

**Regular Meeting
September 26, 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, Heasley and Dizard responded to roll call. Mrs. Bergstrom was absent.

The Solicitor and Engineer were present.

Chairman Poston said we will dispense with the reading of the minutes since everyone received a copy.

Remarks from Visitors:

Chairman Poston said we have people here representing CVS and Sheetz regarding the change in traffic patterns the Board discussed at the Agenda Meeting last week.

Dale Greco, the developer of the properties, was present, along with Megan Hanes representing CVS and Jim McCormick representing Sheetz, and Henry Fownes representing Sheetz also.

Attorney James McCormick said he has appeared here several times before on behalf of Sheetz. He said he learned at 3:30 this afternoon of an article in the local paper concerning traffic pattern changes proposed by the Township around the new Sheetz and CVS stores. He said there were conference calls between the Traffic Engineer, Mr. Wooster and others regarding this article.

Attorney McCormick said there was some confusion in the way the article was written and his fear is that if the traffic patterns are changed, his client would not be able to get the warrant form PennDOT to operate the traffic signal since it may then not be deemed justified by PennDOT. He said Penn DOT could pull its approval.

Attorney McCormick said he had concerns about the no left turn at Oregon Avenue and that serious safety issues would occur if the traffic light was not permitted. He said the developer for both CVS and Sheetz agreed and that Penn DOT approved the traffic light but now could pull that approval. He said Sheetz would not have gone forward with its plans if they knew that the signal would not be in place.

Chairman Poston said the propose changes were to make California Avenue one way in off Freeport Road to the stores, and one way at Carlisle and Warner Alley.

Attorney McCormick said if you change the traffic patterns from what was approved some months ago PennDOT could still pull its approval for the signal. He said that would not be good for anyone. He said they were very seriously concerned that the Board took these actions and they were not told, nor were CVS representatives. He said that the CVS attorney can add their comments.

Chairman Poston said this was not on the agenda but these changes were proposed Thursday at our Agenda Meeting. He said some of the Board members were not in favor of the changes. He said that the discussion about Oregon Avenue was to propose that no one could come out onto Oregon from CVS but the front access was still available.

Chairman Poston said he did not know how the proposed changes would affect PennDOT's ruling on the traffic signal. He said that they wanted to try these changes and see if there were any problems. Chairman Poston had maintained all along that the Township Commissioners would look at the traffic patterns and determine if there were any problems that needed to be addressed and that we would make it work for everyone.

Mr. Heasley said you can still get into CVS parking lot at the light and at the corner with the proposed changes.

Megan Hanes, for CVS, said they were not clear on the approval status. She said CVS' concerns are considerable since their business is traffic driven and there had been multiple traffic studies involved in the approval for the store. She said they were also concerned that they just learned of this today.

Mr. Heasley said he understands their concerns. He said the man who reviewed the traffic study said that we should wait until the traffic was moving around the stores before any changes were made.

Mr. Dizard said his concern is that CVS is ready to open the new store and this needed to be done. He said he made a motion then Mrs. Bergstrom decided to change part of it, and then the Board voted on those restrictions.

Dale Greco asked for a copy of the proposed changes.

Chairman Poston said Mr. Dizard and the neighbors drew up this plan.

Attorney McCormick said CVS and Sheetz retained a traffic engineer for the required study then the Township had that study reviewed by its own traffic engineer. It was approved as it stood at the time.

Chairman Poston said he agreed.

Mr. Greco said they met with the neighbors many times about the traffic patterns and they were now not even given the courtesy of a phone call about the proposed changes.

Attorney McCormick said as legal counsel they would have attended the meeting when the changes were made but they were not advised of it. He said that Sheetz has lots of money invested in this development.

Mr. Cajka, California Avenue resident, said that the entrance from California wouldn't be changed into the stores but traffic could not enter the residential part of the street. He said he does not believe these traffic studies. He said that you will not be able to fit more than 6 cars lined up at the traffic signal.

Attorney McCormick commented on the study and Mr. Scott Slezak in the audience talked loudly over him.

Mr. Cajka continued commenting on the traffic signal and patterns and Chairman Poston called the meeting into order. He said we are trying to address this matter in the right way.

Mr. Greco said over the past months they had met with the neighbors on many occasions and have tried to address their concerns. He said he would ask for time to study the proposed

changes and said that conditional approval was already given to their plans by the Township.

Attorney Hanes said she understands the residents' concerns but that the light and traffic patterns were based on the traffic study. She added this is being done before any traffic is moving at all and she respectfully asked the Board to take a step back and review the issues. She said CVS was given and use approval as the plans were shown to the planning Commission. She said the Board proceeded to make these changes without letting them know and she said she would discuss this as soon as possible with their traffic engineer. She added that a lot of the people coming to CVS would be pass-by traffic.

She said they are also concerned that there will be more conditions placed on them as far as the traffic situation.

Mr. Dizard said he agreed we should have let them know but this goes back to discussions in 2014 over and over about traffic concerns. He said he is not a traffic engineer and said that the hope was the traffic would use the signal. He asked if the entrance off Carlisle Street through the former playfield area would be available when CVS opens and was advised by a representative so Sheetz that it would not since they could not allow traffic through there when the building was under construction. He said these issues were raised when the traffic study was presented by Wooster and Co.

Mr. Dizard said he met with Larry Merlo who said that the driveway and the traffic signal at California were all supported for CVS. He said he did not feel CVS was opposed to the proposed changes in traffic then. He said we did eliminate traffic cones that were proposed and the direction would all be by signage. He said it was suggested that Oregon Avenue be made one way in from Freeport Road because the entrance and exit from CVS is so close to Freeport Road. He said the visibility is bad to try to turn out onto Freeport Road at Oregon.

Mr. Dizard the Chief also reviewed this issue and would agree to wait and see what happens when the store is open. He said that is the principal reason to make these changes now.

Mr. Henry Fownes, representing Sheetz, asked who designed this new traffic pattern.

Mr. Dizard said he and the neighbors and no one is a traffic engineer. A resident said they live there and he is no traffic engineer but the way it stands now does not make sense for the neighborhood.

Mr. Fownes said this is actually diverting traffic away from the traffic signal controlled intersection.

Mr. Greco asked for more time to review this before the new patterns are put in place.

Attorney Means said we can do that and Chairman Poston said that CVS opens soon, on the 15th or 16th of October. He said they need time to talk to the traffic engineer and to discuss with all parties.

Mr. Heasley said there is still going to be traffic coming in from Carlisle Street on California Avenue.

Ms. Hanes said they prefer to have a deadline when they can come back to the Township.

Chairman Poston said the light is installed but it is not working yet and Mr. Greco said it should be on before the store opens.

Attorney Means asked if the changes included do not enter at Carlisle and California Avenues, and at Warner Alley and California Avenue.

He asked how residents will approach their homes if there are do not enter signs on both ends of that block.

A resident advised they come out that way only.

Chairman Poston said another alley behind CVS had not been addressed as one way. Warner Alley will be two way behind Sheetz to California Avenue and one way from there.

Attorney Means suggested to both of the representative attorneys that he would like to meet with the Board in executive session soon to discuss this and there is not a time limit on when the changes would occur but would like to do it very soon. He said the Board can then hold another meeting if necessary and there are no restrictions right now. He said once more discussion has ensued we can clear up the details of the possible changes.

Attorney Means said that the matter was also to be addressed by the Police Chief but Chairman Poston said he has not given an opinion yet.

Attorney Means said there is no resolution adopting the changes so we will define our proposed changes before we meet again.

Mr. Dizard said this was all talked about for years.

Mr. Fownes said none of these changes were required under their approved plans.

Mr. Dizard said we talked about the one way.

Ms. Hanes agreed and Mr. Greco said many hours had been spent in discussion on all sides with the neighbors regarding the traffic issues. He said they also met with the Chief. Mr. Greco said they hope the Board will study this and get back to the developer and companies as soon as possible.

Chairman Poston asked the Board's wishes. He said both sides need time to review and discuss these matters.

Chairman Poston said he hopes for a meeting next week. He added that he thought the traffic light was to be in operation and asked why it is not working yet when the store is about ready to open.

Chairman Poston said we have the same situation at McDonald's where there is a do not enter sign at Harvard Avenue and it has worked for years.

Mr. Cajka said he feels this is a different situation.

Chairman Poston asked when the Sheetz access from Carlisle Street would be available.

Mr. Fownes said we cannot have people driving through there when it is under construction.

Chairman Poston said we will be in contact with all parties to determine when we can hold another meeting.

Attorney Means said the Board can call a Special Meeting but the Secretary needs three days to get it to the newspaper for advertising.

Continuing with remarks from visitors, Mr. John Bua, Dallas Avenue, said that Mayflower Alley has become a short cut now that it was paved and the speed bumps removed.

Chairman Poston said we are not replacing those.

Mr. Bua agreed they were a nuisance.

Chairman Poston said the Police watched that alley for a while and didn't note speeding but that may have changed. He said we had complaints about the speed bumps. He said we will monitor this and address speeding problems.

Mr. Dizard said people will find other routes to go around stop lights and it is the same kind of issue as at California Avenue.

Bill Godfrey, Walnut Street, reporting on Natrona Comes Together activities, said they had a great summer and have applied for a grant towards more programs for the kids. He said there is a possible Habit for Humanity program at the corner of Center and Garfield Streets. He said that Fun and Freedom is a nonprofit group that works with them.

Chairman Poston said that power is being installed in the concession stand and Mr. Lilly said it is hooked up and they need switches so they can use the building soon.

Mary Jane Zdila, Linden Street, thanked the Board for paving South Alley and it's great but now the water doesn't drain and it goes onto her sidewalk and ends up in her basement.

She said it comes over from Pine Street and South Alley. She said the drainage needs to be addresses.

Chairman Poston said he will have Randy check it but the problem, and he has seen it is that her basement wall is actually missing. He said the slabs have shifted and pushed in the foundation of her house.

Ms. Zdila said that was all caused by the drainage over the years and she asked for something to be done.

Ken Crisafio said he talked with Mr. Poston earlier about meeting with him and had no further comment.

Committee Reports:

In Mrs. Bergstrom's absence, Faith read the fire department report at hand.

Mr. Lilly, reporting for Finance, said we have a list of Paid Bills to be Ratified in the amount of \$118,827.78.

Mr. Heasley moved to ratify these payments. Motions seconded by Mr. Dizard and carried.

Mr. Lilly read the list of Bills payable in the amount of \$44,665.67 from the General Fund and asked for a motion to pay.

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

Mr. Lilly advised we have a total of \$15,284.82 from the Bond Account due for payment.

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

Mr. Dizard, Zoning and Ordinance, read from a prepared statement that is being incorporated herein as an attachment in full.

Chairman Poston asked Mr. Barnas in the audience if he had any comment on the meeting they had and procedures to be used for applications to the Planning Commission.

Mr. Barnas said he did meet with Mr. Poston, Faith and Susan to discuss the matter.

Mr. Dizard said he was given the information on Wednesday that would be put into effect on Friday and shown no respect as the Chairman of the department.

Chairman Poston said you can sit there and make accusations but your actions over the past 6 to eight months are out of control. He said you go after everything but don't do it in the right way.

He said the meeting was to discuss the way to accept applications for the Planning Commission and Susan used to do it.

Mr. Barnas said he was not part of the decision in the matter. Chairman Poston said we wanted to get it worked out and that is why we asked you to be part of it.

Chairman Poston said it was agreed as to who would write letters regarding Planning matters at that time.

Ken Crisafio in the audience said he agrees with MR. Dizard that we need better property maintenance and enforcement of the codes.

Chairman Poston said there are legal limits on what we can do under our ordinances and we could spend hundreds of

thousands of dollars from pone end of the Township to the other for demolition. He said we will discuss funding for demolition when we do the budget for next year. We could raise the budget 10 to 15 mills to take care of the entire problem at once.

Mr. Lilly said when he was in charge of Zoning and Ordinance he was considered a trouble maker. He said Mr. Dizard is getting things done.

Chairman Poston said the residents put the School Board Members in office and they do not support our efforts to clean up.

Mr. Godfrey said since Natrona Comes Together has been in existence over the past 11 years, there has been a lot of improvement in code enforcement. He said the Board should put things up for a vote in these matters.

Chairman Poston said he oversees all departments as the Chairman of the Board.

Mr. Cajka in the audience said you accuse Mr. Dizard of micromanaging and he is not doing that. He said he is trying to work with the Board.

Mr. Godfrey said you have to work together.

Chairman Poston said since we put Bucky out the street he has been doing a good job and the people keep telling us they agree.

Chairman Poston, reporting for Public Safety, read the police Report for the month as follows:

253	Accounted Phone Calls to Police office
424	Reported Police Service and Support Calls
22	Traffic Accidents
2	Prisoners Detained
9	Juvenile Arrests
44	Traffic Citations
9	Non-Traffic Citations
2	Ordinance Citations
53	Parking Tickets
12	Misdemeanor/Felony Warrants

Fines collected from Allegheny County Court	654.73
Fines collected from Magistrate's Office	4,754.25
Fines collected from Parking Tickets	85.00
Copies of Accidents Reports	195.00
Total	\$ 5,688.98

Disbursements to Police for District Court Hearings

\$ 654.48

Chairman Poston read several letters of thanks and support to the Harrison Township Police department, from the Lillys, the Recreation Board and Mr. Harry Crytzer and form the kids at the Natrona Heights Presbyterian Nursery School Class.

He said they are one of the best departments in the Valley.

Mr. Heasley, reporting for Public Works, advised they finished painting all the school zone areas, repaired and replaced catch basins, repaired a 6 foot section of broken sanitary sewer at Sylvan Avenue and Burtner Road. Mr. Heasley also advised the department replaced three catch basins along Sylvan Avenue in view of the paving to be done there next year. He said they also ground yard waste at the compost site and another broken manhole lid was replaced and the department is replacing faded stops and street signs with the new reflective materials that are easier to see at night.

Chairman Poston said the first item for action is Ordinance No; 1988 – Repealing Chapter 1, Sections 361-371 of the Code, the Human Relations Commission.

Mr. Dizard moved to enact this Ordinance. Seconded by MR. Heasley and carried.

Chairman Poston said next is Resolution No. 1725 – Authorizing the 2017 Professional Services Agreement with Hoffman's Boarding Kennels for Dog Law Enforcement with Stray Feline Rider.

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

Chairman Poston read Resolution No, 1726 – Authorizing the distribution of \$54,323.38 in State Aid to the 3 Fire Relief Associations.

Mr. Dizard so moved. Mr. Lilly seconded the motion and carried.

Chairman Poston said next is Resolution No. 1727 – Authorizing the distribution of \$170,611.50 in State Aid to the Police and Non-Uniformed Pension Plans.

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

Chairman Poston read the 2017 MMO for the Non-Uniformed Pension Plan in the amount of \$9,730.

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

Chairman Poston advised the 2017 MMO for the Police pension Plan is \$162,647.

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

Chairman Poston announced the Trick or Treat Night as set by the Recreation Board is scheduled for October 29, 2016 from 5 to 7 P.M.

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

Chairman Poston said the next action is to authorize a Spring Household Hazardous Waste Collection through ECS& R. Mr. Dizard so moved and said it would be great it have it on Earth Day. Motion seconded by Mr. Heasley and carried.

Chairman Poston said the next item is to authorize the Planning Commission to review the 2009 Comprehensive Plan with revisions presented to the Board showing both old and new versions and explanations of the proposed changes.

Chairman Poston sad he asked it be done this way so we can compare the old and new versions.

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

Chairman Poston said the last item is to authorize \$300 for refreshments for the Tree Vitalize plantings on October 26 and November 9, 2016.

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

Chairman Poston said the Board will hold an executive session following adjournment to discuss legal matters.

Mr. Antonelli presented Change Order for the paving work in the amount of \$34,967.92 for the Karns Road work.

Mr. Heasley moved to approve the change order. Motion seconded by Mr. Lilly and carried.

Mr. Dizard moved to adjourn.

Mr. Lilly said that Natrona Comes Together picks up trash in the area and he does so himself to help keep it in better condition.

Motion Seconded by Mr. Poston and carried.

Meeting adjourned at 9:05 P.M.

ATTEST:



Executive Secretary

TOWNSHIP OF HARRISON

By _____
**President of the
Board of Commissioners**