

**Regular Meeting
March 26, 2018**

The Regular Public Meeting of the Harrison Township Board of Commissioners was called to order at 7:30 P.M. by Chairman Heasley.

The Pledge of Allegiance was repeated.

Roll Call – Commissioners Lilly, Heasley, Bergstrom and Dizard responded to roll call. Mr. Poston was absent.

Chairman Heasley advised an executive session was held prior to the meeting regarding potential litigation.

The Solicitor and Engineer were present.

Chairman Heasley we will forego the reding of the minutes.

Chairman Heasley advised we will hold a Public Hearing and Public Meeting, under Act 141, as amended, to consider the application of Global Retail Oil, LLC, for the transfer of a liquor license to premises located at 3039 Freeport Road, Natrona Heights, PA.

Attorney Mueller said we will hear testimony from the applicant and any questions from the Board and the public. She asked anyone wishing to speak to identify themselves for the record.

Attorney Gregory Szallar, representing Global Retail Oil, presented a document to the Board.

Attorney Mueller asked if this is the floor plan of the building.

Attorney Szallar said it is a floor plan of same and Attorney Mueller said she would have it marked as Exhibit A.

Attorney Szallar said the owner of Global Retail, Mike Thakkar, is requesting the transfer of a liquor license to premises at 3039 Freeport Road. He said the liquor code allows the transfer of licenses from other municipalities if the receiving township issues a resolution. He said the LCB law requires that the application be approved unless it's a problematic property.

He said they would like to be able to sell beer at the Sunoco station and perhaps wine later.

Attorney Szallar said Mr. Thakkar has been operating the property for 12 years and there are 8 employees. With the newly proposed dining area there will be 8 full time and 4 part time employees.

He said they plan to renovate the building to prove the required dining area and will sell fresh food and ready to go food. They are required to have a minimum pf seating for 30 patrons. He said this will be nearly a \$1 million improvement to the property.

Attorney Szallar reviewed the proposed diagram of the floor plan and discussed the hours of sales of beer at the location if approved.

He said they will have a restaurant manager and all employees will be over 18 years of age. There will be carding of all patrons before sales are made.

Attorney Szallar said the dining and beer sales would be separate from the area where you pay for fuel and other items that are normally in a convenience store. There will be no smoking, no video games and no live entertainment at the premises. There may be a TV and this is not meant to be a hangout for people to go to drink.

Mrs. Bergstrom sked the location the kitchen.

Attorney Szallar said they will have an oven for cooking pizza and other counter top cooking. He showed where the preparation area would be located.

Karen Wantland, Natrona Heights, asked if the gas tanks would be removed.

Attorney Szallar said they will remain where they are and gas will still be sold as it is now.

Ms. Wantland asked about parking and Attorney Szallar said there is plenty of room and the parking lot will be improved according to Township regulations.

Mr. Dizard said the parking looks limited and Attorney Szallar said an outbuilding will be removed.

Mr. Dizard said everything will have to comply with the zoning and ordinance requirements and go before the Planning Commission.

Attorney Szallar said they are aware of that.

Mr. Dizard said they will cover all facets of the land development but we cannot address those here, only the request to transfer the license.

Chairman Heasley asked if there will be the same number of gas pumps. Attorney Szallar said yes.

Ms. Wantland sked where is your guarantee? Attorney Szallar said they will comply with Township regulations.

Ms. Wantland asked the time line and the owner said, as soon as possible.

Rich Osiecki, Davis Street, asked if they have room to expand. Attorney Szallar advised that they do. He said the building plans will go before the Planning Commission for review.

Mr. Osiecki said he did not see room for 30 cars and patrons on the property. Attorney Szallar said again that will all be considered by the Planning Commission under land development.

Mr. Dizard said the Planning Commission meetings are public and you are welcome to attend.

Attorney Szallar said handicapped parking will also be provided as required.

Mr. Dizard said the ordinance is thorough and he is sure that will be covered

Norbert Cieslinski, Natrona Heights, asked about the Board considering another license there when there is one across the street. He said there were several idle licenses in Natrona and he suspects that the

reason for this application is that there is competition from BP and Sheetz now selling beer.

Mr. Osiecki said he heard Mogeys bought the Do Drop Inn and they were going to open up and the Board should consider that too.

Tom Cajka, California Avenue, said this has to go to the Planning Commission but doesn't see where it would hurt Sheetz since another competitor is good for business.

Attorney Mueller said the Board can go onto executive session to deliberate this matter or you can vote on it now.

Mr. Dizard said to Mr. Cieslinski point how many of these kinds of places does anyone need. He said with the LCB ruling without a good reason we cannot deny an application.

Chairman Heasley asked for a motion to adopt Resolution No. 1769, approving the transfer of Restaurant Liquor License No. R-7931 into Harrison Township.

Mr. Lilly so moved. Motion seconded by Mr. Dizard. Motion carried, with Mrs. Bergstrom abstaining.

Chairman Heasley said that concludes the Public Hearing.

Jim Buss, Natrona, said he could not rent a house on Chestnut Street for two months because of the sewer construction there. He said the contractor took too long to finish that job and he lost money from no rental income. He said they left big equipment in the alleys and on his property.

Mrs. Bergstrom asked if he talked to them about it and Mr. Buss said he has photographic evidence of cracked all over the newly paved area behind his garage. He asked if he could be fined or made to pave it.

Mr. Antonelli, Engineer, said there has been an inspector on the job every day and to all his office and they can meet and sewer what the damages are.

Mr. Antonelli said they are done with the sewer work and he will make sure that all matters are addressed before the contractor gets final payment.

Mr. Buss said it is also very dusty in town from all the mill traffic. Mrs. Frederick said she has video of it.

Mr. Buss said his siding is damaged from the dirt because you cannot clean it off. He said we are between two steel mills and someone should be responsible for this.

Mr. Buss said there is a dump beside the old building on North Canal and Chairman Heasley said that is the old Acee building.

Mr. Buss said the owner doesn't do any repairs and there are trees growing out of the gutters and the property on Freeport Road is a mess too.

Mr. Dizard said he will get the zoning and ordinance officer on it.

Mr. Buss said there are uninspected vehicles and all kinds of stuff there and Mr. Dizard said they are working with the State as to what is allowed under the salvage laws.

He said this has been going on for a long time and is an eyesore.

Mr. Buss said he moved from North Canal Street because he had problems with his neighbor, Russ Hank and nothing is done about him.

Chairman Heasley asked if he had talked to anyone about these matters and Mr. Buss said no one does anything and that property is a mess. He said there are drug problems on Kuntz Street and the kids who live there must suffer. He said they are selling drugs two doors down.

He asked why people who own these places don't have to do anything about them but he does with his properties.

There should be some qualifications for housing.

Chairman Heasley said we will investigate these things.

Mr. Dizard said they are aware these matters exist and we have more leverage over a landlord than a property owner using his on and. He said property maintenance ordinances apply to these matters and some matters have been taken care of but there are still problems with other properties.

Mr. Dizard said every Commissioner has some problems like this in their areas.

Chairman Heasley called on Bruce Ringer who had no further comments.

Steve Jones, Glenn Street, said the apartment building on Neely Street is not having their garbage collected. He said it is blowing around ad he tries to pick what he can.

Chairman Heasley said the owner of the building would be responsible for the garbage collection.

Mr. Jones said he doesn't blame the tenants and Mr. Dizard said the ordinance officer can review tis matter.

Mr. Dizard said we propose to tweak the garbage and recycling ordinance. The ones with 4 or more units are not covered by the contract the Township has with Waste Management.

Chairman Heasley asked if there is a dumpster and Mr. Jones said there is not. He said the ordinance people were there and the owner is out of state. Lindsay will check on this.

Norb Cieslinski id they had Morrow before but this kept happening and Mr. Dizard said we will work with the owner.

Rich Osiecki, Davis Street, said he read where the ordinance officer is going after a man who has two diseased trees. What ordinance is this violating?

Mr. Dizard said the trees said the tress are down and they were diseased or dying. He said the property owner is responsible for the trees. He said they had Dutch Elm disease and were infectious to other elms in

the area. He said the owner was notified in November and did not cut the trees until this past week.

Mr. Dizard said the trees came down before further action was needed.

Karen Wantland, Painter Avenue, asked if the Township had been repaired by a township official who was responsible for work needing to be done on a township street.

Chairman Heasley said he made restitution to the Township and there was no expense to the Township.

Josh Nulph, Recreation Board Chairman, gave an update on their activities including the Ester Egg Hut that 130 kids attended and said the parents thanked them for a nice event.

Mr. Nulph said there will be a Touch A Truck event on May 19 at the Senior High School where kids will have the opportunity to see and feel all sorts of work vehicles up close. He said Life Flight may be there if possible too.

Mr. Nulph said they are making plans for another Harvest Fest and Christmas Festival and Natrona Bottling will be a sponsor in the amount of \$2,000. He added that Allegheny Health Network has offered sponsorship for the Christmas event. He invited everyone to come to their monthly meetings.

Chairman Heasley said the Recreation Board is doing a great job and his grandkids attended some of the events.

Mr. Nulph said there would be hot dogs and cotton candy at the truck event.

Mr. Dizard said there will be school buses and cars from Lernerville among many other vehicles. He said thousands showed up last year for the Christmas Festival.

Chairman Heasley thank Mr. Nulph for the activities they are planning.

Committee Reports:

Mrs. Bergstrom, Fire and Property ad Grants, advised Harrison Hills had 14 calls ad 4 hours of training. She did not have a report from Citizens, and Hilltop had 17 calls and various training.

Mrs. Bergstrom advised they continue to work on the volunteer firefighters tax credit ordinance.

Mrs. Bergstrom said we got a CITF Grant for the completion of the Natrona Concession Stand and the bids will open next week. She said NIRA is coordinating with the engineers for the Harrison Point development at Silver Lake. We have a \$249,000 grant for the development of the park. She said she is also looking at GEDF grants for the detailed design of the walking and biking trails and possibly another grant for

riverfront development. She said she will be meeting with County and PennDOT officials regarding the proposed bike trail along the railroad tracks which is the missing link here. This would allow us to bypass Springhill Road.

Chairman Heasley advised the Township had files an application through the State Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program, in amount of \$1 Million, which was sponsored through Rep. Frank Dermody. If funds are received it would be designated for demotion.

Mr. Lilly, Finance, advised the February Paid Bills to be Ratified totaled \$89,594.12 and asked for a motion to approve. Mrs. Bergstrom so moved. Seconded by Mr. Dizard and carried.

Mr. Lilly advised the Bills Payable are \$40,899.17 and asked for a motion to approve same.

Mr. Dizard moved, seconded by Mrs. Bergstrom and carried.

Mr. Lilly advised the 2011 Bond Account bills amount to \$60,071.67.

Mr. Dizard moved to approve these for payment. Seconded by Mrs. Bergstrom and carried.

Mr. Lilly said the last item is \$10,974.16 from the Liquid Fuel Fund for Cargill Salt. Mr. Dizard moved to approve this bill. Motion seconded by Mrs. Bergstrom and carried.

Chairman Heasley said the salt bills have been higher this year due to the winter weather we have had.

Mr. Lilly said the dust and dirt in Natrona is a problem and he is going to see what he can find out by talking with people from ATI and Harsco. We need more help from the mill with this dirt. He said we can have our Attorney look into it.

Attorney Mueller said Allegheny Department of Health would have authority over this.

Mr. Dizard, Zoning and Ordinance, said there were 30 rental inspections and 8 failed, with fees of \$1,400. He said the zoning and building fees were \$4,900 for the month. There were 48 complaints about property maintenance and rental inspections not being done.

Mr. Dizard said Lindsay Fraser is working with the Planning Commission on updating the comprehensive plan and we may decide later on to change the name of the department to Community Development and Code Enforcement.

Mr. Dizard said the Washington Financial interest rate increased to 1.33% and the rate at First Commonwealth is .49% which on \$500,000 will produce \$4,200 in interest.

Mr. Dizard said he got approval through West Penn Power to add 25 more banners and he already has commitments.

Tom Cajka said the Tree Committee has applied for more trees to be planted along California Avenue and at 12th Avenue below the stadium.

Chairman Heasley red the Police Report under Public Safety, on Mr. Poston's absence:

175	Accounted Phone Calls to Police Office
313	Reported Police Support and Service Calls
21	Traffic Accidents
2	Prisoners Detained
0	Juvenile Misdemeanor/Felony Arrest
12	Adult misdemeanors/Felony Arrests
41	Traffic Citations
17	Non-Traffic Citations
0	Ordinance Citations by Police
12	Parking Tickets

Fines collected from Allegheny County Court	397.71
Fines Collected from District Curt	2,652.25
Fines Collected from Parking Tickets	110.00
Copies of Reports	120.00
Total	\$ 3,279.96

Disbursements to Police for District Court \$ 536.10

Chairman Heasley red a letter from Chief Klein to the Rotary Club thanking them for their donation to the Police Department to purchase mobile video recorders and software.

Chairman Heasley read the Public Works report including the problem with gasoline smell at a business on Freeport Road. The DEP was notified and the Township had work done by State Pipe Services to reline the private sewer lateral to keep the fuel out of their sewer.

Potholes were filled, and hopefully, the last of the snow hit on March 21st with 9 to 10 inches of snow.

Chairman Heasley advised seven catch basins had already been repaired this year.

Engineer Ray Antonelli reviewed his letter regarding the 2018 Paving Project bids. He said A. Folino was the apparent low bidder. He recommended that the Board accept Folino's bid of \$287,496.03 which is the base bid and add-pons as listed in the letter. He said they worked here in 2016 and did a very professional job.

Mr. Antonelli said the fiber matting work is a separate project. Mrs. Bergstrom asked if we are retaining the millings and Mr. Antonelli said they are re-used by the contractors now. He said the Township used to keep them for fill but the contractor takes them now and its pretty

valuable material to them. He said it is in the terms of the bid for the contractor to take the millings.

Mr. Dizard moved to accept A. Folino's bid as explained by Mr. Antonelli. Motion seconded by Mrs. Bergstrom and carried with Mr. Lilly opposed. He said that is too much money for paving. Chairman Heasley indicated he was stating his yes vote.

Mr. Antonelli discussed that Echowood Drive is not entirely in Harrison Township. He said the bid was based on the limits shown when the Township took over the street and the paving will stop short of the Fawn Township boundary. He said Fawn Township never accepted the street.

He said the people don't pay taxes to Harrison.

Mr. Antonelli said he has a payment for the Chestnut Street Partial Sewer Separation in the amount of \$ 96,276.91. He said he didn't think the Township would have to pay as much so far as we did.

Mr. Dizard moved to approve this payment. Seconded by Mrs. Bergstrom and carried, with Mr. Lilly opposed to the payment because the contractor had not

Mr. Dizard asked if grant funds were still available and Mr. Antonelli advised that \$50,000 had been earned and about \$93,000 was still outstanding.

Mr. Buss sked if this was a storm water sewer. Mr. Antonelli said roof storm drains should be turned out and this was the partial separation of a combined sewer.

Discussion sued regarding the combined sewer system in Natrona and that most river towns still have the combination sewers. Mr. Antonelli said this work was to start to correct some of that system.

Chairman Heasley read Resolution No. 1770, Recognizing April 2018 as Local Government Month in Harrison Township as part of our Banner Community status.

Mrs. Bergstrom moved to adopt the Resolution. Motion seconded by Mr. Dizard and carried.

Chairman Heasley said the next item is to accept the Police professional Liability Insurance renewal at a cost of \$16,500 and the Public Officials and Employment Practices Liability Insurance renewal at a coat of \$19,032, both renewing May 31, 2018. This is through Greenwich Insurance, an XL Catlin Group.

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

Chairman Heasley said we have already taken care of Items 10 and 11, so the next item is to announce the HHW Collection on April 21, 2018 from 9 A.M. to 1 P.M. at the Municipal Building and to advised that registration is required through ECS&R.

He also announced there will be an Earth Day Roadway Cleanup on April 21, 2018 from 1 P.M. to 3 P.M. on various streets and roads.

Chairman Heasley advised that the Board issued Proclamations to two Eagle Scouts who live in the Township. This was done at the March 21, 2018 Agenda Meeting since they were being honored at a banquet that weekend.

The two Scouts are Cameron Babinsack and Logan Vunora. They both did community projects and Mr. Lilly said he went to the ceremony and the young men received a lot of awards from various officials. He said this is a big honor.

Mr. Dizard said the website has both of their projects shown there. Cameron worked on the veteran's memorial at the Town Square in Natrona and Logan restored the ballfields on California Avenue.

Chairman Heasley said we need a motion ratifying the emergency sewer work done at 2013 Freeport Road with that gas odor. Mr. Dizard so moved. Mr. Lilly said State Pipe should go after whoever owns the building. Motion seconded by Mr. Lilly and carried.

Lindsay Fraser thanked both Jim Buss and Karen Ruk in the audience for being such good landlords and said they have done a great job with their properties.

Chairman Heasley said we need more responsible owners like you.

Ms. Zdila asked if there were any more projects planned for Natrona this year and Mr. Antonelli said a small one for sewers where the connections are in the rear rather than the street-side.

Mr. Lilly said that is part of the reason he did not vote for the sewer work payment.

Mr. Dizard said the Chestnut Street work was mostly done with two grants we received.

Mrs. Bergstrom mentioned the barriers at Sylvan Park and that permit parking may be put into effect for the neighbors there.

Attorney Mueller said the Township can require residential permit parking at the request of residents and it has to get into the Code of Ordinances through a resolution.

Attorney Mueller said the barriers are on their private property and the Township cannot force them to remove the barriers.

Mr. Rudolph in the audience said what about the paving the Township did not too long ago, and Chairman Heasley under that 50 year old agreement the paving was done on the lower lot only since it was used by all motorists.

Attorney Mueller said it was really a series of letters and not a contract per se. She said the property owner can block off the property if they want to.

Mr. Rudolph said he was concerned about response time for emergency vehicles and police and Chairman Heasley said now they

wanted the upper parking lot paved and that was not part of the original agreement. He said the man from Sylvan blamed us for water running into their bathhouse area but it was coming off their own roof and not the street area.

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

Meeting adjourned at 9:16 P.M.

ATTEST:

TOWNSHIP OF HARRISON

Executive Secretary

By _____
President, Board of
Commissioners