

**Regular Meeting
April 25, 2016**

The Regular Public Meeting of the Harrison Township Board of Commissioners was called to order at 7:30 P.M. by Chairman Poston.

The Pledge of Allegiance was repeated.

Roll call – Commissioners Lilly, Poston, Bergstrom, Heasley, and Dizard responded to roll call.

The Solicitor was present; the Engineer was excused absent.

Chairman Poston said we would dispense with the reading of the minutes since the Board received copies of them.

Chairman Poston said we are going to take up Ordinance No. 1985 – Authorizing and directing the issuance of \$2,645,000 General Obligation Bonds and all actions pertaining thereto.

He advised this is a refinancing of the bond issue form 2011, and will save approximately \$80,000.

Mr. Mike Zubasic from PNC said the refinancing of the bonds will save the Township and the Water Authority \$8-\$10,000 per year through 2025.

He said the interest rates are locked for May 24, which will be the day of closing. Mr. Zubasic advised that Standard and Poor's raised the Township's bond rating from A- to A+. He thanked Faith and the Board for the work they did getting all the information together for the reissue. He stated that the higher rating helped to get the good rate we did for these bonds.

Mr. Lilly asked if he had any relatives or anyone on the Board related to this transaction.

Mr. Zubasic said he did not.

Mr. Dizard moved to adopt Ordinance No. 1985 authorizing and directing issuance of the \$2,645,000 General Obligation Bonds and all actions pertaining thereto. Motion seconded by Mr. Heasley and carried.

Remarks from Visitors:

Robert Kennihan, Old Freeport Road, asked what we have done about Gillette's. He said the back yard behind the Mother's house, now Jeff's has a 20 foot high pile of scrap metal. He said there is tons of it there and how do we let that go?

Mr. Kennihan said that nothing is ever done by the zoning office.

Mrs. Bergstrom said she can take a look at it with Mr. Dizard. She said the Commissioners will review this matter.

Chairman Poston said he thought they were cleaning up the property. He said the junk price is low and that is probably why they are stockpiling it.

Mr. Kennihan said they took all the junk from Murray's and put it there. Mrs. Bergstrom said she thought they took it to Tomson's.

Mr. Kennihan said Murray is bringing more in all the time.

Chairman Poston said people helped Murray clean up his lot somewhat.

Mr. Kennihan said the zoning and ordinance office is doing nothing about it.

Ken Kostka, Painter Avenue, said he was here to talk about the purple martins but his neighbors were not here. He said it is apparently working. Mr. Kostka said it is an injustice to abandon the martin houses altogether. He said he grew up here and people had colonies of them years ago. He said it takes time to get a colony going and he has had to compromise and will fight to have the right to maintain a colony of the birds. He said the neighbors want the Board to pass an ordinance against them.

Mrs. Bergstrom said she will check with the neighbors.

Chairman Poston said the person who moved away lost his house in a foreclosure. Mr. Kostka said he told him that he got a settlement of money and was moving away.

Chairman Poston wished Mr. Kostka luck with the martin houses in Harrison Hillis Park.

The Gallagher's, Sylvan Avenue, asked about any progress with the Glenn Street house.

Solicitor Means said they have not reached the owners.

Mr. Dizard said Bengel is scheduling another hearing now that they have the correct owners' names. They're in California.

Mrs. Gallagher asked if this will go on forever. She said now other people are starting to put stuff on the property.

Chairman Poston said we will refer this to the ordinance officer again.

Mrs. Gallagher asked if this is a black hole and nothing can be done.

Chairman Poston said we have told you the facts over and over again; this is what we can do in the matter.

Solicitor Means said the Township could demolish the house if you choose.

Mr. Steve Jones said the door is wide open and cats and other animals are going in and out. He said I pay my taxes and have to live near that. I don't understand. Tom Stern in the audience said to take care of it.

Mrs. Gallagher asked if they can do something.

Chairman Poston said you could have bought it yourself.

Mr. Dizard said of there was a way to find the owner we could but they are out of state.

Chairman Poston said we can send someone to close up the doors and windows. He said the college kids can cut the grass and we can lien the charges against the property.

Ken Crisafio in the audience said the Township has demolished structures in his area and it is a process to get it done. He said two eyesores are gone.

Chairman Poston said these people are out of state and we cannot control them.

Mr. Dizard suggested that a land bank could help but Allegheny County does not have one yet.

Bill Geffrey, Walnut Street, gave a report on Natrona activities including a fundraiser, a day of caring, and advised that they still did not get funding for their summer programs yet. He said they should know soon. Bill said they have been working on the community garden.

Chairman Poston asked if the summer lunch program is in place?

Mr. Lilly advised the same person who did it last year will run the program for no pay.

Scott Slezak, Dallas Avenue, said that #1 Cochran was to build on the old Bouchat lot and said now they have decided to develop up at the dealership on Route 908. He asked why the Township didn't do something to help them if there were problems.

Chairman Poston said they never came to us, but I heard that area was all filled with slag and drilling was going to be hard, and also that there was no access to storm sewers. He said they changed their minds and went back to the Planning Commission with new development plans. He said may it would be too expensive for them to use that property with those issues.

Mr. Slezak asked then that the property along Freeport Road be maintained.

Mr. Dizard said he raised that question and will get on the owner. He said the Bouchats had left it a mess when they owned it.

Mr. Slezak said no one would allow his property to look like that and it is time to enforce the ordinances.

Chairman Poston agreed and said we have two guys who work in that office.

Norbert Cieslinski, part time ordinance and zoning officer, said that no one knows what they do in order to enforce the ordinances. He said they have to go through processes. He said there are so many houses in Natrona that need demolished and we would have to raise taxes to do it.

A discussion ensued between Mr. Cieslinski and Mr. Slezak with Mr. Slezak saying that he felt he got a smart-ass reply from Mr. Poston too.

Chairman Poston disagreed and Mr. Slezak said it sat there like a big mess when Bouchat still owned and now Cochran owns it and I guess they can leave it that way too.

Mr. Cieslinski said the problems are overwhelming all over the Township. He said Joe sent them a letter this morning about cleaning up the property.

Dawn Shuster, Boston Colony, said that semis park near the BP station in Alter Road overnight, and it is noisy.

She asked about the industrial park because they came in annihilated the trees and then just left.

Chairman Poston said they will retain buffer and Ms. Shuster said they want a pine tree buffer. She said there were to leave a natural buffer but they cut everything down.

Mrs. Bergstrom said she also knew they were to keep a natural border but Ms. Shuster reiterated that everything is done.

Ms. Shuster asked about the request for a traffic light there. Chairman Poston said we sent the accident information to the State but it could take them a long time to do a study.

Mary Jane Zdila, Linden Street, thanked the Township workers for prompt action to fix a sinkhole in front of her house. She said they blocked it off right away and did a wonderful job of repairing it.

Chairman Poston thanked her for calling 911 when she saw the sinkhole.

Ms. Zdila said there is still a problem with storm drainage at that corner.

Committee Reports:

Mrs. Bergstrom, reporting for Fiore and Property and Grants, was interrupted by Tom Stern of Alter Road ion the audience who did not sign a card but wanted to speak.

Mr. Stern said that Alter Road is all muddy when it rains because of that work in the industrial park. He said they're supposed to maintain it but now no one is there working.

Chairman Poston advised they will have to provide for soil erosion, etc.

Mrs. Bergstrom read Hilltop's fire report for the month including calls and training. She also advised that Harrison Hills had 23 calls for the month. She did not have a report form Citizens Hose.

Mrs. Bergstrom advised she completed the GEDF grant application for \$500,000 for the sewer project at Chestnut Street. She said the work is actually over \$600,000.

She will also be making an application for walking and biking trails through Active Allegheny.

Mrs. Bergstrom said she and Mr. Dizard met with the Planning Commission to discuss possible grants.

Mr. Lilly, reorting for Finance, read the April Bills Payable in the amount of \$47,635.33. Mr. Heasley moved to approve the bills and Mr. Dizard seconded. Motion carried.

Mr. Lilly said the Bond Account invoices total \$4,830.46 and Mr. Heasley moved to approve those for payment. Motions seconded by Mr. Dizard and carried.

Mr. Lilly said the March Paid Bills to be ratified total \$63,877.58. Mr. Heasley moved to ratify these bills. Motion seconded by Mr. Dizard and carried.

Chairman Poston, Public Safety, read the March 2016 report as follows:

284	Accounted Phone Calls to Police	
462	Reported Police Support & Service Calls	
21	Traffic Accidents	
0	Prisoners Detained	
81	Traffic Citations	
2	Juvenile Arrests	
20	Non-Traffic Citations	
2	Ordinance Citations	
22	Parking Tickets	
8	Misdemeanor/Felony Warrants	
	Fines collected from Allegheny Co. Court	311.40
	Fines collected from magistrate's Office	4,862.68
	Fines collected from parking Tickets	180.00
	Copies of Accident Reports	210.00
	Total Receipts for March	\$ 5,563.98
	Disbursements to Police for District Court	506.48

Chairman Poston said the Chief received a letter from Dave Montanari from Fawn commending the actions of Sgt. Brian Turaco in a local eatery.

Mr. Heasley, reporting for Public Works, read the monthly report including the repair of catch basins, the sweeping of Freeport Road under an agreement with PennDOT, and checking sewers for improper connections to our system.

Mr. Dizard, reporting for Zoning and Ordinance, advised they have been busy and will be busier and they have put a note on the website that Joe Marino will be off during May through July due to surgery. He said the office will respond to calls as prioritized.

Mr. Dizard said the demolition of structures should be completed soon.

He advised there were 13 inspections for occupancy and all passed; permits totaled \$13,000 for \$3.5 million of construction which includes CVS. He advised there were numerous complaints about grass and property maintenance and we will continue to get more over the summer.

Chairman Poston said he learned the owner of the Heights Plaza was refinancing and he hopes he plans to finally finish that side of the property that is not completed.

Chairman Poston read Resolution No. 1714 – Approving the Mutual Aid Agreement for Fire Services with Allegheny Ludlum Corporation.

Mr. Heasley moved to adopt the Resolution. Motion seconded by Mr. Lilly and carried.

Chairman Poston read Resolution No. 1715 being: Approving the Sewage Facilities Planning Module for the Winco Development Corp. Industrial Park.

Mr. Heasley so moved. Motion seconded by Mr. Lilly and carried.

Chairman Poston advised the next item is to approve and accept the SEC Continuing Disclosures Procedures for required Notifications relating to the Bond Issue.

Mr. Heasley moved to accept same. Motion seconded by Mr. Dizard and carried.

Chairman Poston said next is to accept the SHACOG Spring Commodities Bids for paving materials, leaf bags, traffic paint and firearms supplies.

Mrs. Bergstrom so moved. Motion seconded by Mr. Heasley and carried.

Chairman Poston said the next action is to authorize each Commissioner to hire one college age youth to work in Public Works for the summer.

He said we need one more.

Mr. Dizard so moved. Motion seconded by Mr. Heasley and carried.

Chairman Poston announced the April 30, 2016 Household Hazardous Waste Collection at the Municipal Building. He said you have to make an appointment and the Township is going to pay half the cost for paint and electronics and TV's to be collected along with other materials.

Mr. Dizard said it is on the website.

Discussion ensued regarding updating and revising the current handicapped parking ordinance. Discussion ensued regarding issuing new permits according to revised requirements and to have the current HP spaces certified each year to make sure they are still legal.

Mrs. Bergstrom said she has a request from a lady who is 90 plus and she does not drive but her kids pick her up. She needs a space because the neighbor's park in front and she cannot get out. She has trouble walking to the back of the house at the alley.

She said this would really just be for loading and unloading.

Solicitor Means said under the Vehicle Code she would not be eligible for HP license parking and that the people can just park and get her in the car. If they used an HP space without having the plate or placard, that would be illegal.

Mrs. Bergstrom asked if there was to a way to get her some relief.

Solicitor Means said the HP space is not the answer to her situation. The drivers can double park and I am sure the police will not cite them for the time it takes to get into the car.

Mr. Dizard said he would like the Solicitor to clean up the ordinance and the procedures.

Mr. Dizard moved to authorize the Solicitor to revise the current HP ordinance. Motion seconded by Mr. Lilly and carried.

Chairman Poston said we have not issued any HP spaces for 10 years but Mrs. Bergstrom thought there was a better way to go.

Chairman Poston said the next item is to approve the GTECH proposal at a cost of \$750 for the technical equipment and support for the summer intern program. Mr. Dizard said we have a grant from the Local Government Academy that covers half the costs. Mr. Dizard moved to approve the proposal. Motion seconded by Mr. Heasley and carried.

Chairman Poston said the next item is to authorize the Township Engineer to review the Altermoor Drive property which an owner may donate to the Township for any environmental issues.

Chairman Poston said these lots are adjacent to land we own there and would be used for conservation-type uses. He said the owner has been unable to sell the small lots.

Mr. Heasley moved to direct the Engineer to review. Motion seconded by Mrs. Bergstrom and carried.

Chairman Poston advised the next item is to act on a proposal received from Right Hand Technology Group to replace the laptop for the Zoning Office at a cost of \$1,104.33.

Mr. Heasley so moved. Motion seconded by Mr. Dizard and carried.

Chairman Poston said the next item is to discuss the proposed strictures to be demolished this year. He said we have not fully discussed the matter and we will look at the costs.

Mr. Dizard said there are probably 50 to 60 in the Township that could be demolished. He said that most are abandoned and he knows we have no funds to do all that.

Chairman Poston said we will review this carefully with our finances. Mr. Lilly said we should budget a certain amount of money each year.

Mr. Crisafio in the audience said if it means raising taxes then we should do it.

Chairman Poston said he would like to make a Proclamation in honor of Chet Foster being inducted into the AK Sports Hall of Fame. He was a classmate, teacher and coach for many years.

Mrs. Bergstrom moved to make this Proclamation. Mr. Lilly seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Mrs. Bergstrom moved to adjourn. Motion seconded by Mr. Heasley.

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 P.M.

ATTEST:

TOWNSHIP OF HARRISON



Executive Secretary

By _____
President, Board of
Commissioners