

**Regular Meeting
July 27, 2015**

Chairman Poston called the meeting to order at 7:30 P.M.

The Pledge of Allegiance was repeated.

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

The Township Solicitor and Township Engineer were present.

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

Chairman Poston said we are going to do this differently than the way the Agenda lists actions. We are going to take care of the regular business then go on to remarks from visitors since there are a number of people who wish to speak at the meeting.

Committee Reports – Mr. Mitchell read the report from Citizens listing 29 fires and 9 other activities and 210 EMS calls. He said they thanked the Commissioners for their support in 2015. He said the members have been cleared through the new law for working with possibly abused children and they also have Narcan for drug overdoses.

Mr. Mitchell then read Hilltop's report including drills and the amount of fuel used for the month. He said they were busy June 13 because of many calls for flooded basements due to the heavy rains. He said there were also mudslides that evening.

Mrs. Bergstrom, reporting for Finance advised the Paid Bills to be ratified list totals \$224,178.55 and moved to approve same. Motion seconded by Mr. Heasley and carried.

Mrs. Bergstrom read the list of Bills Payable from the Bond Account including about \$18,000 to State Pipe for work on Broadview Boulevard, the total amount being \$27,107.40. Mrs. Bergstrom moved to approve these bills. Motion seconded by Mr. Heasley and carried.

Mrs. Bergstrom said the General Fund Bills Payable totals \$52,965.81. and moved for approval. Motion seconded by Mr. Heasley.

Mrs. Bergstrom said we are half way through the year and have spent about 37% of budgeted funds. She said we do have some big items coming up such as the paving, demolition and the purchase of the new dump truck. She added that we have spent 95% of the snow and ice budget already and we know we are going to have more expenses in that account by the end of the year.

Mrs. Bergstrom said at this point we are in pretty good shape.

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

310	Accounted phone calls to police office	
530	Reported Police Support/Service Calls	
16	Traffic Accidents	
2	Prisoners Detained	
8	Juvenile Arrests	
171	Traffic Citations	
15	Non-Traffic Citations	
5	Ordinance Citations	
66	Parking tickets	
10	Misdemeanor/Felony Warrants	
Fines collected from Allegheny County Court		1,748.15
Fines collected from Magistrate's Office		5,369.93
Fines collected from parking tickets		412.00
Copies of Accident Reports		270.00
Total Receipts		\$ 7,800.08
Disbursements to Police for District court		\$ 277.18

Mr. Heasley, Public Works, read the report for the month including repairing a washout at 4th and Montana, working on cross drains around Sylvan Pool to asset them after flooding, working on a lot of catch basin replacements and restoration and work involved

with the heavy rain on July 13 causing flooding, mudslides and downed trees

Mr. Lilly, reporting for Ordinance and Zoning, advised there were 18 inspections for occupancy with 17 passing, for a total of \$900. He said the building permits totaled \$8,346 with a value of work of \$127,398. He said there were a few court cases with \$150 being received in fines.

Mr. Lilly said there have been a number of properties rented without inspections and they will be cited.

Chairman Poston advised the next item is Resolution No. 1687 – Authorizing the sale of property at 76 Spruce Street through the County Side Yard Program. He asked Mr. Lilly if he checked out the property.

Mr. Lilly advised he did and the lady who wants to buy it has a very well-kept yard. She will keep this one neat.

Chairman Poston advised the audience this is a program whereby people who abut vacant lots can acquire them through the County's program. He said we have approved several of these.

Mrs. Bergstrom moved to adopt Resolution No. 1687. Motion seconded by Mr. Mitchell and carried.

Chairman Poston asked the Engineer, Ray Antonelli, to advise on the bids received for the 2015 Paving Program.

MR. Antonelli advised we had it bid two ways either using the SHACOG materials or the company supplying their own materials, and Russell Standard Corporation was the low bidder in either respect. He recommended that the Board accept their bid either way since it is cheaper by over \$6,500 than using the COG materials bids. Ray said he checked with the COG and the Solicitor is also going to review whether we have a contract with the SHACOG company but he did not believe that we do.

Mr. Antonelli said the Board should accept Russell's Schedule B base bid or if we find out otherwise, then their Schedule A base bid for the paving work.

He said they are required to have a technician on site to monitor the compaction with the roller. Mr. Antonelli also said there was an alternate bid for disposing of the millings. He said in the past we have kept them for use in projects but we have enough on hand, and there is actually a value to the millings since they can be reused by the contractor to make new material. He added that the bid was actually about \$7,000 more for us to keep the millings but they will go to the contractor.

Mr. Heasley moved to accept wither of the Russell Standard bids as may be appropriate after the final review by the Solicitor. Motion seconded by Mrs. Bergstrom and carried.

Chairman Poston said the next action is to announce the budgeting of the 2014 Marcellus Shale Impact Fees in the amount of \$4,587.50 for general road maintenance purposes as required by Act 13. He said we have not specified any specific project.

Mr. Heasley moved to approve the use of the Act 13 funds. Motion seconded by Mr. Mitchell and carried.

Chairman Poston advised the next item is to authorize MIBS Inc. to develop a logo for the new website they are making for us at a cost of \$450 and to choose the log we want. He said it will be like the one they did for Butler Township.

Chairman Poston said the committee met and discussed all the factors they need on the website and the new logo.

Mrs. Bergstrom said we got ideas and considered various choices for the log and we decided to go with the one with the Burtner House, tree, steelworker statue and the river inside the rounded frame.

Mrs. Bergstrom moved to approve the payment and to authorize MIBS to proceed with the log we chose.

Chairman Poston said we will now go into the Remarks form Visitors. He asked that everyone keep their comments brief and if it is the same as a previous speaker to say so. He said we do have a resolution that limits remarks to three minutes but he wanted to give everyone a chance to be heard.

Ken Crisafio, 1451 Keystone Street, said he saw that the Township was working on a storm sewer above him but felt the street needs to be paved and curbed because there is a lot of runoff passing through his property. He said he gets basement flooding and there was a blocked drain. Mr. Crisafio asked for the Board's consideration of paving the street.

David Christopher, representing Sylvan Pool, as president of their Board, thanked the Township for helping them with the problems they have had with flooding. He said they appreciated the quick response of the Township when they flooded three times.

Mr. Christopher asked if this flooding is in any way related to any diversion of rainwater above them.

Chairman Poston said we paved Davis Street but it was already a paved surface and we did not change anything about the drainage of the street. N He said that one reading was that we had 3.5 inches of rain in an hour. That may even be a 500 year storm.

Mr. Antonelli said he has some charts for his presentation tonight that it was at least a 100 year storm with that much rain in a short time. HE said the longer the rain is the less intensity there becomes.

Chairman Poston aid we are not pointing fingers at Sylvan but there is some more work you will have to do. He said he was at the pool around 8:30 P.M. while it was raining and it was not flooded then. He was on his way back from Pittsburgh and Freeport Road was flooded coming off all the parking lots along the road. He said that water was all going down the alleys.

Mr. Christopher said no one has the answer. He thanked the caring businesses that have helped them with the cleanup costs.

Chairman Poston said the paving did not cause that flooding. Mrs. Bergstrom asked if the paving changed anything.

Chairman Poston said that one side of the property has to be dredged out all the way to the top. Mr. Christopher said they have not done it yet.

Mr. Antonelli said he met with Mr. Christopher at the pool and felt that they have to keep the channels clear of debris and to keep the

pipes blown out. Mr. Poston said we dug out the right side but then tires and logs came down the hillside.

Gary Wislie, owner of property on Pleasantville Road, said it's near Ken's area and said that the storm sewer above that area at 6th and Keystone is the problem. He said the water was not going into the storm drains.

Mr. Martinka, Supt. of Public Works, said they found a broken pipe under a driveway there and it is being repaired. He said the water came over his driveway and wiped it out. He said the culverts are full of gravel. He added that the right of way goes right into the creek.

Mr. Martinka said he will check that because we don't have anything there and it might be PennDOT's storm water.

Mr. Wislie said that last rain was the first time they got flooded.

Linda Butchko of Harrison Avenue said there is a house on Monroe Street that needs to be razed. She showed photos of the property and said that Mr. Marino knows about it. She said the Township boarded it up but now there are health issues with the high grass bringing rodents.

She said she heard we were tearing down some houses and thought Monroe Street may be one of them but it is not on the list.

Discussion followed about which ones in Natrona and Natrona Heights are being torn down when the bids come in. Mrs. Butchko said maybe you can change one of the Natrona ones to this house. She thought 9 were being demolished.

Lu Ann Erb, her neighbor, reiterated the problems with this property.

Mrs. Butchko commented that her Mother was ill last year and she always appreciated the prompt and good service from the emergency people and the police officers.

Chairman Poston said we appreciate hearing that.

Chairman Poston said there are not 9 houses being torn down, only 5 but Mr. Lilly added one to the list.

Mr. Lilly said there are 40 more houses in Natrona that should come down but it costs us lots of money.

Mrs. Erb said the house is open and kids are around it and cats are all over the place and people are stealing the metal from the house.

Joe Marino, Ordinance Officer said this is the William Hughes house and they have been cited. There are children but none of them will do anything and they did not show up for the hearing at the magistrate's office. He said this is on the condemnation list. He advised Randy already sealed it up again and the grass may be cut.

Chairman Poston said there are a lot of legal matters we have to go through before we can tear a house down.

Mrs. Erb said there is a river of water flowing along Harrison Avenue.

Mr. Antonelli said with the recent rains and the big storm there is probably water seeping from somewhere because the water table is saturated.

Chairman Poston said we could check to see if it has the smell of chlorine as it may be a water break.

Mr. Antonelli said that would be a tough test after the heavy rain.

Mr. Martinka will check it out.

Jim Mikolay, 41 Sycamore Street, said he was here because he was charged with violation the ordinance regarding kennels. HE said he and his wife have dedicated their lives to fostering cats for 15 years. He said we have provided all the resources to do so and have found homes for cats. They are all spayed or neutered and taken care of. Animal Protectors has benefited along with other animal groups.

Mr. Mikolay said they realize people don't understand this but we are seeking a grandfather clause to allow this to continue. He said this is strictly all volunteer work to give the cats a home.

Chairman Poston said you would have to go before the Zoning Board for a variance as the Board does not issue those. He said I understand you have 50 or more cats there.

Mr. Mikolay said there are 47 cats.

Mr. Mikolay said he felt it was wrong for them to be cited after 15 years and the neighbors never had any complaints. He presented a document showing many of the neighbors in the area who were aware of the cat fostering being done at his home.

Chairman Poston said I can understand saving the animals but there is an overabundance of them. He said the complaint was initiated by the smell of cat urine in the area.

Mr. Mikolay said he feels they are being made a target, as he had devoted his life to these animals.

He said this started when a cat was killed by a dog and he started to give strays homes. He said he wants to be able to continue to foster the cats but they are winding down since there are fewer people who want to take the cats. He said there are no facilities that can take all these cats. He advised that someone cut a tree down and now that is why the cats are more obvious

Chairman Poston said we are looking at photos taken by our ordinance officers. He said the only suggestion is to seek a variance as far as I know.

Erica Ruffaner, Dallas Avenue, said that in 2011 the Township did a sewer project that was supposed to keep our houses from being flooded and apparently it did not work. She said she had sewage in her home on July 13th again.

Chairman Poston said it has been working since it was installed.

Ms. Ruffaner said it is not acceptable to have 10 inches of sewage in her basement. She said she has seen public works installing catch basins and they did not measure the ratio of the concrete. She asked if there is an ordinance that determines the ratio. She said her husband is in construction and he has rules to go by.

Mr. Martinka said what rules do you mean? He said it is a brick and mortar job when they repair a manhole and the men have been doing them, for years. He said he had been working 23 years himself and it was the method that has worked all this time.

He said the actual catch basin doesn't have anything in it. N Storm water is trying to get into a line that is already full from the torrential;

rains. He said the PennDOT drains on Freeport Road carry all the flow from this end of the road clear down to Montana Avenue and our storm water could not get into the line because it was surcharged.

Mr. Antonelli said no one could afford to build storm sewers that would accommodate rain like you had that night. There would be giant tunnels underground. He said that the storm sewers are constructed to a 10 year return. He said he is sure the State is not going to increase the size of their lines.

Ms. Ruffaner asked if she could petition her representative.

Mr. Martinka said the road flooding signs will be installed tomorrow.

Tom Ceschini, 1100 Dallas Avenue said he is at ground zero when this flooding occurs. He said he has lived there 30 years and is ready to sell but who is going to buy a house that gets sewer backups?

Chairman Poston said there was no problem with the sanitary sewers for the last 5 years until this downpour.

Mr. Ceschini said he has a knife valve that has helped but not this time.

Chairman Poston said this was an unusual storm. He said he knows this goes back a long time and Jackie and Rich have been pounded by the flooding too but this was storm water infiltrating the sanitary line from the heavy rains.

Mr. Antonelli said he doesn't doubt there was sewage in the basement but the storm water would also come through after the initial amount from the sanitary line.

Mr. Ceschini said sewage should never come into the house.

Chairman Poston agreed.

Harry Gustafson, who owns a house on Caroline Street that was damaged by the storm, said he has owned the house since 1971 but they did not have these sewer problems until the alley was blacktopped and curbed. He said the water all goes into the driveway next door and this time it flooded across and blew out my foundation into the basement. He said the Township put in catch basins but he

does not think they are in the right place. He said the catch basins do not carry all the water.

He asked if there is any State or County help for the damages. He said nothing has changed and asked of the Township will stop it from happening again.

Bill Gustafson, Harry's son, said what the Township did made it worse.

Mr. Martinka said that was done to take some of the water off the properties and make it go down the alley into the catch basins.

Mr. Gustafson said an engineer should look at these jobs before they are done. He said the water keeps coming off the alley and he doesn't know what can be done.

Mr. Antonelli said that everyone has to protect their property from the flow of water coming over it.

Mr. Antonelli said the curbing is a suggested remedy but if the water is not getting to the drains it doesn't matter. He said all storm sewers are built for a ten year return and not 100 year rains like you had.

Bill Gustafson said you should have determined where the runoff was going before you paved.

Harry Gustafson said the Township diverted the water and Bill Gustafson said we need some resolution to this problem.

Tracey Danka, Poplar Street, said she is a Sylvan board member and asked if there is any other ways to keep all that drainage from coming into the pool from above.

Chairman Poston said it all drains to that lower area.

Mr. Antonelli said he does not know the lay of the land entirely but if you redirect natural storm drainage then it really creates a problem.

Ms. Danka asked the engineer who approves the road paving?

Mr. Antonelli said he was involved with writing specs this year but he had not done any work on the paving for several years.

Chairman Poston said we repaved a paved street and that is not causing more storm water to come down onto Sylvan Pool. He said

they did not clean out their drainage ditches and they're full of debris. He said Sylvan is responsible to clean out their own property.

Mr. Mitchell said we did not change anything. My mother in-law has lived right beside Sylvan Pool for years and they used to clean out those drainage ditches all the time but they stopped doing it. He said they have to be kept free of debris and it is Sylvan's responsibility.

Pat Walters, North Canal Street, reported that the kids are having a great summer with arts and crafts and a petting zoo. She said that it is all good in Natrona!

Chairman Poston asked if the lunch program was going on and Pat advised it is.

Carmella Messmer, Painter Avenue, said she has lived there for 27 years and the last three have been pure hell. She said her neighbor has purple martin houses and 80 to 100 birds are there all the time. They are making a mess all over everything in her yard, her window screens, etc. She said she discussed this with Joe Marino and Mrs. Bergstrom and wants to know what is being done.

Mrs. Bergstrom said she cannot just make a change on her own and she did get a sample ordinance and will bring it before the Board.

Ms. Messmer said the other neighbor got so fed up that the birds were pooping in their pool that he just left. She said the neighbor attracting the birds won't do anything about the mess.

Ms. Messmer said don't we have a law about having these houses too close to homes? She said it is terribly noisy at 4 or 5 A.M. and she can hear all the birds even with her central air running.

Chairman Poston said we would have to take an ordinance under consideration and we cannot just act on it tonight. He said that like with the cats, anything in great numbers is not a good thing.

Ms. Messmer said will I get something in writing if an ordinance is assed or on whatever is done so she can take it to an attorney.

She said she has contacted the Health Department three times and they refer her back to the Township.

Chairman Poston said if the Board does pass an ordinance Joe could cite them on this; that is the route we have to take.

Paula Rymarchyk, 44 Pine Street, said she has been trying since May to get water turned on at the house she bought there. She said they will not turn it on because there are high delinquent bills from the previous owner.

Solicitor Means said this Board does not have anything to do with that and you would have to contact the Water Authority.

Ms. Rymarchyk said she was told they would not make any kind of an agreement.

Attorney Means asked if she had a deed search done when she bought the house?

Ms. Rymarchyk said she did not and she does not have nearly \$2,000 to pay off those old bills.

Solicitor Means said again that the Township cannot help her with this and the only way would be through the water authority. He suggested she contact the Manager.

Ms. Rymarchyk said she is actually renting to own through Vision Property Management but has been living there with no water all this time.

Solicitor Means said the company who owns the house should have had the property inspected by the Township before you moved in since you are renting.

Ms. Rymarchyk said she called the ordinance office and was told if she was buying the house she did not need an occupancy inspection.

Solicitor Means said under this arrangement you do not own the house and it should have been inspected. They told her to give all the information she has about the owner to the ordinance officers and they will contact them to have it inspected.

The woman said there is another house one Walnut Street with a big sign on it for the same kind of deal.

Bob Kennihan, Old Freeport Road, asked about the work at Gillette's.

Joe Marino advised they have moved the cars from the residential property and have taken stuff out of the dump area behind

Jeff's house. He showed the Board photos of how it was and what has been done to date.

Mr. Kennihan said they are always hauling stuff in and out so it is hard to tell.

Mr. Marino said they are cleaning up along Olive Avenue and getting rid of vehicles. He said they took out 400 tires and they are getting the work done I have asked them to do.

Chairman Poston said they have been adding stuff for years so it will take a while.

Mr. Kennihan asked about Murray's property and Joe Marino advised they had him at the magistrate's for a hearing and that it was continued it August 13.

Mr. Cieslinski said he thinks Mr. Murray is just really overwhelmed.

Chairman Poston asked how he has lived there for years without water? He said the Health Department just walks away from these issues.

Solicitor Means said back to the matter of the lady without water service, he said the rental situation was not known to the ordinance officer and explained that they would not have been given an occupancy permit if they went through the process because of the delinquent bills.

Solicitor Means said they cannot legally rent out the property without the inspection.

Mr. Marino said he will do what he can to contact the owners.

Township Engineer Raymond Antonelli went over the flooding event which occurred on July 13, 2015.

****Secretary's Note: The complete text is attached hereto as a part of the minutes of the meeting. I am not going to reproduce all of Ray's comments other than to add comments by others during his presentation.**

Following Ray's written comments, he said that he doubted the State would do anything to increase the storm sewer lines on Freeport Road.

Mr. Martinka said our storm sewer lines in the area behind the tire shop and the water authority office all go across Freeport Road and that line collects everything on the road from McDonald's to the water authority area.

Mr. Antonelli said he feels the three feet of water rushing into homes was a lot of storm water even though it came through the sanitary line.

Mrs. Sherrieb, Dallas Avenue, asked about going after the State. Mr. Antonelli said that definitely played into the storm water getting in, but he does not think the State will do anything. This happens all over the place.

Dave Barnas, Altermoor Drive, who is a member of the planning Commission, said that his son has a rain gauge at their home and they recorded 4.26 inches of rain in 88 minutes. He said he heard that Alter Road had 2.56 inches during the evening.

Mr. Antonelli said we have a problem area on Alter Road that has flooded often and they just did not get the rain that the center of town did and they had no problem out there that night.

Mr. Antonelli said this event was smaller than the storm that caused the flooding on Washington Boulevard that caused people to drown. They had to put up flood gates for that area to stop people from trying to drive through the flooding.

Scott Slezak, Dallas Avenue, said he has been here for 23 years and has had sewer backups but he never go the storm water before. The neighbors agreed that this was different. Mr. Slezak said Don Diller told him about the storm drains when he moved there and said that debris causes the storm water to turn our yards into rivers.

Mr. Slezak asked why the public works department was working on storm manholes last Friday?

Chairman Poston said he told Randy to check all of them in that area that was flooded to make sure there was no damage from the heavy rains.

Mr. Slezak said you cannot convince me that the storm sewers are properly maintained. He thanked Mr. Antonelli for his

presentation and said that although he said as much at Thursday's meeting, he now feels that this is a storm water problem and that the State Street line that diverted a lot of the sanitary away from our area was not a failure. He asked the Board to please do something to capture that water that goes behind Highland Tire and then floods the houses on Dallas.

Mr. Slezak said that Ray's suggestions should be considered. He said when we were told we had broken sewer lines we had to replace them and then we still get sewer water in our homes. He said we were given 60 days to make the corrections or we would be fined.

Solicitor Means said the County ordered those corrections to be made by the property owner within that time frame.

Mr. Slezak asked the Township to do the kinds of inspections Ray mentioned including foundation drains or others that may be connected to the sanitary sewer and get them out of there.

Mrs. Bergstrom said what is our action plan?

Mr. Antonelli said a lot of this is new and we need to consider what our next steps are to be.

Chairman Poston said we will look at the recommendations and do what we need to do.

Mr. Baker, Pleasantville Road, asked if the Township was going to put in a check valve for him. He said he is connected directly into the UAJSA trunk line and was never flooded until we put in that diversion line.

He was advised that we are getting prices and will advise him when we make a decision.

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

Meeting adjourned at 9:57 P.M.

ATTEST:

TOWNSHIP OF HARRISON

Executive Secretary

By _____
**President, Board of
Commissioners**