

**Regular Meeting
August 22, 2016**

**Chairman Poston called the Regular Meeting to order at 7:30 P.M.
The Pledge of Allegiance was repeated.**

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

The Solicitor and Engineer were present.

**Chairman Poston dispensed with the Reading of the Minutes since the
Board received copies of same.**

Remarks from Visitors:

**Bill Godfrey, Walnut Street, gave the Natrona Come's Together
report. He said Habitat for Humanity has been working on the house on
Federal Street that will be the museum and all interior facilities are being
updated.**

**Mr. Godfrey said they had a great program of classes for children. He
advised that Action Housing is looking at helping with the bank building to
make a community center downstairs and veterans' housing on the upper
floor.**

**He said that the Friends of the Riverfront want to meet with
Township Officials about the bike trail through Harrison.**

**Mr. Geoffrey said they had a big party at the playground and handed
out school supplies and clothes to a number of children.**

**He said that some small children walked up to the movie night, and
also that there are weeds growing out into River Avenue and asked if we
could cut them.**

**Mrs. Bergstrom suggested getting transportation for things like the
movie for kids in Natrona. Bill said they may want to try to set up their own
movie night.**

Mr. Heasley said maybe Roenigk would transport kids.

**Mrs. Eileen Gallagher, Sylvan Avenue, asked about the high grass
and if the Glenn Street house would be demolished.**

Chairman Poston said it is cleared for demolition and is on our list.

**Mr. Dizard said the property was cut two times but Mrs. Gallagher
said it was only done once.**

Chairman Poston said we will check into it.

He added that we will discuss demolition later in the meeting.

Rich Osiecki, Davis Street, started to speak and Chairman Poston said we are not discussing the matter.

Mr. Osiecki continued talking and Chairman Poston reiterated that we are not talking about his submit and moved on to the next person.

Tim Kaczmarek, Union Avenue, said that West Penn Power butchered several trees on Union Avenue near Mile Lock. He said that cut the entire tops off.

He said it is ridiculous that they be allowed to cut trees that way and asked if the Township can do anything. He said they should have to report to someone when they are going to cut trees that way.

Mrs. Bergstrom said they did the same thing at her house too.

Chairman Poston said they are in the rights of way and they can cut whatever is interfering with their lines.

Mr. Kaczmarek said it is a shame. And Attorney Means said perhaps we can talk to someone at West Penn.

Chairman Poston said we met with a representative from West Penn before and maybe she can suggest some options.

Mr. Kaczmarek said the Township is in a program where we are planning trees and they are devastating others.

He said they were 50 to 75 year old trees and they made no effort to save them. Chairman Poston said they can cut them to the ground if they feel it is necessary.

Mr. Dizard said people in his area did get notification that they were going to be cutting trees. He said they have to do this to protect the power lines.

Janet Owens, 10th Avenue, said she had a sewer backup in her house last Saturday and felt that they did not respond properly. It took until it happened twice before the Township got a truck out and cleared the line.

Ms. Owens said there were roots and debris and the Vector cleared it out.

Ms. Owens said it was in the Township line and she knew that some kind of work was being done today on the area.

Ms. Owens said she asked Randy Martinka what the Township is doing about problems like this and he told her we clear the lines once they are found to be clogged with roots. She said there is nothing about the township's maintenance plan on the website.

Chairman Poston asked Ms. Owens if she also had a root problem. She said that there were roots and debris in the main line.

She asked if we work on these lines on a regular basis.

Chairman Poston said if there is never a problem that we learn of with roots, etc., there is no problem. He said that we do regular sewer maintenance and have spent probably a half million dollars this year on sewer repairs or replacements. He said that Roto Rooter televised many of our sewer lines under the EPA order so we have a record of many lines. He said he will have Mr. Heasley review this with Randy.

Ms. Owens said it was at Tenth Avenue and Argonne Drive and asked what is the plan? Is it in writing?

Chairman Poston said Mr. Martinka can advise of the maintenance schedule. He said our plan is to not let debris into the lines.

Ms. Owens said he just gave her a can of acid and did not give her any instructions with it.

Chairman Poston said we will discuss this further with Mr. Heasley and added that roots can come from anywhere and get into our lines and into the laterals also. He said there are sewers made of various materials and that is why we are televising them and doing repairs that we find to be necessary.

Committee Reports:

Mrs. Bergstrom, Fire and Property and Grants, advised that Citizens had 10 calls and 2 drills and 249 EMS calls.

Harrison Hill had 11 fire calls and training sessions, and Hilltop also had drills during the month.

Mrs. Bergstrom said the CDBG grant applications are due by September 12 to the COG and we should make three applications. She said we are also eligible for the area-wide this year for about \$40,000. She suggested handicapped sidewalk ramps at the new CVS and Sheetz along with ones in Natrona. Mr. Antonelli asked if the ramps are exempt from the wage requirements. Mrs. Bergstrom said they are.

Mrs. Bergstrom said we got a \$169,000 GEDF grant for the Chestnut Street Sewer so we should apply for funding again for the balance of the work. She said we should also apply for demolition funds, as there is a \$400,000 pool of funds for that type of grant.

Mr. Antonelli said there are a number of structures on the demolition list to pick from.

Mrs. Bergstrom moved to authorize the Engineer to prepare these grant applications. Motion seconded by Mr. Dizard and carried.

Finance, Mr. Lilly, read the list of Paid Bills to be Ratified in the amount of \$168,524.95 and asked for a motion to approve same.

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

Mr. Lilly said the Bills Payable for August total \$29,784.95.

Mr. Heasley moved to pay these bills. Motions seconded by Mr. Dizard and carried.

Mr. Lilly said the Bond Account payments total \$5,799.36. Mr. Heasley moved to approve for payment. Motion seconded by Mr. Dizard and carried.

Mr. Dizard, reporting for Ordinance and Zoning, advised they did 7 inspections which all passed. He said there were 74 complaints and permits totaling \$424,000. He said the zoning and building permits fees were \$3,115. Mr. Dizard said they started the Heights Elementary demolition this morning.

He advised there were complaints of high grass and property maintenance issues. There were 22 abandoned or illegal vehicles tagged.

Mr. Dizard said they are leaving a green card stating what kind of problem exists and it gives the person time to respond. He said ten of those were left and there were 14 personal contacts. He said that certified letters have to be sent to the property owners in many cases so we have our case in order if it has to go to the Magistrate.

He said there has been a lot of push-back from the people but things are getting cleaned up.

Mr. Dizard asked for reports from the Tree Committee and the Recreation Board.

Chairman said we will have those at the end of the meeting.

Chainman Poston said we are getting a lot of good feedback and that Bucky is doing a good job. Mr. Dizard said Bucky can survey the streets and let the other guys know what needs to be done.

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

204	Accounted Phone Calls to Police Office
373	Reported Police Support & Service Calls
5	Traffic Accidents
1	Prisoner Detained
8	Juvenile Arrests
31	Traffic Citations

15	Non-Traffic Citations	
3	Ordinance Citations	
5	Parking Tickets	
9	Misdemeanor/Felony Warrants	
Fines collected from Allegheny County Court		330.22
Fines collected from Magistrate		3,382.55
Fines collected from parking tickets		60.00
Copies of accidents reports		210.00
Total Receipts		\$ 3,982.77
Disbursements to Police for District Court Hearings		\$ 385.20

Mr. Heasley, Public Works, read the report of repairing or replacing catch basins all over the Township; fixing sewer laterals where sinkholes occurred; grinding materials at the compost site and putting in a storm sewer on Karns Road. The paving at Karns was finished.

Mr. Heasley said he heard that tonight only, you can get a brick from the Heights Elementary School.

He said they are trying to save the architecture at the front of the building where the date is shown and will put it at the Middle School.

Chairman Poston said the reports from the Tree Committee and the Recreation Board will be at the end of the meeting.

Chairman Poston advised the first action is Ordinance No. 1987, Amending Chapter 27, Zoning, of the Code of Ordinances, by regulating banners, pylon signs, sign height and nonconforming signs.

Attorney Means said we have to hold a public hearing this ordinance.

He asked if anyone wished to speak at the hearing to rise and be sworn in. No one wanted to speak.

Attorney Means opened the hearing and advised this amendment would change the regulations for various types of signs and sign height. There being no comments or questions, Attorney Means said that the Chairman can now close the public hearing.

Chairman Poston asked once this is passed, can it be appealed? Attorney Means said the Board can change the ordinance again by amending it as we are doing now. Someone may also seek a variance from the ordinance through the Zoning Hearing Board.

Chairman Poston declared the public hearing closed.

Mr. Dizard moved to enact Ordinance No. 1987. Motion seconded by Mr. Heasley and carried.

Chairman Poston said next is to authorize the final payment to the AVNCOG in amount of \$21,250.50 to A. P. Wise for the CDBG Year 41 Demolitions.

Mr. Heasley so moved; motion seconded by Mr. Dizard and carried.

Chairman Poston said next is to authorize the Solicitor to prepare and ordinance to real the Human Relations Commission.

Mr. Means said this ordinance was adopted 45 years ago and the Human Relations Commission would involve complaints of that type. He said that there has never been any activity on the commission since he has been solicitor in 1984.

Mr. Means advised that State and Federal agencies are better equipped to handle these types of complaints. He said it may not have been the case back then but there is no point in the Township doing it or keeping this on the books. He said that Chairman Poston brought this u for review.

Mrs. Bergstrom asked if there are such complaints now how would they be handled?

Mr. Means said there would be State or Federal agencies that would handle the matter.

Mr. Heasley moved to authorize the Solicitor to prepare an ordinance to repeal the Human Relations Commission. Motions seconded by Mr. Dizard and carried.

Chairman said next it discussion regarding the demolition of structures. He said that the ones on River Avenue have been eliminated from the list and we are down to the three, Glenn Street, Freeport Road and Monroe Street. He said we need to determine if we have the funds then we can go forward. He said this was not funded for 2016.

Mr. Antonelli asked if the Township would be seeking CD funds for this demolition.

Mrs. Bergstrom said that would not be until late next year.

Mr. Dizard said there is \$116,000 in the capital expense fund and he reviewed the financial report. He said revenues are high and expenditures lower than budgeted to date.

Chairman Poston said we still have 4 months to go and he won't spend all the money we have. He said when he finds the funds we can go forward.

Mr. Dizard said everyone received the same financial information.

Chairman Poston said again that we cannot spend all the money we have because it is there. What if we have an emergency with a truck or something?

Mr. Crisafio in the audience asked if this needs Board action.

Chairman Poston said yes.

Rich Osiecki in the audience called out "Bring it to a vote".

Mrs. Bergstrom asked if she can move on to process when we find the funds. Chairman Poston said it was bid with three more properties and they may want a different price if there are only three to be demolished. That is something to look into, but said to go ahead.

Mrs. Bergstrom moved to go ahead with the demolitions when the funds are secured. Motions seconded by Mr. Lilly and carried.

Chairman Poston said next is action on the bids received for the sale of the 1977 fire engine. He said there were two bids, one from Ed Saliba from New Kensington for \$2,150.79 and one from Ed Ross of Tidioute, for \$2,689. He asked is that enough?

Mrs. Bergstrom said she did not talk to Mike Krzeminski. Mr. Lilly said even scrap prices are down so it wouldn't bring much that way.

Mr. Dizard asked if the parts are any good.

Mr. Lilly moved to accept the high bid for the truck. Motion seconded by Mr. Heasley and carried.

Chairman Poston said the last item on the agenda is to direct the Solicitor's review of the River Avenue survey.

He said that Alpha Engineering found a 15 foot overlap and cannot determine if we really own that part. He then cannot set the pins for the survey.

Mr. Antonelli said it's a legal problem and it can go back to who owned the land first. Further discussion ensued and Mr. Means said they can work this out legally. He said he has not seen the survey but can get a title search.

Mrs. Walters in the audience said that the feasibility study showed it belonged to the Township.

Mr. Dizard said it is a dead end to the trail if we don't settle it.

Mr. Dizard moved to direct the Solicitor to look into this matter. Motions seconded by Mr. Lilly and carried.

Tom Cajka, Tree Committee Chairman, advised that there will be 34 trees for the fall plantings. They will be done October 6 and November 9 or 10. Three will go by the Hi Rise, 10 at the Donut Connection intersection

and two on Broadview Boulevard. They are handpicked by Tree Vitalize and will be 5 years old and grow to a height of 12 to 15 feet.

He said that the Tree Vitalize people will do the planting of the trees. Mr. Cajka continued that there will be gator bags on the trees that have to be used for watering the trees for the first 3 years.

He said the Township has to do this until winter this year then start again in the spring as they go dormant in the winter.

He said we need to provide a lunch and coffee to the Tree Vitalize people and volunteers who will be planting both days.

Mr. Cajka said the Tree Vitalize people were impressed by our community and saw good things in some places that we may have thought of and are in awe of the area. He said they need 30 volunteers who would work about 3 hours and kids can even help.

Chairman Poston asked if the Township is responsible for these watering bags if they're destroyed? Mr. Cajka said he did not know.

He asked Mr. Cajka who is coordinating all of this? Mr. Cajka advised the Committee is doing so.

Mr. Cajka thanked the Township for going forward with this project.

Mrs. Walters in the audience thanked the Township and Mr. Godfrey in the audience said that the Natrona trees would be in the next phase.

Mrs. Lilly, Recreation Board Chairperson, thanked the Commissioner's for their help and said the first movie night was successful. She said there were about 130 people and they had a great time. The Boosters were selling snacks and everyone cleaned up afterward.

Mrs. Lilly said Trick or Treat night is October 29 from 5 to 7 P.M.

She said the Christmas parade and Celebration will be December 3 at 5 P.M. and Blessed Sacrament will let us use their property for the tree and the festivities.

Mr. Lilly said they hope to have 30 units for the parade and Todd Stanzione is working on that.

Then Board thanked Mrs. Lilly and she said the Board is having a great time working together.

Mr. Barnas, Planning Commission chairman, said they're looking at the comprehensive plan and trying to bring us into the 21st century. He said it is from 2009. Chairman Poston said we could meet sometime to discuss this matter and we spent \$40,000 in 2009 to completely update the comprehensive plan.

Mr. Barnas said we would do it for free.

Mr. Lilly said the electrician is getting all the work done at the playground. Mr. Godfrey said there is a light on the flag now and thanked the Board.

Mrs. Bergstrom said she was approached by a company with an app that can provide emergency or other important information to residents over their cellphones. She said they want us to be BETA testers for 6 months and it is strictly if you want to do it.

Chairman Poston said our website provides all kinds of information. Mr. Dizard said it would be like the system Tarentum has when there is an emergency.

Mrs. Bergstrom said it would cost us \$150 a month after the test phase.

Mr. Dizard said he knows of a similar system that would cost a lot more.

Solicitor Means asked what about ads? He said you would want control over any ads that come with the app since it would be sponsored by the Township.

Mrs. Bergstrom said we control the content and Holly or Susan could be the ones entering it.

Chairman Poston said I need more information before I consider this. Mrs. Bergstrom said she would check further on it.

Mr. Dizard moved to adjourn. Motion seconded by Mr. Heasley and carried.

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 P.M.

Attest:



Executive Secretary

TOWNSHIP OF HARRISON

By _____

President, Board of
Commissioners