

Patterson Township Board of Commissioners

Work Session

Monday, September 9, 2024 at 4:00 p.m.

Attendants:

Commissioner Bartoe

Commissioner Kristian

Commissioner Jolliffe

Commissioner Hammer

Commissioner Kretschman

Chief Stanislowski

Township Administrator/Secretary Milnes

Asst. Chief Bathgate

Asst. Fire Chief Ferrazzano

Items discussed:

- Commissioner Kretschman reviewed the engineer agenda items pending at this time. He advised that we are currently waiting for a date for the walkthrough with Youngblood and start date for the 2024 Road Program.
- Commissioner Kretschman advised that there was a lightning strike that hit the South Lift Station which damaged the electrical. Yates Electrical was called out to repair it as the pumps were not working at all. Commissioner Kretschmann advised that he is looking into an agreement with a company who will be able to empty out tanks at the South Lift Station should the pumps be down for an extended period in order to keep the tanks from overflowing.
- Commissioner Kretschman reviewed his agenda items; a brief discussion on the recycling pamphlet content occurred.
- Commissioner Kretschman advised that the Township has been receiving a number of calls regarding trees in right-of-way's and on "paper streets"; he advised that he will address each one individually and will seek legal advise when needed, however he will maintain the Township's position that if the tree is healthy and not causing a safety risk, the Township will take no action.
- Commissioner Bartoe advised that the City of Beaver Falls sent a letter advising them of the raise in sewer rates with the sale of the sewage plant. Commissioner Bartoe reminded the Board that the Township currently has a 3-year agreement to maintain rates, however the Township needs to be cognizant of what will happen with the rates once this agreement has expired. There was a discussion on how billing is currently handled, as well as the current rates the Township pays and the rate that is charged to residents. This will continue to be monitored moving forward.
- Commissioner Bartoe advised that a thank you card was received from Mrs. Quest.

- Commissioner Bartoe advised that the Township received notification from PennDOT that they will be replacing the school zone signs around Patterson Primary. Commissioner Bartoe asked why the signs reflecting the times of the school zone had been removed. Chief Stanislawski advised that he had requested that the school district remove the signs and replace them with signs that all reflect the same times. The school district is currently completing this request.
- Assistant Chief Bathgate advised that in order to have flashing lights that would go completely around the stop sign on School Street, it would be over \$1,000.00, however, there is a cheaper option for a flashing light that would attach to the top of the stop sign for around \$100.00 and could be moved to any stop sign as needed. He advised that he sent the information to Commissioner Kretschman for review and consideration.
- Commissioner Kretschman advised that he will revamp the letter to PennDOT to include a request for a traffic study on School Street for the possible installation of speed bumps or humps.
- Commissioner Bartoe advised that Intern Jacob Yerkins will be finishing up his time with Patterson Township this week.
- Commissioner Bartoe advised that the contract for police coverage in Patterson Heights is set to expire at the end of this year. A discussion was held with regard to proposed rates and how to calculate the rate, whether to calculate based on population, call volume or road miles. Commissioner Bartoe advised he will speak with Mr. Stairns from Patterson Heights regarding the contract and come back to the Board with a proposed rate at the October Monthly meeting.
- Commissioner Bartoe advised that there is a potential for a tax increase to be needed going into the 2025 budget year. The last tax increase occurred in 2016. Discussion was held on how much revenue would increase with each increment of tax increase.
- Commissioner Kristian advised that the police contract has been completed and included a wage adjustment in year 1, as well as a 2.5% increase for all years of the contract. There has also been updates to some language to allow for the Board to look into regionalization or dropping pension should they wish to.
- Commissioner Kristian advised that there were a number of issues that came up following the storm over the weekend; the Fire Department emergency generator did not start, the battery in the Township office generator exploded possibly from a lightning strike, there was a new leak discovered in the meeting room, and there was an accident involving the Public Works garage which warranted an insurance claim being filed.
- Commissioner Kristian thanked the Fire Department and Police Department for all of their work during the storm and following the storm. He also thanked Public Works for their work during the storm and their continued efforts to clean up following the storm. Assistant Fire Chief Ferrazzano advised that one of the bay doors on the Fire Department was also damaged.
- Commissioner Hammer advised that he is working with Eric Hoover to make a committee of volunteers to assist with plans for continued upgrades to the park.
- A review of the communications was completed and they will all be included at the regular meeting.

- A discussion was held on towing in the Township. Chief Stanislawski stated that as the Board trusted the police to carry a weapon, they should be trusted to choose who to call when a vehicle needs to be towed; it should be at the officer's discretion.
- The meeting ended at 6:15 p.m.

End of Meeting