

**Regular Meeting
January 23, 2017**

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 entered the meeting at 7:32 P.M.

The Solicitor and Engineer were present.

Chairman Poston advised the minutes from the December Meeting were not prepared yet.

Chairman Poston stated that the Board would hold a Public Hearing and Public Meeting regarding the proposed application through the Keystone Communities Program for a \$40,000 Grant for the elimination of blight through demolition.

Chairman Poston opened the Hearing and asked for comments.

There were no remarks from the audience.

Commission Dizard advised that this grant would probably cover demolition of two properties, one being 54 Center Street. He said it is on the demolition list and has been for a while but it is a large building and is in disrepair. Mr. Dizard said it would probably cost \$30,000 to tear down and that the asbestos would have to be removed.

Mr. Dizard said the structure at 86 Vine Street has a collapsed front porch and could use up the balance of the \$40,000.

As Chairman Poston closed the Hearing he remarked that we do not know what time of the year these funds may be available.

Remarks from Visitors:

Linda Butchko, Harrison Avenue thanked the Board for the demolition of the house on Monroe Street. She said the neighbors are all happy about it and said that the government and the citizens can work together to accomplish something. She said that one person can make the difference. Mrs. Butchko said she came here a couple of times and it took a while but the demolition is complete and said Thank You!

Chairman Poston said there is a bit of debris still there but the main work is done.

Mary Jane Zdila, Linden Street, said that South Alley is flooding her property because in heavy rains, the water is not getting to the catch basin and is flowing over her property. She said the water was curb to curb the last herd rain and didn't drain.

Chairman Poston asked if she called Public Works and she said she did not. He told her to call Randy tomorrow and tell him what is happening. He asked Ms. Zdila about the opening in her foundation where you can see into the basement.

Ms. Zdila said that is from when she had problems before and her patio slid into the basement, and that there is another wall and that is actually not the basement.

She said this is coming over her property and there is no sense in her fixing it before the drainage is corrected.

She said the problem now is in the front of the house and the catch basin is higher than the street so the water cannot get to it.

Chairman Poston said Mr. Heasley and Mr. Martinka can check on this.

Shelley Bombalski, Natrona Heights, said she has concerns about a suboxone clinic that is opening close to all the schools in Natrona Heights. She said she knows that the medication is needed but would hate to see this clinic cause problems. She said it is at 905 Dallas Avenue and there could be 100 patients per day.

She said there are doctors that write this prescription part of their practice but it is not the same as a clinic. She said they get the prescription then drug users buy it from them.

Chairman Poston asked if it is in operation.

Mr. Dizard said they may need a permit for the business but the use is permitted in the zoning district. He said it is the same as a doctor's office. He said they would have to get a zoning certificate.

Chairman Poston asked where Ms. Bombalski got this information.

She said she works for a doctor in For Chapel and they had an office in the same building. Ms. Bombalski said a drug dealer came right to the clinic to get the drugs.

Chairman Poston said he heard there are doctors that prescribe this medication already in the Township.

Mr. Dizard named several doctors that do so as part of their regular business.

Ms. Bombalski said it is a cash business which creates the problem with others buying the drugs.

Mr. Dizard said it is just like a doctor's office and he would have Lindsay Fraser check for a zoning certificate for 905 Dallas Avenue.

Chairman Poston said there could be a problem if the sellers are meeting in a large group once they have the drug. He said we will check into it.

Mr. Dizard said they are at least close to the Police Department if there are problems and Ms. Bombalski said she is concerned about the kids in the area.

Mr. Dizard said the suboxone is for opioids or other drugs for people trying to get off them but a methadone clinic would be different. He said he knows they sell it for cash on the street.

Chairman Poston said that rehabilitation doesn't always work to get the drugs off the street.

Chairman Poston said we will check on it but he can see there is a need for it.

Committee Reports:

Mrs. Bergstrom, Fire and Property and Grants advised that had 10 calls including a dangerous structure fire where the house was vacant and they had water problems. She said they had 127 calls during 2016 and a number of drills.

Mrs. Bergstrom said their chief is Mike Krzeminski and he is also our Emergency Management Coordinator and there will be action later on the EOP. She thanked Mike and his deputies for their work on this.

Mrs. Bergstrom said Harrison Hills had 9 calls and a total of 198 for the year. She said there are building issues and they will meet to discuss building maintenance.

Citizens had 26 fires, fire prevention training and had 88 young kids for a tour. They also had HAZMAT training. Mrs. Bergstrom advised EMS has 298 calls in December, which is a lot of calls.

Mrs. Bergstrom said they discussed CITF and GEDF Grants at the COG Meeting and asked for the information for completion of the Chestnut Street project.

Mr. Dizard said he had information for the application to complete the concession stand at the park.

Mrs. Bergstrom said she is writing the RFP for the biking and walking corridor and that she met with the Rachel Carson people and said they want to get people using the trails and they talked about using ALSCO Park for parking so they can bring their bikes here and ride the trails.

Mrs. Bergstrom advised that the Savvy Citizen phone app is being tested on a six week trial and the Recreation Board members are part of it.

She said once they see how it goes we can decide if we want to be a part of it.

Chairman Poston asked about the bike trail and Mrs. Bergstrom said the signs are up but there is no connection through Natrona.

Mr. Lilly, reporting for Finance, said there are paid Bills to be Ratified for December in the amount of \$95,019.99, Mr. Heasley moved to approve same. Motion seconded by Mr. Dizard and carried.

Mr. Lilly said there is also a Liquid Fuel invoice for Cargill Salt in amount of \$14,386.99 and Mr. Heasley moved to ratify same. Motion seconded by Mr. Dizard and carried.

Mr. Lilly said the Bills Payable for January total \$67,275.04 from the General Fund and asked for a motion to pay these.

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

Mr. Lilly said the Bond Account bills total \$19,704.69. Mr. Dizard moved to approve same. Motion seconded by Mr. Heasley and] carried.

Mr. Lilly said there is an invoice for Cargill for salt from Liquid Fuel for \$8,054.96. Mr. Dizard moved to pay this invoice. Motion seconded by MR. Heasley and carried.

Mr. Dizard, Zoning and Ordinance, said that through December and January Joe Marino has been on medical leave. He said that Lindsay Fraser is the full time Zoning Officer now and there are two part-time people working with her. They are getting things done. There were 17 inspections and 11 of them passed. Mr. Dizard said they are now looking at units where no one got inspections in the past, being more proactive and also not passing them if they don't meet the minimum requirements. He said they propose to triple the number of inspections this year/.

Mr., Dizard said zoning permits totaled \$3,400 in January and building permits had a value of \$7,200. He said there were 35 complaints, which were handled through personal contacts or certified letters. There were 4 abandoned vehicles removed for a total of 160 from the Township. There were various property maintenance issues handled during the month and three rental violations.

Mr. Dizard said they are starting to update the date base and 2017 is the year when renewals are due for property inspections for rentals.

Mr. Dizard moved to enter into a consulting agreement with Kacey Shoupe to work on updating the database at a cost of \$18 per hour. She will have oversight by Lindsay. He said they need to update the information in the database such as delinquent taxes.

Mr. Dizard said Kacey lives in Sarver and she has worked at UPMC and ATI. He said he knows her work.

Motion seconded by Mrs. Bergstrom.

Mr. Slezak, in the audience, asked how many hours she will have. Mr. Dizard said there may be 20 or 30 hours to get started then she would only work a day or so per month.

Chairman Poston said she is replacing the duties of someone else so it is not a new expense. Mr. Slezak suggested she submit a quote on how long it may take.

Mr. Dizard said they discussed this and that we can get a more formal quote if required. Mrs. Bergstrom said tis would be a front-end project with kore time going in and maintenance after that.

Mr. Dizard said it is not a blank check and then said we would give her 40 hours to start and then see where she is with the update. He said he would add that to his motion. He said she is a consultant and not an employee of the Township. She is replacing the person who formerly did this work and it won't cost us more.

Chairman Poston said she will be working from home too and once the 40 hours are used we can amend the motion.

Motion carried.

Mr. Dizard said we heard that the house on Monroe has been demolished and Mr. Wise has advised the house on Glenn Street and the garage on Spruce Street are down. They just need a bit of cleanup to finish the job.

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

171	Accounted Phone Calls to Office
316	Reported Police Support and Service Calls
13	Traffic Accidents
3	Prisoners Detained
3	Juvenile Arrests
15	Traffic Citations
5	Non-Traffic Citations
4	Ordinance Citations
8	Parking Tickets
13	Misdemeanor/Felony Warrants

Fines collected from Allegheny County Court

1,371.36

Fines collected from Magistrate's Office	2,169.22
Fines collected from Parking Tickets	215.00
Copies of Accident Reports Sold	150.00
Total Receipts	\$ 3,905.58
Disbursements to Police for Magistrate Hearings	598.32

Chairman Poston said the number of citations issued were held due to the holiday but warnings were given.

Chairman Poston read a letter of thanks from the Allegheny County Police Academy for Chief Klein's participation in their recent graduation ceremonies. He said the Chief is active in a lot of organizations and is one of the top Chiefs in Western PA. He is pretty sharp and we are lucky to have him.

Mr. Heasley, reporting for Public Works, advised the first minor snow fell on December 13th and the second on December 17th with freezing rain and snow. He said the department has used about 500 tons of salt so far this winter.

Mr. Heasley advised they repaired a broken manhole on Lane Avenue and one on Springhill Road. He said the men installed risers on manholes that were buried and began cold patching potholes throughout the Township. About 15 tons of patch was used during the month.

Chairman Poston read Resolution Nol. 1744 – Promulgating the 2017 update to the Emergency Operations Plan as prepared by the Township's Emergency Management Coordinator, Mike Krzeminski. He said he and his deputies worked on this and did a good job on it.

Chairman Poston said there was a question raised as to the elected official's responsibilities under this Plan, and Mike Krzeminski said you have carried that out by appointing me and my deputies to handle Emergency Management.

Mrs. Bergstrom asked about centers for emergency use and said the Board did not get the information in that document but only the EOP.

Mr. Krzeminski advised that is for the record, but not to be issued to the public since it contains cell numbers and sensitive information. He said this building is the center of any EMC activity along with the three fire company buildings. Mr. Krzeminski said they work with the Township well in these events.

Mr. Dizard asked if this information could be put on the website. Mr. Krzeminski said you could so with no problem using the EOP information.

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

Chairman Poston said next is Resolution No. 1745 – Authorizing the application through the Keystone Communities Program for a \$40,000 grant to eliminate blight through the demolition of structures.

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

Chairman Poston said we have to designate the structures in the grant.

Mr. Dizard said that 54 Center Street has been on our list for a while and is in bad shape. He said it is ready to go legally. He added 76 Pine Street as the other structure. (This was later confirmed as 78 Pine Street.)

Mr. Lilly said it is dangerous and should have been demolished with general funds. He said since he has been in office the two houses next to it have become in danger because of the condition. He said we are lucky there have been no fires. He said we should use general funds and do it every year.

Chairman Poston asked why it was not on the demolition list and Mr. Lilly said it was but it was ignored. He said George Conroy said we would budget funds every year for demolition.

Mr. Dizard said he agrees and that about \$1 million shroud do it.

Mr. Dizard said this is also on the CD Grant list for demolition. Chairman Poston advised next is Resolution No. 1746 – Establishing procedures for appointments to Authorities, Boards, Commissions and Advisory Boards

Mr. Dizard said he got a sample procedures from McCandless Township and it has worked for them. He said there would be an application form and the Board could do interviews if the so desired. He said this could be posted on the website also and perhaps in the paper. He said this sets up procedure to ask for applicants when terms are expiring.

Chairman Poston said we won't ignore people who are already on a Board or Committee who want to remain in service and we won't have to go through this process every time an appointment expires. He said if there are a number of applicants we will bring it down to a few as we are not going to interview ten people for one position. He said we want to have the most qualified appointees.

Mr. Dizard said Mr. Heasley mentioned putting something into the Resolution that the people have to attend at least 75% of the meetings or they can be removed.

Chairman Poston said it takes an Act of Congress to get someone off a Board.

Mr. Heasley moved to adopt the Resolution. Chairman Poston asked there needed to be wording that if someone wanted to be retained we did not have to go through the process. Mr. Dizard said that goes without saying.

Motion seconded by Mr. Dizard and carried.

Chairman Poston said the next item is to authorize the purchase of a 2017 International Dump Truck through the State Contract from A & H Equipment at a cost of \$124,716.

Mr. Heasley moved to authorize this purchase. Motion seconded by Mrs. Bergstrom, Mr. Lilly and Mr. Dizard, opposed. Chairman Polson said the motion carries.

Mr. Dizard said he does not know if we need this equipment and that is why he asked for an educational session about the department last year.

Mr. Heasley said we have photos here and a list of over 20 things that were wrong or cannot be repaired on the old truck we have. Mr. Discard said he agreed it is junk but we need a conversation and education and need a plan. He does not have enough information.

Chairman Poston said you received the report from the mechanics.

Mr. Dizard said that does not address the priorities.

Mr. Lilly said it is from 1994 and only has 40,000 miles on it.

Chairman Poston said they don't go to Harrisburg in it every day.

Mr. Heasley said the truck is not safe, look at the pictures we have posted. He asked Mr. Lilly, since you are the Finance Chairman, what is the millage rate this year?

Mr. Lilly said I don't know, it is 5 or 6 mills. He said if I am not doing my job why not switch the committee heads?

Mr. Heasley said they need the truck and Mr. Lilly said they are throwing away \$138,000.

Chairman Poston said they use these vehicles for more than just spreading salt. They are used for work all year round.

Chairman Poston advised the last item on the agenda is to retain Sergeant Justin Bouch as a Police Sergeant at the end of his probationary period on January 19, 2017, at the recommendation of the Police Chief.

Chairman Poston said he has had this position for one year and is a good sergeant. He asked for a motion to retain Sgt. Bouch.

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

Chairman Poston asked the Secretary to read the letter from Cecelia Lilly.

Mrs. Lilly indicated that she respectfully resigns from the Recreation Board but would like to be retained on the Advisory Committee.

Chairman Poston said we accept her letter with regrets, and she did a great job. We thank Cecelia for her service, it's a tough job.

Chairman Poston advised that Emily J. Mueller will be with us at our meetings. She has already been here many times and is good at her job. She has worked with all of us through the years.

Attorney Mueller said she is glad for the opportunity to work with Harrison and has been with the law firm for about 6 years. She said she works a lot in municipal and school law.

Chairman Poston advised that Chuck Means will still work with us but he had too many evening meetings and he works with the Planning Commission too.

Chairman Poston welcomed Emily as pour Solicitor.

Mrs. Bergstrom sked if we should do anything with the property donation.

Attorney Mueller said we can bring that up next month.

Mrs. Bergstrom said they want it named after Mike and Rose Ricci and Emily has been working on this agreement for the donation of land.

Mr. Dizard said they want it to be for public use.

Mrs. Bergstrom said she checked the request for a street light at Veterans Lane and there are two poles but none are close enough to do him any good. She moved to ask West Penn to do a design plan to see if a light can be installed in that area. Motion seconded by Mr. Dizard and carried.

Chairman Poston asked Mr. Lilly if he was there when we put \$40,000 in the budget for demolition. Mr. Lilly said can we use it? He said maybe he could be moved to the police committee.

Chairman Poston moved to adjourn. Motion seconded By Mr. Heasley and carried.

Meeting adjourned at 8:37 P.M.

ATTEST:

TOWNSHIP OF HARRISON

Executive Secretary

by _____
President, Board of
Commissioners

