

Regular Meeting
July 23, 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, Poston and Dizard responded to roll call.

The Solicitor and Engineer were present.

Chairman Heasley said we will dispense with the reading of the minutes.

Remarks from Visitors:

Phil and Kathy Cottone, Greenwich Street, asked when the house at 12 Greenwich would be torn down. They thanked Lindsay and everyone involved for getting it to this point.

Mrs. Cottone said that rats and other animals got into their home through the other house and they lost their dog to a virus relating to the wild animals that were in their home. They spent \$1,400 and did everything they could but the dog did not live.

Mrs. Cottone said that everyone should have their dogs vaccinated against the disease that killed their dog. She thanked the Board again for its efforts.

William Rudolph, 810 Burtner Road, asked about the leaf bags not being picked up on recycling day. He said he knows that his day was changed and Secretary advised that the Township takes those and they don't always follow the recycling calendar if they have big jobs going on. She said she would tell public works that he had bags out.

Mr. Rudolph said that the ladder truck has been out of service for a long while.

Mrs. Bergstrom advised they had a bad cylinder and took it to Glick for repair and they are awaiting the repairs to be completed. Mr. Rudolph asked if the repairs were under warranty and Mrs. Bergstrom said they were not.

Mr. Rudolph asked why bids were awarded at an agenda meeting. Chairman Heasley said we may have done to get the project moving. MR. Rudolph said he did not have the date but was sure it was last month.

He said it was for \$100,000 and another \$10,000 for electrical work.

Mrs. Bergstrom said that was for the contract for the concession stand and we had to act before July 6th or would have lost the grant funds. She said the bids were both higher than the grant and we took out a lot of the items to get it down to a reasonable cost. She said the materials for the electrical work cost about \$6,000 and the electrician was doing the work for free.

Mr. Rudolph said he thought the Township wasn't putting any money into the concession stand. He thought Natrona Comes Together was supposed to pay for it.

Mr. Poston said we are trying to save what has already been done and get the building into a usable condition. No one can use it because it is a shell.

Mr. Rudolph said it is the most expensive park in the County and Mr. Poston said he agreed. Mr. Lilly said he thought so too.

Mrs. Bergstrom said the electrical work in the contract was \$32,000 and we decided to go this way. Mrs. Rudolph said wasn't that grant to NCT.

Mrs. Bergstrom said it was not, it was a grant that she wrote to complete it.

Mr. Rudolph asked why you don't have to advertise for bids anymore. He said you had three prices for cutting down some trees and you took the one that was \$1,9000.

Solicitor Emily Mueller said the bidding threshold changes every year and some items do not have to be bid if they meet the threshold. She said you do have to get quotes though.

Mr. Rudolph said it seems like favoritism.

Mr. Poston said we are trying to save the money that has already been put into this project.

Mr. Dizard said the park is managed by the Township under a multi-year lease with the school district and Natrona Comes Together is a non-profit group. Mr. Rudolph said you weren't going to spend anything on the concession stand. Mr. Poston said it is mostly grant money.

Chairman Heasley said there are no other recreational areas around the Township since all the schools have been closed. There is no other place to play basketball.

Mary Jane Zdila said there will be a concert this Thursday night.

Lindsay Fraser said we do get bids but they do not have to be advertised.

Mr. Rudolph asked if the costs would be assessed against the property and Mr. Dizard said it would be but there is no one paying taxes on these properties. They are the old Brackenridge McKelvey properties.

Christy Neal, Pond Street, Natrona, said that after the construction the Chestnut Street sewer her sump pump burned up and Ray Antonelli helped

her when it needed shut off. She said they had two and may not need the other one but asked if the Township was going to replace the pump.

Mr. Antonelli explained that he just happened to be in the area when this happened, and that she would have to go after the contractor for the replacement of the sump pump. He said he could give her the contact information along with the company's insurance provider.

Mrs. Neal said she felt the Township should go to them for her and Attorney Mueller said she would personally have to file a claim with the company.

Mr. Antonelli said there was some additional work done in the area today as the resident at 55 Chestnut Street had backups and thought it had to do with the new sewer work. Ray said they found that the old line was tapped into when Neal built her house and the plumber that did it is responsible. Of course, they did not do it intentionally and their sewer line was connected on the opposite side of where it should have been. He said they determined what work needed to be done by camera inspection of the line

Mr. Antonelli said as for the sump pump she will have to file on her own and he can provide information for her assistance in doing so.

Mr. Lilly said there should be a claim against the plumber who did the work and Mr. Antonelli said it is Arnold's responsibility.

Committee Reports:

Fire and Property and Grants, Mrs. Bergstrom, advised that Hilltop Hose had 13 alarms which were all minor and that the ladder truck is out of service. She advised Harrison Hills had 19 calls and that the fire engine caught fire but it has been repaired and is back in service.

Mrs. Bergstrom said she did not receive a report from Citizens Hose this month.

Mrs. Bergstrom said we already discussed completing the concession stand, and we got a surprise grant from the County of \$81,000 which we will use on all intersections in Natrona to make them handicapped accessible.

She said we just received word from COG about the CDBG program and we may have to push that back to the September bidding cycle. She said we applied for a CITF grant for the biking and walking trail and should hear about it soon.

Mrs. Bergstrom advised that the Water Authority put in a GDEF grant application for the Karns Road water line extension.

We also have the \$250,000 grant for the Silver Lake project. Mr. Antonelli said they have the preliminary design work done and are still

looking at the foot bridges. They should be elevated because of the flow of the creek beneath them.

Mrs. Bergstrom said they are not made for cars to travel on them and Ray said an ATV could. Mrs. Bergstrom said there would be another access by the Church.

Mr. Antonelli said the pre-fab bridges are flat and about 70 feet long.

Mr. Lilly, Finance, advised he has a list of Bills Payable for July in the amount of \$33,933.60 and Mrs. Bergstrom moved to pay same. Motions seconded by Mr. Dizard and carried.

Mr. Lilly said the Bond account bills total \$16,198.14 for the Water authority, NIRA, M & M Lime and Share. Mr. Dizard moved to approve these bills. Motion seconded by Mrs. Bergstrom and carried.

Mr. Lilly read the Paid Bills to be Ratified totaling \$179,752.48. Mr. Dizard moved to approve the list. Motions seconded by Mrs. Bergstrom and carried.

Mr. Dizard, Zoning and Ordinance said this month there were 16 units inspected, and 9 failed. He said he expect that total inspections to exceed last year's totals by 2 ½ times. He said the zoning permits issued amounted to \$2,400 and permit fees, \$6,400.

Mr. Dizard said there were 105 high grass and weed complaints and we are working on the list of properties so we can get bids to cut them.

Mrs. Bergstrom asked if the insurance company allows us to have our workers to go on these properties to cut them. Mr. Dizard said there was some discussion about that. Attorney Mueller said she would have to look at the insurance policy.

Secretary advised that was what she had said, that if we hire a contractor the liability is on them and not on the Township.

Attorney Mueller said that employees do it in other places.

Mrs. Neal in the audience asked why would you pay someone to cut them? Chairman Heasley said there were 105 high grass and weed complaints and we do not have the assets to cover all of those properties.

Mrs. Neal said the residents should step up, Mr. Lilly cuts a lot of properties on his own and she cuts a couple. It would be so easy for everyone next to a vacant lot just to cut it.

Mr. Dizard said if Gary quits we are in ore trouble.

He said we are not taking responsibility for the properties but cutting them for safety. He advised there were 34 unregistered apartment rentals found since people are more observant and are letting the office know about these. Mr. Dizard said we have a list of 67 vacant structures and are working

with the Water Authority who provides information as to whether there is water usage at the property.

Mr. Dizard said there were 21 tow tags issued and we only had to tow two of the cars as the owners moved the rest of them.

He advised that Josh Nulph couldn't be here tonight but asked that I relay that the Recreation Board is holding a movie night on August 22 at the high school baseball field. They are showing "The Incredibles". He said they are working on the Harvest Festival too.

Mr. Dizard said the last of the 46 banners were installed and it really looks nice. This was all at no cost to the Township.

Mr. Gallagher in the audience asked about the fence being put up at the corner of Burtner Road and Sylvan Avenue. He said they took out some of the slats because it was hard to see around and asked if they have a permit.

Lindsay said she would check it on the morning as she had a couple of permits out for that area and one had a variance. Mr. Poston said you cannot have a solid fence in front.

Mrs. Gallagher said she is short and had a lot of trouble seeing around it.

Public Safety, Mr. Poston, read the Police Report for the month as follows:

287	Accounted Phone calls to Records Office
405	Reported Police Support and Service Calls
17	Traffic Accidents
20	PR/Community Oriented Policing Details
1	Juvenile Misdemeanor/Felony Arrest
9	Adult Misdemeanor/Felony Arrests
55	Written Traffic Violations
12	Written Non-Traffic Violations
1	Written Ordinance Violation by Police
77	Written Parking Violations by Police

Police Department Receipts;

Fines collected form Allegheny Co. Court	143.41
Fines collected form District Court Office	2,187.04
Fines collected form Parking Tickets	255.00
Copies of Reports for Insurance Companies, Etc.	255.00

Total Receipts \$ 2,840.45

Disbursements to Police for District Court Hearings \$ 1,626.75

Mr. Poston read a letter that Chief Klein sent to Kaley Bastine who ran a lemonade stand and donated the money to the police department. She is now deputized as a junior police officer!

Mr. Poston said the Board received a recommendation from Chief Klein to retain Matthew Ellinger as a regular full-time police officer effective July 30, 2018 at the end of his probationary period. He said that is under Civil; Service rules.

Mr. Poston moved to retain Officer Ellinger and to send a letter to him by July 30. Motion seconded by Mr. Dizard and carried.

Mr. Dizard said he is a good solid addition to the department and Mr. Poston said they all are.

Mr. Poston said the Chief has a quote from Malobicky to upgrade the cameras in the police department at a cost of \$1,135. Mr. Dizard moved to approve the purchase and installation. Mr. Poston seconded the motion. Motion carried with Mr. Lilly opposed. He said it does not cover the whole building and it is dumb and we are half-protected.

Mr. Poston said we are not. Mr. Lilly said we are going by an older system.

Chairman Heasley said we can check with the Chief for future additions. Chairman Heasley, Public Works, read the report for the month that Folino paved 15 streets and alleys within two weeks.; the department did an emergency repair on a 25-foot section of storm sewer on Natrona Street; they also installed a six-foot endwall on Alter Road to stop flooding there during heavy rains and it seems to be working. The department fixed another sewer at Fourth and Montana Avenue and replaced a collapsed catch basin.

Chairman Heasley read Resolution No. 1784 being: Authorizing two handclapped parking spaces at 77 River Avenue and 37 Natrona Street.

Mr. Lilly said he reviewed the one on River Avenue and she is 86 years old, and Ms. Miller needs one also.

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

Chairman Heasley read Resolution No. 1785 – Authorizing Residential Permit parking on Poplar Street.

MR. Poston said the resident said people going to the parts store and Phillippi's and Ekas service center are parking on the street and sidewalk.

Mr. Dizard moved to adopt the Resolution. Motion seconded by Mrs. Bergstrom and carried, with Mr. Lilly opposed. He said the permit parking around Sylvan will cause problems when they have swim events.

Chairman Heasley said he talked with Mr. Christopher and they are okay.

Chairman Heasley read Resolution No. 1786 – Authorizing correcting amendments to the Civil Service Rules and Regulations.

Attorney Mueller said they had amended the Rules in February and we found to corrections that should be made.

Mr. Dizard moved to adopt Resolution No. 1786. Seconded by Mrs. Bergstrom and carried.

Chairman Heasley said the next item is to advise of the receipt and proposed use for road maintenance of \$6,064.16 for the year 2017.

Item 10 had already been acted upon.

Chairman Heasley said the next item is to act on the recommendation of the Township Engineer to approve partial Payment No. 1 for the 2018 Road Program, to A. Folino Construction, in the amount of \$261,455.95.

Mr. Antonelli advised there is a 10% retained for some restoration work.

Mr. Poston moved to approve the payment. Motion seconded by Mr. Lilly and carried.

Chairman Heasley said the last item is to authorize advertisement of an ordinance amending the garbage and recycling collection ordinance.

Attorney Mueller said this corrects changes in collection days and some residential units in commercial establishments.

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

Mr. Dizard said the free Savvy Citizen program ended June 30th and it is \$199 per month to go forward. He said we are mailing information about the app with the sewer bills and said we should wait until the other people receive their notices to see how many will use it. Mr. Poston so moved. Motion seconded by Mr. Lilly and carried.

Mr. Poston asked the audience how many of them use it and a few people said they did.

Mr. Rudolph said all the same information is on your website and Mr. Dizard said we will consider that.

Mr. Antonelli said the COG has a two-hour meeting scheduled for July 25th which he will attend. It concerns the CD program. He said they have begun working on the stormwater management ordinance.

Mr. Antonelli said they are also working on another segment if the Chestnut Street sewer. He said he only had one proposal for the Pitt Alley sewer work and it looks like we will have to advertise for buds.

Mr. Dizard said we can still get the work on this year and Ray said he felt we could. We may have to cold patch it until spring.

Mr. Antonelli said he needs a brief executive session with the Board following the meeting on a matter that may involve litigation.

Mrs. Bergstrom asked what is going on with Echowood Drive and Ray said nothing. He said our paving only covered the area that we own.

Mrs. Bergstrom said a supervisor called her and said this is a boundary dispute. She said that three houses are affected. They pay their taxes to Harrison Township. She said the Township has salted and plowed the entire length for many years.

Mr. Antonelli said it went beyond what the records show the Township accepted.

Chairman Heasley said we did the part we own to the Township line and the rest of the street is in Fawn.

Mrs. Bergstrom asked if we can accept it. Mr. Antonelli said it is not in Harrison Township.

He said he talked with Fawn before we paved and asked if they want us to pave it and they could pay for it but they did not want any paving done on their portion.

Lindsay Fraser] said there is a similar matter at Mile Lock Lane as to whether it is Harrison or Brackenridge. Ray said that is a different matter. Mr. Poston said we had it surveyed before. He said, and Mr. Heasley agreed, that the portion in question is definitely in Brackenridge.

Mr. Dizard said the W. PA Conservancy has offered us a grant for tree planting and a green infrastructure project. There is a \$125,000 grant and no cost to the Township. Clairton is also receiving the same grant.

Mrs. Bergstrom said this is a result of Tom Cajka's work.

Mr. Lilly said the Greenwich Street demolition could be done this week. Mr. Dizard said the delay was due to the County inspection.

Mr. Rudolph said he wanted to make it clear that he is not against the Board's action, you are doing a good job.

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 P.M.

ATTEST:

TOWNSHIP OF HARRISON

Executive Secretary

By _____
President, Board of
Commissioners