

**Regular Meeting
April 27, 2015**

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, Mitchell and Heasley responded to roll call.

The Engineer was present. The Solicitor was absent.

Chairman Poston dispensed with the reading of the minutes since the Board received a copy of same.

Remarks from Visitors:

Tim Kaczmarek, Union Avenue, asked if the traffic study that will be authorized tonight will take in all the traffic signals.

Chairman Poston said it will be done in reference to the proposed Sheetz and CVS. He said that the new lights were synchronized a few years ago when we changed to LED.

Mr. Kaczmarek said they don't seem to be coordinated. He asked if we had considered changing the timing of the lights.

Chairman Poston said that was all done as a part of the program. He said he can see some problems at Springhill Road.

Mr. Kaczmarek said at the Alabama Avenue and Broadview Boulevard light the light changes before he can even get across the intersection. He asked if the Township would look at the whole system.

Chairman Poston said PennDOT would have to review it because they regulate the timing. He said we did have them increase the Princeton Avenue light by 10 seconds which does not sound like much but it lets more cars get out of the side street.

Mr. Kaczmarek suggested that something needs to be changed for the side streets.

Engineer Ray Antonelli advised that the system will call for the traffic on the established speed limit, so if Freeport Road is 35 mph, the system will call for the light to benefit the main road.

Mr. Mitchell said he felt it worked at first but he finds that it does not seem to be synched up and right back where it was.

Chairman Poston said the new light will be coordinated with the others and we can ask PennDOT to check it out.

Bob Kennihan of Old Freeport Road, asked what has been done about the Gillette and Murray properties?

Chairman Person referred this matter to Mr. Lilly for his report.

Mr. Lilly said that he has photos of the dump behind the one house and that both the Gillettes and Murray have received certified letters giving them 60 days to clean up their properties.

Mr. Lilly said they couldn't do it during this past harsh winter and the property owners will be cited if nothing is done within 60 days.

Mr. Kennihan said Mr. Murray would rather sit in jail than to clean up his property.

Joe Marino, Ordinance Officer, said the cemetery property is pretty bad too, back in near where Mr. Kennihan lives. They have been notified to do something about equipment and dead flowers, etc., laying around their building.

Chairman Poston said that has been there for years and Mr. Kennihan agreed.

Chairman Poston said Joe contacted the Health Department because Murray has not had water service since 2009.

Mr. Marino said Jim Sipes' property on Summit Street was also a problem and Mr. Sipes is now cleanup up around the outside. He said that Sipes was in front of Judge Bengel before and she gave him more time but nothing was done. He said we have to go with however she makes her ruling.

Chairman Poston said he got a copy of the delinquent garbage list from Morrow. He said they won't take your garbage if you don't pay your bill.

Mrs. Bergstrom said Morrow is supposed to send us a report of the accounts they are shutting off.

Chairman Poston said we have one, it came in last week.

Secretary advised it was for the ordinance officer so she did not send it to the Board.

Mr. Jones in the audience said it is in the interest of public health and safety to get the garbage collected. HE said there is garbage all over their neighborhood.

Norb Cieslinski, Ordinance Officer, said that apartment building has paid the bill but Morrow still does not collect it. He is trying to work

that out with them but the owner of the apartment building lives in Ohio.

Mr. Marino said Morrow told them to split the trash into lighter bags and they will take them.

Mr. Jones said one woman called Morrow three times to take a large item and they did not take it yet. He said he doesn't have a problem with Morrow but other people seem to.

Chairman Poston said they can always buy those stickers for extra bags. Mr. Marino said Morrow still may not take them.

Chairman Poston said we will stay on this.

Mr. Jones, from 1527 Glenn Street, asked if the Township is doing anything about people not being able to locate his house. He said he noticed on our map there is an N. Meadow Street and S. Meadow Street and maybe they could do something like that on Glenn Street since this is a dead end street people do not know how to get to his home and the map doesn't show this as a dead end street.

Chairman Poston said we checked on this and no other family had issues with this. Mr. Jones said the sign out on Burtner says Springhill Road so maybe his address should be Springhill. Mr. Heasley asked Jim Erb of Citizens Ambulance if he had concerns. Mr. Erb said he never had a problem with Glenn Street.

Mr. Jones said he was concerned that paramedics, like new ones, would not be able to find his house.

The Gallagher's said there are delivery trucks all the time in the alley and they have to turn around because they are at the wrong end of the split street.

Mrs. Gallagher, Sylvan Avenue, said there has been nothing done with the old Higgins house and it is the same old story. She said this has been going on for more than 10 years. She said the dumpsters are gone but they have not been around doing any work since last year.

Chairman Poston said he would have Joe and Norb check on it. Mr. Marino said they can give the owner a repair or remove order.

Chairman Poston told the Gallaghers they screwed up when they did not bid to buy the property at the sheriff sale. He said the land alone is worth \$10,000 to \$15,000.

Committee Reports:

Mr. Mitchell, reporting for Fire and Property, read the report from Citizen's Hose. He said there were 212 EMS calls.

Mr. Mitchell advised that Hilltop Hose had 23 calls to date for various activities, had used no fuel, and were providing fire training. He said they held the 100th Annual Banquet and the State Fire Commissioner was in attendance.

Mr. Mitchell said he had several months' reports from Harrison Hills and advised there were five alarms in March and 8 in April.

Mrs. Bergstrom, reporting for Finance, read the March Paid Bills to be Ratified in the amount of \$97,713.82. She advised they were mostly for utilities and other invoices and moved to approve same. Motion seconded by Mr. Heasley and carried.

Mrs. Bergstrom advised the April Bills Payable totaled \$58,093.93. The bills included concrete and blacktop to repair winter's damages, and fees for NIRA engineering work related to the Planet Fitness coming into the Plaza. She said they pay us for the permits then we pay NIRA for their inspection fees.

Mrs. Bergstrom moved to approve these bills. Motion seconded by Mr. Heasley and carried.

Mrs. Bergstrom said the invoices from the 2011 Bond Account amount to \$137,421.32. This includes the work State Pipe did to repair the line on Broadview Boulevard and the laterals for a total of \$123,000. She moved to approve payment of these invoices. Motion seconded by Mr. Lilly and carried.

Mrs. Bergstrom said we made a grant application for CITF funds for \$100,000 for planning of street scape design on areas of Freeport Road and on River Avenue. She said they will be making grants over the next few months.

Chairman Poston we are also working on a grant request from the GEDF funds for sewer work that has to be done on Chestnut Street.

Engineer Ray Antonelli said this involves an alley between two streets.

Chairman Poston said it is the last part of work required under the consent order we have with the EPA, and is a partial separation of the combined sewer lines.

Chairman Poston, reporting for Public Safety, read the monthly report as follows:

256	Accounted phone calls to Police office
285	Reported Police Support/Service calls
19	Traffic Accidents
3	Prisoners Detained
2	Juvenile arrests
97	Traffic Citations
6	Non-Traffic Citations
1	Ordinance Citations
10	Parking Tickets
9	Misdemeanor/Felony Arrest Warrants

Fines collected from Allegheny County Court	1,151.59
Fines collected from Magistrate Bengel	6,928.28
Fines collected from Parking tickets	65.00
Copies of reports for Insurance Companies	180.00
Total Collected	\$ 8,324.87

Disbursements to Police for Court Hearings \$ 279.62

Chairman Poston said Chief Klein provided an addendum to the report, noting that the police Officers were praised by the Fire Marshall's office and the County detectives for their help in locating the person who started two arson fires in Natrona. They also commended the fire departments that responded to the fires.

Chairman Poston said that Sgt. Josh Acre was lauded by the County District Attorney's office for actions taken in preserving evidence that proved helpful in an abuse case.

Chairman Poston said it is great to hear from authorities outside our community and to learn they appreciate the good work we are doing.

Chairman Poston said the one year probation for Sgt. Josh Acre and Sgt. Brian Turack ended this month and they are now permanent sergeants in the police department.

Chairman Poston said these same two sergeants have been accepted to a supervisory officer course being given by Penn state at no cost to the Township. That is a savings of over \$1,500 to train these individuals.

Chairman Poston said we have a good police force.

Mr. Heasley, reporting for Public Works, advised that the men continue to repair or replace catch basins and broken sanitary sewer lines. They also raised manholes on a couple of streets including the one near the Freeport Road pump station.

Mr. Heasley said they completed the sweeping of Freeport Road and Faith has billed the State for \$3,498 for this work that we do annually.

Mr. Heasley added that the public works department has used 55 tons of cold patch filling potholes all over the Township and will start patching bad sections of streets with hot asphalt starting shortly. He said that grass cutting and leaf collection season is here.

Chairman Poston said that the two 1994 dump trucks are in pretty bad shape. He said we will have to consider at least one new one costing about \$115,000. We should try to work to replace them after 21 years of hard use.

Mr. Lilly, Zoning and Ordinance, advised that they had 27 inspections for the month bringing in \$1,300 with one of those a failure. He said that the permits issued amounted to \$15,681 for the month. There were 37 complaints ranging from abandoned structures and vehicles to junk and high grass complaints. Mr. Lilly advised that 4 citations were issued and they had 276 calls to the office.

Mr. Lilly said there were nine buildings all over the township that were inspected and condemned. He said now we need money to demolish them.

Chairman Poston said we will work on it.

Mrs. Bergstrom said Joe and Norb are writing and giving the property owners 60 days to repair or remove these structures.

Chairman Poston read Resolution No. 1684 - Authorizing an application for GEDF Grant for the Chestnut Street Area Sewer Project. Mr. Lilly moved to approve the Resolution. Motion seconded by Mr. Heasley and carried

Chairman Poston said next it to hire Bob Goetz to perform a traffic study for Harrison Township in the area of the proposed Sheetz and CVS development. He said this is so we have our own study and not just the one provided by the developer.

Mrs. Bergstrom said this is for the auxiliary streets. Chairman Poston said it is for the entire area around the development.

Mr. Mitchell moved to hire Bob Goetz for this study. Motion seconded by Mr. Heasley and carried.

Chairman Poston announced the Allegheny County Special Vacant Property Side Yard Program which is available through June 30, 2015.

Mr. Lilly said he made an application two years ago and just closed on the property next to his. He said when these lots are available you can acquire them and then they are no longer a burden and the owners take care of them.

Mr. Mitchell said that nothing is being done with that one on Freeport Road near the hospital that we approved.

Chairman Poston said we have a request from Relay for life to close Californian Avenue to Pacific Avenue for their activities May 30, 2015.

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

Chairman Poston advised the audience that the Township received 100% of its workmen compensation dividend back from the MRM Trust and also 56% of its liability insurance premium, totaling over \$103,000. He said this is due to our good record of few claims and no accidents or injuries under the workmen's comp.

Chairman Poston said Harrison Township was one of the few communities to get 100% of its premium back. He said that indicates a pretty good records. He said we got into the Trust many years ago and have received dividends every year since then.

Chairman Poston said the next item is to honor Violet Christy of Wood Street on her 100th birthday which will be July 22nd. He said congratulations her and wished her many ore.

Mr. Heasley discussed the Township's website and said we talked with some people at the League conference. Chairman Poston said we will set up a meeting with them to discuss upgrading the website. He said the cost would be about \$3,000 to update and improve the site.

Mr. Heasley asked about the paving for this year.

Chairman Poston said we still do not have the SHACOG bids for the materials.

Mrs. Bergstrom advised that we will be meeting with people concerning AlSCO Park on May 4th and on May 20th, with people from Allegheny County to discuss the possibility of making a pedestrian and bike lane on that road for the safety of the traveling public. This is part of the heritage trail.

Chairman Poston said there is a lot going on in Harrison Township.

Mrs. Cajka in the audience asked when the traffic study will be done. She asked if the new light for the development will be coordinated by PennDOT with the other lights.

Mr. Antonelli said it will have to be done before the review of the plans by the Planning commission.

Mrs. Cajka said isn't it hard to do a study without knowing where the traffic will go?

Ray Antonelli said this is not for traffic controls but for where the cars will be going once the development is done.

Mrs. Cajka asked if they are aware of the businesses coming in.

Mr. Antonelli said there are models for traffic use around these types of stores.

Mr. Osiecki in the audience asked if they will consider the football games and churches in the area.

Mr. Antonelli reiterated that they use current data and models and do their own study.

Chairman Poston said the Planning Commission has also received an application for a new collision center from Cochran for the former Bouchat Cadillac property and also for expansion of their Ford dealership on Route 908.

He said there are a lot of good things going on. He said we have no idea what is going on with the shopping center and are hoping that someone will buy it and bring it back to good use.

Jim Erb said there has been a lot in the media about fire companies not being able to respond to calls. He said there may be some trouble getting a crew at times but there is always someone as backup.

Chairman Poston thanked Robin for the work she did on the grant application.

Chairman Poston said we need to spruce up the town and Mr. Lilly commented that he wants to tear down structures.

Mr. Mitchell moved to adjourn. Motions seconded by Mr. Heasley and carried.

Meeting adjourned at 8:24 P.M.

ATTEST:

TOWNSHIP OF HARRISON

Executive Secretary

BY

**President, Board of
Commissioners**