the sewer fee discussed at the last board meeting. The current ordinance specifically addresses interest and penalties so the Board would need to amend the ordinance. Currently there is a 5% penalty on sewer bills for a late payment. Any time you are applying a penalty there needs to be some justification for the fee. Mr. Fawcett questioned if we are going to impose a penalty that is designed to pay for our cost do we want to continue to access the 5% as well or just make it a flat fee that we could adjust by resolution. Mr. Fawcett also questioned the storm water fee that was also discussed at the last meeting. In 2013 the Municipalities' Authority Act was amended to allow for charging storm water fees. Legislature in 2016 amended the 2nd class township code to allow for the charging of storm water fees without having to create an authority, but it does not appear that has been done for the 1st class townships. Mr. Fawcett advised Mt. Lebanon adopted a storm water ordinance where it does not appear to have created an authority. Mr. Fawcett is to follow up with Mt. Lebanon and continue to research. This may require an additional amendment to our fees.

Mr. Policaro advised the Board additional direction need to be provided regarding the fee for posting of delinquent notices. Mr. Hoover questioned when residents receive the 5% penalty. Mrs. Keller advised the 5% late fee is accessed on the 13th of each month. Mrs. Keller advised there are approximately thirty homes posted each month by a part time officer with at shut off notice, these are residents who have not paid their bills for 3 months or more and who have made no attempt to contact the office or make payment arrangements. The \$25.00 posting fee is to cover the cost of having a part-time officer post the notices to the resident's door and additional administration cost for processing these postings. Mr. Mahosky questioned whether it may be a situation where someone is unable to pay verses

unwilling to pay. Mrs. Keller advised she believes it is mostly an unwillingness to pay because the office is happy to set up some type of payment arrangement if a resident would call the office. Mr. Hoover reiterated the 5% late penalties is to cover the cost to township for sending out an additional notice(s) stating that the bill is late; these are not the people who are getting posting to their door. Mr. Hoover stated for that reason, he is in favor of imposing another fee for posting the doors. Mr. Bradow questioned what the penalty is if they do not pay the bill once posted. Mrs. Keller advised the next step is to have the water shut off. Mr. Fawcett questioned if the \$25.00 would be automatic or after so many days, but suggested it would need to be uniform. A discussion was held as to how long a resident should be delinquent prior to having an officer post the house. It was decided upon 60 days delinquency a resident would be posted.

End of Meeting