

Regular Meeting
January 26, 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 – Mr. Lilly, Mr. Poston, Mrs. Bergstrom and Mr. Heasley responded to roll call. Mr. Mitchell was absent due to having a flat tire.

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

Remarks from Visitors:

Tim Kaczmarek, Union Avenue, asked the procedure for getting the alley between Union Avenue and Broadview Boulevard paved. He said he has been here about it before and showed the Board photos of how it becomes a lake when it rains hard.

Chairman Poston said Randy Martinka is getting that information together now and Faith can pass this on to him.

Mr. Kaczmarek asked about the status of the Heights Plaza.

Chairman Poston said he understands it is in receivership, which is bankruptcy as far as I know. He said it is also for sale for \$28.5 million.

The Solicitor advised that means they are insolvent.

Mr. Kaczmarek said he couldn't understand why the new Chinese restaurant came into the Plaza unless some promises were made. He said the property is in such disrepair.

Chairman Poston said they can still do business if they're bankrupt. He said he has heard that someone is interested in the Plaza and if they acquired it they will do something with it.

Jen Graff, Sylvan Avenue, said she was here about towing and being a salvor for the Township.

Chairman Poston said Mr. Graff talked or met with Chief Klein numerous times in this matter and was advised that we have two towing companies and that since you don't have the heavy duty equipment you couldn't comply with our policy.

Bob Betts, Karns Road, said that Allegheny Ludlum is throwing out so much dirt all over the neighborhood. He said they were supposed to return a portion of the property back to the neighbors so they had a beach area. He said those explosions like last week have to stop too.

Mr. Betts said it was so loud everyone had to jump out of bed to find out what happened.

He said we are going to have to get the DEP down there about the dirt.

Chairman Poston referred these problems to Mr. Lilly since that is his area.

Mr. Betts said that the catch basin you put in does not work because it was not installed correctly.

Chairman Poston said you mean the one that we are trying to catch the water that PennDOT blows out of the hillside?

Chairman Poston said you also have noted the need for a fire hydrant in Karns and there have been several applications filed to no avail for funding.

Rich Osiecki, Davis Street, said he was concerned about the condition of Freeport Road that was just paved, from about Route 908 down to the pump station. He said it is all wavy and he called PennDOT and they told him it was because of the trucks. Mr. Osiecki said I think we got shafted with the paving job. And asked the Township to write to PennDOT about it.

Chairman Poston said we will look into it.

Mr. Osiecki said we should enforce the ordinance requiring people to clear their sidewalks after a snowfall. He said it is a safety concern for the kids who have to walk and last year he complained because some places never were touched all winter. He said he told the school crossing guard and one of the police officers but nothing was done.

Mr. Heasley said the ordinance officers will talk to the people first then if they don't clean the walks they will be fined.

Mr. Osiecki said this is right where the kids have to stand and they are slipping on the snow and ice. He said this is at California Avenue and Oregon Avenue.

Chairman Poston said a lot of older people cannot get out to shovel and they don't have anyone to do it.

Chuck Dizard in the audience said this is a landlord situation and they don't touch it.

Chairman Poston said it is their responsibility. He said kids don't shovel anymore or they want too much money. He said he agrees it is dangerous and kids can slide on the snow and ice.

Mr. Lilly advised the ordinance office has a new procedure where they send letters to people who have not cleared their walks then they can be cited. He said contact Holly in the ordinance office to let her know about any places that are not cleared. He asked if the newspaper could put something in about clearing walks.

Mr. George Guido from the Valley News said he will do so.

Chairman Poston said this is all over the Township and someone told him kids offered to shovel their place for \$80! \$40 for each kid.

Committee Reports:

Mr. Mitchell, Fire and Property, was absent, and Chairman Poston read the report from Citizens Hose Company. He said Mr. Mitchell probably had one from Hilltop Hose. He said we have nothing from Harrison Hills.

Mrs. Bergstrom, Finance, read the list of Bills Payable including some for traffic signal repairs over \$4,000. Chairman Poston said over the weekend, 911 sent the wrong company to fix our signal, so we will be billed by them.

Mrs. Bergstrom said the total Bills Payable amounts to \$43,800.26 and moved to approve same. Motion seconded by Mr. Heasley and carried.

Mrs. Bergstrom read the Bond Account invoices in amount of \$3,473.40, which is low this time, and moved for approval. Motion seconded by Mr. Heasley and carried.

Mrs. Bergstrom said the Paid Bills to be ratified include several large payments, including \$34,000 for the new pickup; \$39,000 for Cargill salt; \$68,500 for the pumps at the pump station, and \$16,000 to Russell for paving. The total also includes the payoff of the tax anticipation loan at \$813,237. We also paid off the lease at Laurel Capital for the pump station construction and \$127,000 for the new front end loader. She moved to approve these paid bills. Motion seconded by Mr. Heasley and carried.

Public Safety, Chairman Poston read the monthly report for December, 2014 as follows:

263	Accounted phone calls to Police office
295	Reported Police Support and Service Calls
265	Ambulance calls with 130 Emergency
18	Traffic Accidents
0	Prisoners Detained
0	Juvenile Arrests
43	Traffic Citations
19	Non-Traffic Citations
8	Ordinance Citations
6	Parking Tickets
27	Misdemeanor/Felony Warrants

Fines collected from Allegheny County	\$	469.39
Fines Collected from Magistrate		4,916.89
Parking Tickets		110.00
Copies of Accident Reports		210.00

Total Receipts	\$	5,706.28
Disbursements to Police for District Court Hearings	\$	248.58

Mr. Heasley, reporting for public works, read the monthly report including that we have used 600 tons of salt to date, and last year at this time we had ordered 2,400 tons. He said we have to order 1,600 tons under our agreement or be penalized.

Mr. Heasley said the new John Deere highlight is in operation and the men appreciate the new equipment. He said public works continues to cold patch streets and alleys to keep ahead of that when it is not snowing.

Chairman Poston said the men did a great job and Mr. Heasley said they worked from 8:30 P.M. last night until about 3 this afternoon and agreed they did a great job.

Ordinance and Zoning, Mr. Lilly they did 14 inspections for a total of \$700; issued two building permits totaling \$1,507 and had 21 complaints and 211 calls to the office.

Mr. Lilly said he just found out they wrote that letter last week about clearing the walks.

Mr. Dizard said they have a good data base to work from.

Mr. Lilly gave Mr. Dizard credit for getting that program together.

Chairman Poston said the first item of business is Resolution No. 1680 - Establishing a 15% administrative fee on residential and commercial permits under the UCC and Third Party Building Code Official activities. Mr. Heasley moved to adopt this Resolution. Chairman Poston said this is the same fee that we had under PCS. Motion seconded by Mrs. Bergstrom and carried.

Mrs. Bergstrom moved to adopt Resolution No. 1681 – Adopting the 2015 Emergency Operations Plan for the Township.

Mrs. Bergstrom asked Mr. Krzeminski asked if we have the proper technology and equipment to operate? Mr. Krzeminski, the Emergency Management Coordinators, said that we do.

Mr. Heasley asked if this will also go to the school district? Mr. Krzeminski said they can be added to the distribution list.

Chairman Poston said that we can use the Water Authority's notification system that dials all customers if there is an emergency. Mr. Krzeminski said we can also use the loudspeaker method to notify residents of problems.

Mrs. Bergstrom asked about facilities and Mr. Krzeminski said they have another list of information that is non-published but lays out everything they may need. Mrs. Bergstrom thanked Mike for the great job and Chairman Poston concurred. Motion seconded by Mr. Heasley and carried.

Mr. Heasley moved to authorize the Township Officials' attendance at all 2015 State and Local organization meetings. Motion seconded by Mrs. Bergstrom and carried.

Mr. Heasley moved to authorize the advertisement of bids for the 2015 paving program. Mrs. Bergstrom seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Chairman Poston said the next item is to discuss possible applications for various grant funds that are available.

Chairman Poston said that Ray would be the one completing the applications and said he discussed one with Ray, being a sewer project on Chestnut Street that needs to be completed.

Mr. Antonelli said he can review that and see if we can make an application.

Mrs. Bergstrom said she would like to see a Main Street design project, and is working with Tom Benecki to look at some possible applications.

Mr. Antonelli said there is time to review and get the apps in before the deadlines in February and May.

Mrs. Bergstrom said there is also multi-modal funding available and she would like to see us address that type too.

Mr. Heasley suggested doing something with Alsco Par, like putting in a basketball court. Chairman Poston said we can do some work there, as long as it is approved, but we cannot do anything with the lower property. Apparently, that is where the bigger problem is located. Mrs. Bergstrom said there is no playground equipment in the Heights since the schools are closed.

Mr. Heasley suggested a soccer field for the park.

Mrs. Bergstrom said the Natrona biking trail is under discussion and also suggested that we need sidewalks along Freeport Road from the cemetery out. She said a lot of people walk there.

Chairman Poston said he talked with someone about that and was told that although it is a good idea the cost would probably be prohibitive.

Mr. Osiecki suggested that we need sidewalks in the whole Freeport Road area where there are none.

Mr. Antonelli said that could be something to look at for a multi-modal project and we would have to get a right of way form PennDOT. Attorney Means said it can be done but it takes time.

Chairman Poston said in most of the area along either northbound or southbound Freeport Road, there is not much room for a sidewalk. He said one house, you walk off the porch and you are in the road.

Chairman Poston said we needed suggestions so we have some idea of where to go with applications.

Mrs. Bergstrom said the 2009 plan indicated that we should be looking at walking and biking trails. Mr. Heasley said there was discussion about walking on Springhill Road.

Mrs. Bergstrom said there is a meeting on February 5th with County people and others to discuss this. The county would have to agree to take away one downhill lane and make it for walking and biking.

Mr. Lilly said he can see that it could work to have all the pedestrian traffic on the right side and may be able to use a guard rail for them to be inside of same.

He said there are a lot of people walking and he offered a woman a ride up the hill the other night when it was dark and raining.

Chairman Poston said that we are gathering ideas and hope to have something before these upcoming deadlines.

Mrs. Bergstrom said we could apply for more demolition funding.

Chairman Poston said we have applied for some this year through CD but we won't hear about that money until summer.

Chairman Poston said Mr. Lilly mentioned that we got money for sidewalk ramps, but we were not awarded yet, we just made the applications late last year. Mr. Lilly said we could use more of those in Natrona also.

Mr. Lilly commented on about new row houses out East that caught fire and that is a concern with the older stock we have.

Chairman Poston advised that next is to authorize the Solicitor to prepare an amendment to our nuisance ordinance as recommended by Chief Klein. Mr. Heasley so moved. Motion seconded by Mrs. Bergstrom and carried.

Chairman Poston said the next item is to authorize the Solicitor to update our sign ordinance to bring it up to current usage, such as electronic signs.

Mrs. Bergstrom asked if we are going to look at the regulations as they may pertain to Sheetz and CVS? She said they wanted a lower sign for those businesses.

Chairman Poston said this is concerning electronic signs since they distract drivers when flashing.

Mrs. Bergstrom moved to authorize the Solicitor to proceed. Motion seconded by Mr. Heasley and carried.

Chairman Poston said the next authorization is for the Solicitor to prepare and ordinance concerning the use of dumpsters and PODS. He said we are starting to see people leaving these PODS in their driveways for permanent storage and also, loading up dumpster and not having them taken away. He said this would require a permit and a time limit on the use of these storage facilities.

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

Mr. Heasley moved to advertise for bids for a 1994 Chevy Pickup Truck with Western Plow and light bar. Mrs. Bergstrom seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Chairman Poston said it has over 100,000 miles on it. He asked Mr. Lilly if he had a value.

Mr. Lilly said it was probably not worth more than junk value but the plow and light bar may be worth something.

Mr. Lilly asked if there is a way to control an instance where family members, let's say, would all put in bids, and when the high bid was awarded, the one who got it would decline and it would go to another family member who bid less.

Attorney Means said there is no system of providing a bond when you are bidding to buy something from township. He said you could possibly put some terms in the bid, and Mr. Antonelli said that is considered collusion if they do that sort of thing. He said it is illegal and Attorney Means agreed.

Mr. Heasley moved to adjourn. Motion seconded by Mrs. Bergstrom and carried.

Meeting adjourned at 8:17 P.M.

ATTEST:

TOWNSHIP OF HARRISON

Executive Secretary

By _____
President. Board of
Commissioners