

**Regular Meeting  
March 23, 2015**

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

**Roll Call – Mr. Lilly was absent. Mr. Poston, Mrs. Bergstrom, Mr. Mitchell and Mr. Heasley responded to roll call.**

**Chairman Poston said since each Board Member has received a copy of the minutes, we will dispense with the reading.**

**Remarks from Visitors:**

**Bob Kennihan, Old Freeport Road, asked what the Township is going to do about Gillette's property. He said it is worse than ever.**

**Chairman Poston said he was out there and the Murray hose is in bad shape too.**

**Mr. Kennihan agreed and said that Bill Murray said he will not clean up his property until Gillette cleans up. He said they are moving vehicles back by Pat's and Jeff's houses now.**

**Chairman Poston said they put some fencing up, and Mr. Kennihan said they are just adding more junk there.**

**Mr. Kennihan said you should start fining them.**

**Chairman Poston said there will be action to get it cleaned up or we move to Alternate 2.**

**Bob Betts, Karns Road, said the two catch basins are too high and don't drain right. All the water comes down to his property. He said the water just lays there and does not flow right.**

**Mr. Betts asked if you are going to do anything with the condition of Karns Road from the last house. It is in bad condition.**

**Chairman Poston said you know who is causing the poor condition of the road there.**

**Pat Walters, North Canal Street, gave a report about the spring activities of Natrona Comes Together, including an egg hunt, cleanups and garden work. A church will provide cleanup services, along with students from Carnegie mellow University.**

Mrs. Bergstrom said I understand you got a \$20,000 grant from PNC Bank. Pat said that will be used for summer programs.

Mrs. Walters asked about the places that have been marked no parking at the playground. She said I know why, but what about when we have the Kennywood Trolley or other people come there and they cannot use it for parking. Chairman Poston said to let the police know and I am sure we will make an exception for special events you are holding.

Rick Osiecki, Davis Street, said Mr. Mitchell reads reports from two of the fire companies every month but none from the other one. Why doesn't Harrison Hills make a report?

Mr. Mitchell said he spoke with them about it and they will start doing so.

Chairman Poston said if they do not we can withhold their allocation.

Mr. Osiecki said he learned that the ambulance service is for profit and separate from Citizens Hose. They have their own payroll and insurance coverage. He asked why they bill people for gas on their bills for ambulance service.

Chairman Poston said they do not do so. He discussed this matter with Jim Erb who explained it to him.

Jim Erb, the Director of the Ambulance Service, advised that many services are consolidating or shutting down because of the fact that volunteers are not as available as they were before. He said that the state law does not permit persons who are employed by the service to also act as volunteers and that is why services are going under. Mr. Erb said the Township supports the ambulance service as do most municipalities.

He said that under the rules of the Department of Labor and Industry they had to make changes in the way they operate the business end of it. All the insurance for the ambulance service is paid by them directly.

Mr. Osiecki said a person got a \$1,200 bill from Citizens and part of it was for fuel.

Mr. Mitchell asked Mr. Osiecki to reveal his source of this information.

Mr. Osiecki said he could not do so at this time.

Mr. Erb said that all ambulances rely on insurance payments to operate. He said that various items are listed on the bill with the bottom line being the patient's deductible under their insurance which may be \$50. He added that the state puts limits on what the service can charge and in most cases they don't get more than \$350 from the insurance company.

Mr. Erb advised that although costs have gone up, the patient only pays the copay and we accept whatever the insurance company pays. So, if you get a statement showing a charge of \$1,000, there may be items listed as paid or otherwise handled with the copay being the bottom line. No resident ever pays more than that.

He said if you are an annual member of the ambulance department you never pay out of pocket at all.

Mr. Falkner in the audience said he had used the ambulance service several times and never had to pay anything.

Mr. Erb said they do a lot of non-emergency calls and transports and they accept whatever the insurance company allows.

Chairman Poston said this all sounds like a good deal to me and added that we have one of the best services in the area.

Mary Jane Zdila in the audience said she had to use the Pittsburgh EMT service to go from CONSOL Energy Center to Allegheny General and they charged her \$726. She is paying that off in \$50 payments. She said we are very fortunate to have Citizens Hose.

Chairman Poston said that people get quality service, not just a ride to the hospital.

Mary Jane Zdila, 15 Linden Street, asked about the new ordinance regarding dumpsters and containers. She asked how this affects the ones that are at businesses like the pop shop.

Chairman Poston said this ordinance does not affect that type at all. He said it is to control people who are doing remodeling or cleaning out and that out dumpsters on the street. Also, this will address those big storage containers like PODS that you can put in your driveway. Chairman Poston said this will keep people from leaving them on the street or in

the driveway for months. He said it will not affect temporary ones or the ones businesses use. He said it has not been a huge problem but we need to have some control over their use. We will address this later in the meeting.

Steve Jones, Glenn Street, said that the apartments on Neely Street may not have garbage collection service because there has been garbage sitting there for three months. He said it blows around and he has to clean it up.

He asked if this is the landlord's responsibility. Chairman Poston said we will check into it.

#### **Committee Reports:**

Mr. Mitchell, reporting for Fire and Property, read the report from Citizens Hose including fires and 216 ambulance calls.

Mr. Mitchell read the report from Hilltop Hose for the month including fire calls and assistance at water line breaks. He said they hosted State Certification classed which were well-attended by 64 people one day and 52 at the second one. He said they used 31 gallons of fuel.

Mr. Mitchel said they were preparing for a big anniversary event marking their 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of fire service to the community.

Mrs. Bergstrom, reporting for Finance, advised the February Paid Bills to be Ratified included about \$54,000 for two new police cars. She said the total is \$136,562.37 and moved to approve same. Motion seconded by Mr. Heasley and carried.

Mrs. Bergstrom said the March Bills Payable included over \$14,000 for salt, and attorney fees and maintenance supplies. She moved to approve the bills in the amount of \$51,921.71. Mr. Heasley seconded the motion, and motion carried.

Mrs. Bergstrom said the bills payable from the 2011 Bond Account include stone for repair work and for Share Corporation which is chemicals for the sewers. She said we are now repairing all the damages from the winter.

Mrs. Bergstrom moved to pay these bills in amount of \$13,275.66. Motion seconded by Mr. Heasley and carried.

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

229	Accounted calls to Police Office
335	Reported Police Service Calls
11	Traffic Accidents
0	Prisoners Detained
1	Juvenile Arrest
73	Traffic Citations
7	Non-Traffic Citations
1	Ordinance Citation
5	Parking Tickets
13	Misdemeanor/Felony Arrest Warrants

Total Funds collected through fines and parking tickets amounted to \$7,059.65. Total disbursements to police officers for district court hearings was \$711.11.

Chairman Poston also read the list of various activities and noted that almost all were cleared during the month.

Mr. Heasley, reporting for Public Works, advised that they are cold patching streets and have used about 30 tons of material to date. He said they have also begun street sweeping to get up all the residue from the hard winter.

Mr. Heasley said State Pipe Services finished the sewer line work in Warner Alley and Opal Court and also did some work in Natrona. He said that catch basins are collapsing all over the Township and they have found some sewer line breaks. Mr. Heasley said the weather this winter took its toll on our roads and sewers but we never ran out of salt due to Randy's planning. He said the Public Works Department did a great job all winter.

Chairman Poston said he agreed that they did a fine job keeping the roads clear. He said we went over the salt budget by about \$30,000 and we have three or four applications of salt if needed.

Mr. Lilly was absent so there was no report from Zoning and Ordinance.

Chairman Poston said the next item is Ordinance No. 1977 – Amending Chapter 6, Part 7 of the Code, Excessive Nuisance Calls, to conform with Act 200 of 2014.

Chairman Poston said we have a 3-strike ordinance that if there are nuisance calls, after the third one, the tenant has to move out. In another town, though, a woman was severely beaten by her husband because she was afraid to call 911 since it would be her third strike. They ended up with a big lawsuit so this amendment changes our ordinance so it does not include domestic violence calls. The Solicitor recommended the changes in the ordinance.

Mr. Heasley moved to enact Ordinance No. 1977. Motion seconded by Mr. Mitchell and carried.

Chairman Poston said the next item is Ordinance No. 1978 – Amending Chapter 13 of the Code, Licenses, Permits and General Business Requirements, by establishing regulations and requiring permits for the placement and use of bulk storage containers and dumpsters within the Township.

Chairman Poston said we can act on this tonight and see how it goes to determine if we want to change any fees. He said that the original fee was changed from \$100 to \$25.

Mr. Mitchell moved to adopt this Ordinance. Motion seconded by Mr. Heasley and carried.

Chairman Poston read Resolution No. 1684 – Naming the third week of April as Local Government Week in connection with our status as a Banner Community in Allegheny County. He asked the Secretary to explain more about we got this status.

The Secretary advised there was an application process, whereby we had to answer a number of questions about the general operations of the Township, and to show that we are active in the COG and the League of Municipalities. It also entailed citing our recycling program and the updated zoning ordinance and compressive plan for the Township.

She said that the Township will be recognized at a press conference with County Executive Rich Fitzgerald on April 7<sup>th</sup>, and also at the League's Conference April 9-12, 2015.

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

Chairman Poston said the next item is to issue a Proclamation honoring Nathan Love, a Township resident, on

his attainment of Eagle Scout statues. He said that troop has produced 193 Eagle Scouts to date.

Chairman Poston advised the last item is to approve payment to State Pipe Services for work on Opal Court and Warner Alley in the amount of \$32,580. He said all of Warner Alley is done now and it is like a gun barrel inside.

Mrs. Bergstrom moved to approve this payment. Motion seconded by Mr. Heasley and carried.

Mrs. Bergstrom asked if there is any update on the Sheetz and CVS. Chairman Poston said they are working on some things and then it goes to the Planning Commission.

Chairman Poston said we are planning to have a traffic study done and Solicitor Means advised we are waiting to get their plans first.

Mr. Mitchell moved to adjourn. Motion seconded by Mrs. Bergstrom. Motion Carried.

Meeting adjourned at 8:07 P.M.

ATTEST:

TOWNSHIP OF HARRISON

\_\_\_\_\_  
Executive Secretary

By \_\_\_\_\_  
President, Board of  
Commissioners