

Township of Harrison Board of Commissioners Regular Meeting

August 27, 2018

Harrison Township Board of Commissioners Regular Public Meeting was called to order at 7:30pm, August 27, 2018 by Chairman Heasley.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

The minutes of the previous meeting are posted on the Harrison Township website.

Roll Call—Commissioners Bergstrom; Dizard; Heasley; Lilly; and Poston were present.

REMARKS FROM VISITORS

Karen Meanor: 5th Street and Dorothy Schroll: 4th Street, stated that they keep the Board of Commissioners, police department and their families in their prayers. Bandanas printed with Psalm 91 (the psalm of protection) were purchased and will be distributed to the 13 police officers. Chairman Heasley thanked them both.

Bill Godfrey: Natrona Comes Together, reported that the summer has been fun-filled with children's classes, a climbing wall, animals, and many activities. The events were well attended, the children well behaved, and 200 volunteers from across the county helped. The concert series featured Grammy nominee: Woods Family Band. DJ Bugger is scheduled to perform. Mr. Godfrey expressed his thanks to the Commissioners and especially Ms. Bergstrom for all their efforts in obtaining grants and completing the concession stand.

Jim Pitkavish, Bill Murray, & Mr. & Mrs. Lang: Poplar Street, questioned why there is now permit parking on the street. Mr. Heasley stated he was under the impression the majority residents felt this was needed. The attending residents agreed they were never contacted and are very unhappy with the situation. They state one resident requested the action, but there is really no issue with parking. Chief Klein will be asked to look at the street again and assess whether permit parking is actually needed. Once the information is obtained, the ordinance could be rescinded.

Ben Roth: manager at Grover Realty, stated he is unhappy with the interaction with the zoning office and fees associated with rental inspections. He stated his company is very responsible with their properties and the ordinances. They have had 2 midnight move outs in the past 6 months and questioned why the residence would need re-inspected. Mr. Roth asked that the Board consider new Resolutions adjusting the fees for inspections every three years when the tenant has not changed, and for when the landlord has tenants that move out within a certain period of time. Ms. Fraser agreed that the \$50 fee for a second inspection within a year could be reduced. Mr. Dizard and Ms. Fraser will discuss this, and a decision will be made for Board consideration.

Joe Imm: Chestnut Street, stated that he is still having sewage issues in his basement, 7 days a week and 24 hours a day. He removes buckets of waste, daily. He requests that the township does something to fix the line. The issue occurred when the sewer line was replaced. Mr. Antonelli said he was aware of the situation and suggested that the township hire a contractor to connect Mr. Imm's home to the lateral that is in place. Currently, there is no one else with this issue. The Board unanimously voted on a motion to accept bids not to exceed \$10,000 and proceed as quickly as possible.

Mary Jane Zdila: Linden Street, acknowledged Deb Maylo for her efforts in maintaining several lots in the Natrona community. She also thanked Mr. Lilly for his efforts and donations to Ms. Maylo for fuel in her mower.

Jim Erb: Citizens Hose Fire Company, read a proclamation for Faith Payne. The Company thanks her for her over 45 years of continued support and going above and beyond. He also suggested that if Ms. Payne has free time on her hands during her retirement, they could use her expertise.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Fire and Property and Grants: Ms. Bergstrom

The township has received a \$500,000 grant for demolition of blighted properties from Governor Wolfe. It must be accepted in writing within 30 days. Zoning and Ordinance is compiling a list of demolition candidates. Mr. Dizard explained that the application process is complicated, and the township incurs the cost and will then be reimbursed.

Bids will be accepted for the \$83,000 grant for handicap ramps in the Natrona area.

Mr. Antonelli is working on the Greenway Trails project involving the \$250, 000 grant.

The Natrona Park concession and bathroom construction is being finalized regarding the \$100,000 grant.

A grant is being pursued for handicap ramps along Broadview Boulevard.

Citizens Hose Fire Company had 12 fire calls; 172 EMS calls-non-emergency; 112 EMS calls-emergency.

Harrison Hills Fire Company had 22 fire calls and 16 hours of training.

Hilltop Hose Fire Company had 14 alarms. They are requesting a Burn Permit for property at Job's Hole. The company will host a ventilation and structural course with the support of CCAC. A request for financial support from the township was unanimously approved after the motion, not to exceed \$3,000.

Finance: Gary Lilly

The August bills for paint, tires, hardware, supplies, etc. are \$61,759.41. A motion was made, seconded and passed unanimously to pay this amount.

The bond account payment is \$54,505.45 for State Street pipe repair, water authority and Allegheny Lumber.

The board was asked to ratify bills for \$112,600.02. Motion was carried unanimously.

Zoning and Ordinance: Chuck Dizard

Currently, Lindsay Frazer is completing all rental inspections. This month 28 inspections were done, with 15 passing and 13 failing, generating \$1,200. Generally, health and safety issues are the focus.

There were 330 complaints this month, comprised of 29 Accumulation; 23 Demolition candidates; 71 High Grass and Weeds; 72 Maintenance; 14 Unregistered Rentals; & 91 Vacant Properties. 18 Tow Tags were issued. In the past 18 months, 300 vehicles have been tagged.

The trees on 9th Avenue are scheduled to be trimmed this week by Beaver Jack.

As of August 24th, the mortgage company for Heights Plaza has filed for foreclosure and receivership. They are planning on employing a management company that specializes in distressed shopping centers. With a starting budget of one million dollars, the area should experience some relief regarding the plaza.

S & A Homes Senior Living has altered their plans to 30 units. This will allow for more parking and garden areas for the residents.

Regarding grass cutting, to date, no bids have been received. With the conditions of the lots, the activity would be more cleanup than grass cutting. This late in the season, the lots may not be cut. Per our insurance, the public works department is not permitted to do work on private property.

The township has attempted to hire Jim Desmone as a 1099 employee to facilitate the rental inspections. Mr. Desmone does not have insurance to satisfy the position. A motion passed unanimously to hire him as an employee at a rate of \$30 for original inspection and \$15 for an additional inspection. This will place Mr. Desmond under the township's insurance.

Public Safety: William Poston

Police report

234	Phone calls to records office	69	Traffic violations
364	Support & service calls	14	Non-Traffic violations
13	Traffic accidents	3	Ordinance violations
1	Prisoner	47	Parking violations
12	Adult Misdemeanor/Felony arrests		

Total receipts \$3118.29;

Total disbursements \$734.16

Chief Klein has recommended that Daniel Olszewski be retained as a regular full-time police officer effective August 29, 2018 at the end of his probationary period. The motion was carried unanimously.

Mr. Poston read a letter received by Walmart Academy thanking the Police Department for their time and suggestions regarding Active Shooter Awareness. He stated that Walmart has been very generous to the department, with grants for vests.

Kathleen Bastine: Liberty Avenue raised a total of \$856 with her lemonade stand for the Police Department. Chief Klein sent her a letter of appreciation and thanks.

Officer Helgert highly commended Officer Cottone & Daniel Olszewski for their efforts to attempt to revive a 31-year-old male in Natrona recently. Citizens Hose Fire Company was unable to respond, and our officers arrived within 4 minutes to assist. CPR was administered to no avail.

Chief Klein has received information that the township is able to receive last year's price (\$27,500 vs. \$32,275) on new police vehicles if ordered by September 21st. Generally, the vehicles are delivered about 90 days after being ordered. This time table could coordinate with the 2019 budget. A motion to pursue the purchase was carried without objection.

A motion passed unanimously to hire Justin Westmoreland as a part time crossing guard at \$11.00 per hour.

Public Works: William Heasley

Catch basins were installed on Union, Elm, and 12th.

Randy Martinka will monitor Alter Road since the repairs have been completed.

4 yards of concrete were poured on Elm.

Hot mix was applied on Pennsylvania & Neely.

Stop sign markings and arrows were painted on Freeport Road and by the schools.

Chairman Heasley read the following Ordinances and Resolutions. Each ordinance passed unanimously once a motion was introduced and seconded.

Ordinance No.1999-Amending requirements for solid waste disposal and collection

Ordinance No. 2000-Creating the Office of Township Manager

Resolution No. 1787-Authorizing the Stormwater Management Ordinance Grant from Allegheny County in amount of \$2,000

Resolution No. 1788-Amending certain building and zoning related fees

Resolution No. 1789-Authorizing an agreement with Public Partners to retain through them: Richard Hadley, retroactive to August 22, 2018, to act as Interim Township Manager at a rate of \$100.00 per hour up to 20 hours a week

A motion passed unanimously to initiate storm sewer line installation on Pitt Alley and Lane Avenue. There are no storm sewers there and the water is infiltrating the sanitary lines. The contract was awarded to CRS Contracting with a low bid of \$83,000.

A motion was made and carried without objection to pay the third quarter allocations of \$1,250 to each of the 3 local fire companies.

The Non-uniformed pension plan MMO is \$28,579. The Police Pension Plan MMO is \$136,386.

A motion was introduced, seconded and passed without objection to authorize the engineer to prepared CDBG year 44 pre-applications continuation of the Chestnut Street sewer.

Electric signs have been installed at Burtner Road as a response from PennDOT regarding our request for a traffic study.

A motion carried unanimously to extend Savvy Citizen for another month. Flyers will be place in the sewage bills going out this week. Currently, there are 883 subscribers.

Final payment of \$4,037.86 to Steve Zendarski for electrical work on the concession stand was authorized by unanimous motion.

A motion passed unanimously to approve a loan with Laurel Capital for \$122,750 to finance a portion of a new street sweeper purchased as \$247,000.

Mr. Richard Hadley, interim township manager was named Right to Know Officer by motion that passed with no objection.

Chairman Heasley presented Faith Payne with a plaque from the township for her over 45 years of service. The inscription thanks Ms. Payne for her dedicated service and for making Harrison Township a better place to live. The audience echoed the sentiment with an extended round of

applause. Everyone was invited to stay after the meeting, greet Faith and share refreshments and cake.

Mr. Antonelli requested a brief executive board session after the meeting. The Township Engineer's report is attached. Highlights are:

- Natrona sewer system improvements

- ADA curb ramps at eight locations

- EPA consent order involving the Infiltration & Inflow Elimination Program

- Proposed Silver Lake expansion and hiking trail

- Pitt Alley and Lane Avenue storm sewer project

- Allegheny County Stormwater Management Ordinance

- Chest street partial sewer separation project

Attorney Steve Yacopec addressed the board regarding Echowood. He stated there are three different boundary lines. Mr. Yacopec requested a meeting with Fawn Township and Harrison Township engineers, solicitors, and supervisors to discuss how to resolve the issue of the boundaries.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:55pm

Respectfully submitted,

Jody L Lamison

