

**Regular Meeting
July 25, 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, Bergstrom, Heasley and Dizard responded to roll call.

The Solicitor and Engineer were present.

Chairman advised the minutes of the June meeting were not completed.

Remarks from Visitors:

Clayton Falkner asked about the condition of the Honor Roll.

Chairman Poston said he has had several people look at it and it is specialty work. He said we cannot replace the granite because that would be too expensive.

Mr. Falkner said that is not the original lettering, and Chairman Poston said several people have checked it out but no one wants to do the work.

Mr. Falkner said the veterans' organizations should be involved, and Chairman Poston said I am also a veteran and we will get information and the work with the Legion and VFW on repairs.

Cheryl Miller, High Street, said she is new to the neighborhood and asked the speed limit on High Street. She was advised it is 25 mph in residential area.

Ms. Miller said there are three stop signs there and no one stops and they are speeding. She said it has been reported to the police.

Ms. Miller asked if you are allowed to park on Harrison Avenue as there are neighbors who park along there. She was advised to call the Secretary to check the ordinance.

Ms. Miller asked about the cemetery trees overhanging the road and it was confirmed those are on the cemetery property and their responsibility.

Mr. Miller said they are taken care of.

Caran Mazur asked the speed limit on side streets and she was advised 25 mph unless otherwise posted. Ms. Miller said she was told by a police officer that it was 25 and that she should know that if she is a driver.

Mrs. Mazur said that is too fast for residential streets and Ms. Miller agreed.

Chairman Poston said drivers do the same thing on his street.

Pam Kisiel, Caroline Street, asked how much money the Township has for blighted houses, reading the burned-out house next to her on Ivanhoe Street. She said what happens if it falls over.

Mr. Dizard said it is on the list of possible demolitions and Mr. Antonelli added that we authorized the asbestos inspection for that house when we were doing several others. He said in that respect it is ready to move forward and that we have to remove asbestos from every house that is demolished.

Chairman Poston said this one can go on the list for the next round.

Mr. Dizard advised the houses being torn down this year were approved last year. He said the state and federal funds are drying up but we did get a \$40,000 grant for two structures, and the Ivanhoe fire happened well after that was all in place. It is on the condemnation list and since the asbestos inspection is done once the legal is finalized and we have funds to do so, we can go forward.

Mrs. Kisiel said in the meanwhile we have to look at it and smell it every day.

Mr. Dizard said he has been there and is aware how close it is to the Kisiels' house.

Mr. Antonelli said there is an entire legal process to go through also and Solicitor Emily Mueller said it is due process and we must notify everyone who may have a claim against or ownership of the property.

Chairman Poston said if we don't do that and tear it down we could be sued.

Mr. Kisiel said the back porch is ready to fall.

Bill Godfrey, Walnut Street, reported on the Natrona Comes Together activities, including a children's program that brought in baby animals, and he thanked the township for the help we give them.

He said the kids did their own fundraising and voted to send someone to the carnival who had never gone because they didn't have the money for it. He said they continue work at the art wall and the community garden. He said there is a concert Thursday evening.

Phil Cottone, 10 Greenwich Street, was here about the condition of 12 Greenwich Street. He said that house is attached to it and has been abandoned for 8 to ten years. He fears that it is going to pull part of his house away because it has roof damage. Mr. Cottone said the summer kids cut the grass before but the weeds and grass are waist high. He said the house is open and he fears arson and there are possums coming from there onto his property. He said he knew this was not on a demolition list and didn't know what to do.

Mr. Antonelli said he didn't know the condition personally but knows that demolition is made more difficult when there are sharded walls.

Mr. Cottone said he doesn't want the property if they tear it down but he has rats and feels the house could fall down.

Attorney Mueller said the property owner remains responsible of the condition of the property and there are many cases where the owner is dead and no one takes care of the property. She said we would have to go through due process as with the other one discussed tonight.

Mr. Cottone said he felt the rehab costs would be too much and it would have to be demolished.

Mr. Dizard said 12 Greenwich Street is on the list of properties that we are hiring someone to look for us. He said the property is still in the owner's name and he isn't suggesting that Mr. Cottone should take responsibility for the grass and weeds. We could condemn it but we don't know when it might be done.

Mr. Dizard said we dealt with the Higgins case for years and a company bought it at sheriff sale but never even got the name changed.

Mr. Godfrey said some of the old Penn Salt houses are like this too but are in an historical district.

Mr. Dizard said the grass will be cut and Mrs. Bergstrom asked if it is boarded up. Mr. Dizard said we can do that.

Donna Frederick, Sycamore Street, sad there are weeds three or four feet tall along the mill side of Sycamore Street. She has made several calls to no avail. She said the owner should be fined.

She said some owners won't fix their properties up because that would increase taxes. She said a house on Federal Street is held up with boards.

She said she read an article about the garden wall in the paper and it said Natrona was a disadvantaged area. It shouldn't have to be designated that way.

Chairman Poston said we are putting a lot of money and effort into Natrona.

Mrs. Bergstrom said we should contact ATI about the property and Mr. Lilly said he has been trying to arrange a meeting with them regarding the railroad tracks so he will handle it.

Lindsay Fraser said they were contacted about it but they won't do anything.

Caran Mazur, Burtner Road, commended the paving done on Sylvan Avenue. She said PennDOT should take a lesson form the contractor we had.

Chairman Poston said Youngblood did an excellent job.

Mr. Dizard credited the Engineer also and said they dd a great job with the specs using their technical expertise.

Mr. Antonelli id they worked with them before and knew they did great work. He said they are a family business.

Chairman Poston said Randy was there while they were paving and said it was the best paving job he ever saw.

Mrs. Mazur said PennDOT left chunks all over where they paved and Mr. Antonelli said it is good to hear positive comments.

Rich Osiecki, Davis Street, said he was here about the condition of the Heights Plaza. He said there are deteriorating curbs, the is no garbage collection regularly and he has heard there is mold inside some of the buildings. He said the County won't do anything about it.

Chairman Poston said the owner is bankrupt, he lives in New Jersey and he does not take responsibility for his property. He said he may be going under.

Mr. Dizard said we are trying to cite them for the things that we can. He said he will probably file for bankruptcy in the spring. He said we get no response form the owner when we try to contact him.

Mrs. Bergstrom said one of the storm drains has dropped into the ground.

Chairman Poston said the few remaining tenants still pay the rent

Committee Reports:

Mrs. Bergstrom, Fire and Property and Grants, advised Hilltop had 3 fire calls and 4 training sessions and Harrison Hills advised the system is working now at Village Green. Harrison Hills had 18 calls and training sessions.

Mrs. Bergstrom said she wished we could use controlled burns for these houses to get rid of them.

She advised Citizens had 14 calls and held drills and had 282 EMS calls for the month.

Mrs. Bergstrom said she is seeking other grants for projects.

Mr. Lilly, Finance, advised there is a list of Bills Payable totaling \$65,808.73 and asked for a motion to approve. Mr. Dizard so moved. Motion seconded by Mr. Heasley and carried.

Mr. Lilly said the Bond Account invoices total \$6,852.34 and asked for a motion. Mr. Heasley moved to approve payment. Motion seconded by Mr. Dizard and carried.

Mr. Lilly read the Paid Bills to be Ratified totaling \$181,475.08 and asked for them to be approved. Mrs. Bergstrom so moved, seconded by Mr. Heasley and carried.

Ordinance and Zoning, Mr. Dizard, said under Finance, we have talked about improving cash flow. We earned \$416 in interest this year and another bank could have paid over \$800 a month. We will have to examine the proposal.

Mr. Heasley said we have an invoice from State Pipe for services totaling \$32,000 and one from Mackin Engineering for the biking and walking trail design totaling \$13,880 and asked for a motion to approve these.

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

Mr. Dizard said Norb will be off in July and when he returns we will reorganize the office. Aubrey Ozolins is getting her orientation since she began working this month in the zoning office. He said she is a real asset to the department.

He read the report for the month including 27 inspections with 11 passing, bringing in \$1,050. The total inspections for 2016 were 189 and to date we have done 240. There were 204 complaints, and zoning and permit fees were over \$2,100 and in 2016, the total for the year was \$28,000.

Mr. Dizard said this is due to the diligence of the office staff.

Permits for the month were \$7,000.

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

217	Accounted Phone calls to Records Office
354	Reported Police Support and Service Calls
18	Traffic Accidents
1	Prisoner Detained
0	Juvenile Misdemeanor/Felony Arrests
10	Adult Misdemeanor/Felony Arrests
44	Traffic Citations
15	Non-Traffic Citations
1	Ordinance Citation by Police
43	Parking Ticket

Fines collected from Allegheny County Court	696.71
Fines collected from District Court	3,578.72
Fines collected from Parking Tickets	280.00
Copies of Accident Reports Sold	105.00
Total	\$ 4,660.43
Disbursements to Police for District Court	\$ 1,025.66

Chairman Poston said officers completed training in management's rights, project lifesaver and productivity, and firearms qualifications were completed.

Chairman Poston said we hired a police officer last month contingent upon him passing all the necessary tests, and we also had an officer resign effective August 16, 2017. He said this leaves us another vacancy on the force.

He said we need a motion to tender a conditional offer of employment as a police officer to Daniel Olszewski. This is also contingent upon him passing all the necessary testing. If he does not do so, then we are also proposing to tender an offer of employment to Benjamin Azarello. Mr. Poston made the motion as stated. Motion seconded by Mr. Heasley and carried.

Mr. Heasley moved to accept Christopher Burns resignation effective August 16, 2017. Seconded by Mrs. Bergstrom and carried

Chairman Poston wished Chris all the best in his private business venture and said that he had been a good officer while on the force.

Mr. Heasley, Public Works, advised they replace manholes for the paving work, waters the newly planted trees three times, and cleared a property of 10 tons of shrubs and weeds near the steps there. He said that Youngblood completed the paving work within two weeks with time off for holiday. He commended them. Mr. Heasley said also there was a storm sewer collapse on Carlisle Street and State Pipe came in to repair it.

Chairman Poston read Resolution. No. 1763 - Authorizing handclapped parking for several addresses. Secretary read the addresses and Chairman said these need the Chief's approval. Mr. Lilly said the one at 92 Pine Street does not qualify for HP space.

Mr. Heasley moved to table the Resolution to await the Chief's recommendation. Motion seconded by Mrs. Bergstrom and carried.

Chairman Poston said the last item is to announce the receipt if \$4,406.26 in 2016 Unconventional Gas Well Funds and budgeting the same for road maintenance.

Chairman said we do not have any wells in the Township be we get funds due to others being near Harrison.

Mr. Dizard said they are in Fawn and Sarver.

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

Mr. Antonelli said we will open bids for the ADA ramps on August 23 and the demolitions on September 2. There is no date yet for the opening of bids for the Chestnut Street sewer but it will probably be in September.

Mr. Antonelli said he had the invoice from Allegheny Global in amount of \$3,665 for the 7 asbestos inspections they performed. The total is only \$165 more for three additional tests.

The asbestos is below the required levels and there is no need to abate asbestos before demolition.

Chairman Poston said it costs much more to tear down houses now because of the County requirement to have every house checked for asbestos and then the cost of the abatement.

Chairman Poston said we have Payment Request No. 1 for the paving program. There is some minor work to be completed and the total is \$301,184.21. He said that is less than the second lowest bidder in the project.

Mr. Dizard moved to approve Payment No. 1. Motion seconded by Mr. Heasley and carried.

Mr. Dizard said the Recreation Board is holding a Movie Night on August 17 at the baseball field and the First Annual Arvest Fest is scheduled for October 14 by the middle school. It should be spectacular!

Mr. Dizard said the banner program has been approved and there is no cost to the Township associated with this program.

He said that the public works department will construct a parking lot for events at the Natrona Playground. Right now, there is no place to park and this will add 30-40 spaces.

Mr. Dizard moved to adjourn. Motion seconded by Mr. Lilly.

Mrs. Bergstrom said we got bids for cutting high grass on empty lots throughout the Township. She said the Beaver Jack bid was the low bid.

Mr. Lilly said they do a good job. Bergstrom said if we don't act on this it will be another month before they can start to work.

Mr. Heasley moved to accept the bid from Beaver Jack to cut 18 lots. The list will be reviewed for any changes before they start.

Motion seconded by Mr. Lilly and carried.

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 P.M.

ATTEST:

TOWNSHIP OF HARRISON

Executive Secretary

by _____
President, Board of
Commissioners

