

Patterson Township Board of Commissioners
Regular Meeting
November 14, 2024

The Patterson Township Board of Commissioners held their regular meeting on Thursday, November 14, 2024, 7:00 p.m. at Patterson Township Municipal Building, Beaver Falls. Following the call to order and Pledge of Allegiance, roll call showed the following Commissioners were present: Commissioner Bartoe, Commissioner Hammer, Commissioner Jolliffe, and Commissioner Kretschman; Commissioner Kristian arrived at 7:15 p.m. All commissioners present.

Public Hearing: Ordinance 483 – Amending the Zoning Ordinance to allow for the keeping of chickens as an accessory use in all residential and commercial zoning districts.

Attorney Fawcett advised that the ordinance was advertised on October 17, 2024, and October 24, 2024 in the Beaver County Times. The draft ordinance was submitted to the Patterson Township Planning Commission and the Beaver County Planning Commission for review and comment. The Patterson Township Planning Commission held a meeting on October 23, 2024. The Patterson Township Planning Commission provided minutes from their meeting which stated:

“Discussion of the proposed ordinance which will allow chickens to be raised in the township subject to the restrictions which are in that ordinance. We all unanimously agree that the ordinance should move to the Board of Commissioners for a vote. Among some of the points which Alan made was how allowance of chickens in city’s and townships have a positive effect of values and the desirability of those locations.”

Attorney Fawcett advised that he spoke with the Beaver County Planning Commission who advised verbally that they have no recommended changes and an official letter will be sent following their meeting on November 21st. Attorney Fawcett advised that should the Board wish to take action on this ordinance tonight, that it would be contingent on the official letter being received from the Beaver County Planning Commissioner which confirms the same as was verbally stated. Public Comment period was opened.

Paula Wagoner – 908 4th Street – Mrs. Wagoner advised that as the Board was aware, she did previously have concerns regarding this ordinance, however, after reading the final draft of the proposed ordinance, she appreciates the proposed restrictions. Her only concern at this time is the ability to enforce this ordinance; she believes that the Township will be relying on residents to call and report their neighbors. She requested that the Code Officer ensures that all residents who currently have chickens are brought up to code in a quick and efficient manner. She is also concerned that residents will not come and get the required permits.

Benjamin Songer – 1 Bonnieview Drive – Mr. Songer advised that having chickens is very important to him and his wife. They have built the coop with love and care to

ensure that the chickens are properly cared for. They have invested a considerable amount of time and money into this venture. They are very adamant about raising and having organic eggs. The only concern they have is how much the fees may be; they are worried that the fees will be excessive. Commissioner Bartoe advised that the fees are not a money maker for the Township, they will be put in place to cover the cost of the Code Enforcement permit review and inspection that are required as part of this ordinance. Commissioner Bartoe also advised that the proposed fees will be minimal.

Rebecca Songer – 1 Bonnieview Drive – Mrs. Songer apologized as she did not realize that Patterson Heights and Patterson Township were two different Municipalities; her neighbors across the street had chickens so she assumed they were allowed in the Township, not realizing across the street was Patterson Heights Boro. Commissioner Kretschman thanked the Songer’s for setting a good example for a proper coop.

Mrs. Wagoner asked for clarification on “running at large.” Attorney Fawcett advised that this meant outside of any coop or fenced in pen area.

Having no other public comments, the public hearing was closed at 7:15 p.m.

Commissioner Kristian arrived.

Executive Session: None

Minutes: The minutes of the regular meeting held on October 10, 2024, and Work Session held on November 12, 2024, were presented for approval. A motion was made to accept the minutes of the regular meeting held on October 10, 2024, and Work Session held on November 12, 2024, by Commissioner Kretschman and seconded by Commissioner Jolliffe; motion carried.

Public Comment/Visitors – Agenda Items (only): None

Treasurer’s Report: The Treasurer’s Report for the General Fund, Sewer Fund and PLGIT accounts were presented by Secretary Christin Milnes. A motion was made by Commissioner Jolliffe and seconded by Commissioner Kretschman accepting the reports as presented; motion carried.

Monthly Bills: The monthly bills for October/November were submitted for payment. Motion was made by Commissioner Jolliffe and seconded by Commissioner Kretschman approving payment; motion carried.

Engineer’s Report: *Wyatt Dishler* presented his monthly report regarding the following items:

8th Street Park Stream Restoration Project – DEP permit has been approved; the advertisement was issued to Beaver County Times on November 12, 2024. The bid opening is scheduled for December 5, 2024 at 11:00 a.m.

2024 Road Program – Construction has reached the majority of completion on November 11, 2024. Patterson Township, LSSE and Youngblood Paving, Inc. completed a walkthrough of the roads on October 31, 2024. Punchlist no. 1 was issued on November 5, 2024 to the contractor. Wyatt advised the Board that a motion to approve, reject or table Partial Payment No. 1 for the work completed between October 8, 2024 and November 11, 2024 in the amount of \$362,300.13 would be needed; this is approximately \$35,000.00 under the contract price. The total cost from Columbia Gas is \$102,805.15 and the Township’s total share is \$259,494.98.

A motion was made by Commissioner Kretschman to approve Partial Payment No. 1 from Youngblood Paving, Inc. in the amount of \$362,300.13 for work completed between October 8, 2024 to November 11, 2024. The Motion was seconded by Commissioner Kristian. Roll call vote; motion carried.

A motion was made by Commissioner Kretschman to ratify Invoice No. 2024-1546 from Youngblood Paving, Inc. in the amount of \$8,850.00 for the additional work completed along 21st Avenue to address stormwater runoff to be paid from ARPA funds. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Hammer. Roll call vote; motion carried.

PennDOT Multimodal Grant – Sidewalk improvements – awaiting final signatures on the Authorization to Enter Agreements; 3 properties remaining. This will likely be bid this winter to be completed in the spring.

Patterson Township Sewer System Operations – Public Works’ next field review will be conducted in the first quarter of 2025.

2022 CFA – Statewide Local Share Account (LSA) Grant – CFA approved the relocation of the parking lot on January 18, 2024, from Ray Street to Struby Ave. Correspondence is ongoing regarding trails/access road. LSSE will schedule a kickoff meeting to plan this work in conjunction with the 2025 Road Program.

2023 CFA – Statewide Local Share Account (LSA) – grant application has been submitted; awaiting award or rejection. Patterson Township was rejected for this project.

2024 CFA – Statewide Local Share Account (LSA) – grant application has been submitted; awaiting award or rejection. Applications submitted for the following:

- a. Bonnieview Stormwater Project
- b. Equipment procurement – Skid steer

DCED – Greenways, Trails and Recreation Program – LSSE submitted grant application on May 31, 2024. The scope of the project includes pavilion, pavilion foundation, security measures, electrical service, trail improvements, recreational facilities, and erosion and sedimentation control measures. Awaiting award/rejection in Fall 2024.

The Board extends their congratulations to Ned Mitrovitch for being selected as the Engineer of the Year.

Solicitor's Report: *Ken Fawcett provided the following report:*

Resolution 2024-018 – Approving the Patterson Heights Police Protection Agreement. A motion was made by Commissioner Kristian to adopt Resolution 2024-018 to approve the Patterson Heights Police Agreement and was seconded by Commissioner Jolliffe. Under discussion, Patterson Heights Borough will be voting on this agreement next week. Motion carried.

Ordinance 483 – Amending the Zoning Ordinance to allow for the keeping of chickens as an accessory use in all residential and commercial zoning districts. Solicitor Fawcett advised that the public hearing was held at the beginning of this meeting and the ordinance was advertised on October 17, 2024, and October 24, 2024 in the Beaver County Times. The draft ordinance was submitted to the Patterson Township Planning Commission and the Beaver County Planning Commission for review and comment. Solicitor Fawcett advised that it would now be appropriate for the Board to take action should they wish on the Ordinance. A motion was made by Commissioner Jolliffe to approve Ordinance 483 and seconded by Commissioner Hammer. Roll call vote; motion carried.

Consent Order – Cambridge Village – Solicitor Fawcett advised that Cambridge Village has appealed their assessment and the County and School District have agreed to reduce the assessed value to the sale price of \$4,050,000.00. Solicitor Fawcett advised that this would be a loss of approximately \$6,600 in tax revenue. A motion was made by Commissioner Jolliffe to approve the Consent Order on the Tax Assessment Appeal of Cambridge Village at an assessed value of \$4,050,000.00 the most recent sale price. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Hammer. Roll call vote; motion carried.

Resolution 2024-019 – Setting Township fees – Resolution setting fees as follows: keeping of chickens application for accessory use – \$50.00; keeping of chickens registration renewal – \$25.00; zoning variance – \$1,000.00; special exception – \$1,000.00. These fees will cover the costs to the township for inspection, as well as processing fees. For a zoning variance hearing the costs are approximately \$300-\$400 for legal fees, \$300-\$400 for advertisement, and \$100-\$200 for the court reporter. A motion was made by Commissioner Hammer to adopt Resolution 2024-019, and was seconded by Commissioner Jolliffe; motion carried.

Committee Reports:

Administration, Police and COG – Commissioner Bartoe presented the following reports:

Police Report – Police Chief Stanislawski submitted his October 2024 report for review; no questions or comments presented.

Beaver Falls Annual Christmas Dinner – Commissioner Bartoe advised that the Township will be making a donation to the annual dinner through voluntary employee and commissioner donations; no tax dollars will be used.

COG update – Christmas dinner will be held on December 4, 2024 at Frankie G's.

ALOM/AC & WPATC – Spring Educational Conference – April 3-6, 2025 at Seven Springs – A motion was made by Commissioner Kretschman to approve attendance and payment for any Commissioner/office staff who wish to attend. Motion seconded by Commissioner Hammer. Motion carries.

Office closure Black Friday – Commissioner Kristian made a motion to approve the closure of the Township office on Black Friday; the office staff will use a leave day to cover this day off. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Jolliffe. Motion carried.

Fire & Emergency Management, Buildings & Grounds, and HR – Commissioner Kristian presented the following reports:

Callout service – Fire Callouts: October 2024 – Calls: 33 (11 Fire/22 QRS), Hours: 53 (35 Fire/18 QRS).

Fire Department Door Repairs – A motion was made by Commissioner Kristian to approve the quote from Evan's Garage Door in the amount of \$1,670.00 for the replacement of 2 panels on the garage door. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Kretschman. Motion carried. There was no insurance claim filed on this damage as the cost of repairs is less than the deductible.

Christmas dinner – Commissioner Kristian made a motion to cover the cost of ½ the catering costs for the annual Township/Fire Department Christmas dinner. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Jolliffe. Motion carried.

Police building upgrades:

Allegheny Door – \$4,753.98 for replacement of the outside door and frame on the police side of the municipal building.

Hammond Locksmith – \$4,633.21 for installation of access controls on the 2 entrance doors on the police side, as well as the evidence room door.

The total cost is \$9,387.19. Drug forfeiture funds will cover ½ and the DA's office will cover ¼; the remaining ¼ will be the Township's portion to cover. Commissioner Bartoe requested that Chief Stanislowski ask the DA's office if drug forfeiture funds can be used to cover the Township's share as well. A motion was made by Commissioner Kristian to pay up to \$2,346.79 should it not be approved to be covered by drug forfeiture funds. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Hammer. Motion carried.

Public Works & Recycling – Commissioner Kretschman presented the following reports:

Home Improvement Solutions – Hendry Contracting – \$5,062.00 – Commissioner Kretschman advised that Bard Hendry has completed his work on the Public Works building. Mr. Hendry donated time and materials to this project to stay within his quoted price. A motion was made by Commissioner Kretschman to approve the cost of

\$5,062.00 to Home Improvement Solutions, Hendry Contracting. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Hammer. Motion carried.

Zoning, Code Enforcement and Community Life – Commissioner Jolliffe presented the following report:

Monthly Code Report – October Code Report was provided.

Holiday Decorating Contest – annual decorating contest – Office staff will contact last years' committee to see if they are interested in judging again this year. Prizes will be given at the January meeting.

Park, Recreation and Finance – Commissioner Hammer presented the following reports:

Commissioner Hammer advised that the Township is 85% through the year and has spent 77% of expenditures.

Commissioner Hammer advised that he has spoken to Commissioner Kretschman and there are a number of trees down, as well as some stairs down in the park. The Public Works department will take care of this after leaf collection is over.

Budget 2025 – the second reading was completed by Mrs. Milnes. Commissioner Bartoe advised that a budget meeting will be needed. Discussion was held and a budget meeting will be held on Monday, November 25, 2024 at noon at the Township office.

A motion to accept all committee reports as presented was made by Commissioner Hammer and seconded by Commissioner Kretschman; motion carried.

Unfinished Business: None

Township Agencies:

Planning Commission – a meeting will be held on November 21, 2024.

Municipal Authority – a meeting will be held on November 20, 2024.

Communications:

- A. Letter – City of Beaver Falls/Joint Sewer Users – increase in cost per thousand gallons from \$4.68 to \$4.82 effective January 1, 2025.
- B. Email – Department of Auditor General – Distress score – 0.
- C. Letter – Muni-link – increase in cost per month from \$611.45 to \$632.24 effective January 1, 2025 (3.4% increase).
- D. Letter – Aiken Refuse – online customer portal – A motion was made by Commissioner Jolliffe and seconded by Commissioner Kristian to approve setting up an online account. Motion carried.

New/Miscellaneous Business:

Patterson Township Municipal Authority – \$26,976.57 Quarterly Payment – A motion was made by Commissioner Kristian to remit payment to Patterson Township Municipal Authority in the amount of \$26,976.57. Motion seconded by Commissioner Jolliffe. Motion carried.

Patterson Township Volunteer Fire Company – \$1,250.00 – Quarterly Payment – A motion was made by Commissioner Jolliffe to remit payment to Patterson Township Volunteer Fire Company in the amount of \$1,250.00. Motion seconded by Commissioner Kristian. Motion carried.

Public Comment: None

Executive Session: None

There being no further business to be brought before the Board, a motion was made by Commissioner Jolliffe to adjourn. Motion seconded by Commissioner Kretschman. The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Christin Lyn Milnes

Copy: Kenneth G. Fawcett, Esq.
Larry Lennon, Jr., P.E.
Board of Commissioners