

Regular Meeting
June 22, 2015

Chairman Poston called the Meeting to order at 7:30 P.M.

The Pledge of Allegiance was repeated.

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

The Solicitor and Engineer were present.

Chairman Poston dispensed with the reading of minutes as each Board Member received a copy of the previous meeting minutes.

Remarks from Visitors:

Glenn Parker of 108 Pleasantville Road said that ever since the Township diverted the sanitary sewer across the country club his house has been receiving sewer backups. He said he lived there more than 20 years without any trouble. He said the first time last week he had three inches of sewage and then 10 to 12 inches the second time.

Mr. Antonelli said he is tied into the Sanitary Authority's line not a township sewer. Chairman Poston agreed and asked how far his house is from the sewer line.

Mr. Baker said about 20 feet.

Mr. Baker said when it occurred last year he asked the UAJSA for a backflow preventer.

Mr. Antonelli said they don't come with any guarantees but they can help.

Mr. Mitchell said last year he talked to Jeff Davis at the Authority and he got shot down on any help for Mr. Baker.

Chairman Poston said he'd have to go back to the Authority since it is not our line. He asked Mr. Antonelli if he could contact them and see what they can do. Mr. Antonelli said he would send them a letter, and Chairman Poston said a phone call may be better.

Mr. Antonelli said Chuck Dizard is a township representative on the sanitary authority. He said he will discuss this problem with the authority.

Chairman Poston said we need to get it resolved and added that 9 inches of rain doesn't help. He said we will do something.

Bob Kennihan, Old Freeport Road, said Gillette moved a few trucks and things around from one place to another but hasn't done much.

Chairman Poston said the Gillette's were cited for 2954 Old Freeport Road and 900 Olive Avenue. He said Bill Murray was cited also.

Mr. Kennihan said another guy is moving heavy equipment onto the lot back there where the house burned down. He said he thought it was 3021 Old Freeport Road.

Chairman Poston asked if we got anything from the Health Department about Murray living there without water. Secretary advised she did not receive anything from them.

Chairman Poston said we put one drop of water where it doesn't belong and the County jumps on us but this kind of thing they do nothing about. He said we are staying on top of these matters.

Mr. Kennihan said if they are paying fines they must not be high enough. Solicitor Means said the Magistrate sets the fines at the hearing. Chairman Poston agreed they may not be enough, so the people pay the fines and continue the problem. It must be cheaper than cleaning up.

Chairman Poston said this subject is getting old without any resolution.

Bob Betts, Karns Road, said during the storms the drains didn't take the water and they are plugged up with mud. He said it is because the drains are too high.

Chairman Poston said we went over this before and asked why Mr. Betts doesn't call the Township when this is happening. He said you have never once called here.

Mr. Betts said the drains spilled over two or three times during the last storm.

Mrs. Bergstrom said when she was there the rain had subsided and there was mud on the rod but it looked like the drains took the water.

Chairman Poston advised we clean them after every big storm because they do fill with debris.

Mrs. Bergstrom said Mr. Nicholeavich who works for PennDOT suggested putting rocks behind the catch basin.

Mr. Betts said they were all flooded down there.

Mr. Antonelli said the catch basins have to be at the curb line. He said he has never seen the area that he is talking about.

Chairman Poston said we have checked it out and the drains take the water.

Mr. Antonelli suggested maybe a domed catch basin would help.

Chairman Poston said that PennDOT has run this water down off the hillside from Burtner Road above Karns.

Mr. Betts asked who gave them permission to run the water that way?

Mr. Antonelli said no one would have. The State goes by its own rules on its roads and he had never seen anyone beat them on an issue like this.

Chairman Poston said recently they were trying to get legislation that would make every municipality responsible for the water that comes off the expressways. He said that was defeated.

Mrs. Bergstrom asked about Mr. Antonelli's idea of a domed catch basin. Ray said he hasn't seen it and would have to look at the way it is set up.

Mr. Betts said there was mud and rocks and the water couldn't get through.

Chairman Poston said George Conroy spent over \$100,000 down there to try to resolve the drainage.

Mrs. Bergstrom said when she was down there she noted that at least one house nearby did not have downspouts. That may help take some of the water away from his foundation.

Mr. Betts said he has French drains and a thick foundation and he still gets flooded. He said he has had rooms ruined by this water. He also said that grass is growing in the manholes and that means they have not been cleaned.

Chairman Poston said we tried to get Frank Dermody to help us but the State just said they do not have the money to correct this problem. Chairman Poston asked Ray to look at this and give us his opinion.

Chairman Poston said the only real solution is to get PennDOT to control their drainage because this is not our storm water. They have pied it down the hillside from above.

He added that they can do whatever they want.

Mr. Betts said he pays his taxes.

Bill Godfrey, 20 Walnut Street, said he would like to present the report on the Natrona activities. He said they had a very successful tour with the Pittsburgh History and Landmarks people and it was well-received.

Bill said they did the river cleanup this last Saturday and there was a nice article in the paper. He said the street light is out in one area and asked who to call to get it fixes. He was advised that anyone can call West Penn Power when a street light is out.

Mr. Godfrey said they have planted flowers and working in the community garden, along with the basketball tournament through the cancer institute that was there last Saturday. He said the first rock concert is this Thursday night. He said they got a grant for the community garden and got equipment and a picnic table. Bill advised the community flea market is this coming Saturday and everyone is welcome.

Mr. Godfrey advised the children's summer program is underway.

He asked why the Board was concerned about their use of grant money. Bill said when you apply for a grant you list everything you want to do with it, and that is how it has to be spent. He said it is a legal document and Natrona Comes together does not have to answer to the Township for its grant money.

Chairman Poston agreed unless it was funneled through the Township.

Mr. Godfrey said Mr. Lilly was concerned about us using grant money for an artist but that was a part of the grant.

Chairman Poston asked Mrs. Bergstrom and Mr. Dizard if they were not supposed to be the connection between the Township and Natrona Comes Together. Mrs. Bergstrom said yes, and Mr. Dizard said he is just a volunteer.

Chairman Poston said Lilly was talking about say if they got a \$200,000 grant that the Township does not have any overseer over the use of the funds. He asked who signs the checks.

Mrs. Pat Walters said they have an audit every \year and anyone can look at the books. She said they have to do so for grants. She said that two people sign the checks.

Chairman Poston said he agreed that we do not have any say when they get their grants.

Mr. Heasley asked if they have clearances for people working with children under the new law.

Mrs. Walters said they do. Mr. Godfrey said we go them already.

Mr. Heasley said you should have them on file for anyone who needs them so you are protected and Mr. Godfrey agreed.

Mr. Heasley said all contractors who do work at the schools have to have the clearances.

Mr. Godfrey said if the free lunch program is going to happen this year.

Chairman Poston said we did not know until Thursday night that there was a problem. He said Mr. Lilly told us about two people who already could not do the job and he was waiting to hear from a third on Friday. We did not get anything from him before he left for Denver.

He said we could have done something if we knew sooner what was going on.

Pat Walters said we suggested people to Mr. Lilly but he did not act on those names.

Mr. Godfrey said he had a call from someone upset because there is no lunch program and that may be the only meals some kids get during the day.

Mrs. Bergstrom suggested that Natrona Comes Together jump in and see what they can do.

Mrs. Walters said the first woman who was already hired for the program got another job and never told Gary.

Mrs. Walters said she has the summer program set up that usually just followed with the kids who came to the lunch program.

Mr. Poston said the only thing we knew was that someone damaged the tables and Randy fixed them to make them useable.

Mrs. Walters thanked the Township for getting that done.

Mr. Godfrey said he felt there should be more lighting around the park. Chairman Poston said that was discussed early on and probably the people living right there would not want to be lit up like a stadium.

Mr. Godfrey said the kid who damaged the tables came to his door and apologized.

Mr. Heasley asked who provides the lunch program. Mrs. Walters advised Allegheny County. She said she will call a person she knows there and see if there is anything they can do to get a worker.

Chairman Poston said Mr. Erb from Citizens was at our meeting Thursday and discussed the clearances that are needed by July 1 for certain employees and volunteers. He said that seemed like really short notice.

Solicitor Means said if the Township uses employees or volunteers who work children they are needed. He said I sent a letter to Faith about that last month.

Mr. Mitchell said the fire companies have open house activities for kids and they would need the clearances. He said that Hilltop never got a letter about this although Citizens and Harrison Hills did. He said he believes they can get the clearances done at no cost now. He said everyone can get background checks instantly online.

Mr. Antolnelli said he recently applied for FBI clearance and had it within a week.

Committee Reports:

Mr. Mitchell reporting for Fire and Property, read three months' of reports from all three companies regarding their fire calls, ambulance service calls, training and other activities.

He said that all three companies, the police and various county units had a mock vehicles crash at St. Joe's last month prior to the prom for student safety.

Mrs. Bergstrom, reporting for Finance, read the list of Paid Bills to be Ratified in the amount of \$69,892.60 which included payrolls and utility and maintenance bills. She moved to approve this list. Motion seconded by Mr. Heasley and carried.

Mrs. Bergstrom read the list of Bills Payable for June in the amount of \$41,056.72 which includes road work costs, engineering, and traffic signal

repairs. Mrs. Bergstrom moved to approve these bills for payment. Motion seconded by Mr. Heasley and carried.

Mrs. Bergstrom said the list of bills from the Bond Account totals \$12,925.75. She said this includes a lot of stone, sewer acid –we must have a lot of roots in town – and hardware. Mr. Heasley said this was all farmland. Mrs. Bergstrom moved to approve payment. Seconded by Mr. Heasley and carried.

Mrs. Bergstrom said we are at the six month point soon and will have a report to review how we have done for the first six months.

Chairman Poston, reporting for Public Safety, read the Police Report for the month of May 2015 as follows:

206	Accounted Phone calls to office
472	Reported Police Support and Service Calls
21	Traffic Accidents
0	Prisoners detained
0	Juveniles detained
81	Traffic Citations
11	Non-Traffic Citations
2	Ordinance Citations
41	Parking Tickets
6	Misdemeanor/Felony Warrants
	Fines collected from Allegheny Co. Court 1,092.31
	Fines collected from magistrate's Office 4,062.31
	Parking Ticket Fines 215.00
	Copies of Accident Reports 270.00
	Total receipts \$ 5,639.62
	Disbursements to Police for District Court Hearings 0

Chairman Poston advised he had a certificate for Neal Mackowski for writing the most tickets during Aggressive Driving Enforcement activities last year and one for the entire department for their efforts in the same program.

Mr. Heasley, reporting for public Works, advised that the department installed or repaired catch basins all over the Township. He said there were 8 mud slides on Karns Rod during the recent storms and they had 3 trees down over the roadways.

He said they kept an eye on both pump stations since they were working hard during the storms, and also had to pump out the sewers in the

Sylvan Pool area when it started to flood last week. There were several other areas around the township that they had to deal with road flooding.

Mr. Easley said they were fixing a buried manhole on 11th Avenue that had been paved over at least twice.

Chairman Poston said we have 8 or 9 inches of rain during those storms. He said he felt we did really well considering all the trouble we used to have. He said all that sewer work we have done has paid off. Some of it was forced through the EPA consent order.

Mr. Heasley said we also had two letters of commendation for the Public Works Department for work they did.

In Mr. Lilly's absence, Chairman Poston read the Ordinance and Zoning report for the month, including project costs of \$1,045,798; zoning permits issued totaling \$1,630, and plan review of \$510. Building permits totaled \$5,896 for a grand total of \$8,036 in fees paid.

Chairman Poston said we have discussed a plan to charge banks and others that leave these houses sit and will not maintain the property with a flat rate to charge them and then lien the property. He said he also wants to look into starting a land bank so we don't lose all the value of these properties when we tear down the houses. He said these side lots are going for too cheaply.

Chairman Poston read Ordinance No 1979 being: An Ordinance Amending Chapter 27 of the Code of Ordinances by regulating electronic variable and directional signs.

Mr. Heasley moved to enact this Ordinance. Motion seconded by Mr. Mitchell and carried.

Chairman Poston advised Resolution Ho. 1686 will extend the life of the Harrison Township Water Authority by fifty years. He said it would have originally expired this year.

Mr. Mitchell moved to adopt Resolution No. 1686. Motion seconded by Mr. Heasley and carried.

Chairman Poston advised we have two 1994 dump trucks that are in bad shape. They look great because they have fiberglass bodies but they are shot mechanically. He said we have a bid through the State contract from A & H equipment in the amount of \$113,808 to buy one truck. He said we should have replaced at least one of these trucks long ago.

Mr. Heasley moved to approve the purchase of the dump truck. Motion seconded by Mr. Mitchell and carried.

Chairman Poston said on demolition through COG we have one on Vine, one on Philadelphia. Lincoln Street, 4th Street and 1st Street. Gary added the one at 54 Center so we may as well include it and see what kind of bid we

get. He said we have word from the Solicitor's office that all parties have been sent letters that we intend to demolish the structures, and the clearance is effective around July 13. Then they can release the letter COG needs for the county to clear these for demolition. He said we only have \$20,000 towards the costs and probably can't do two for that amount. Attorney Means said the COG will do the bidding procedures.

Mr. Antonelli said he will let the COG know which bid cycle we want to be included in to get this moving. He said they bid all the demolition projects together with other towns.

Chairman Poston asked if we can go ahead before the clearance date.

Mr. Antonelli said they can go forward as the date will pass before the bids are out.

Chairman Poston said we pay COG the highest dues, of about \$12,500 per year and get back \$20,000 every other year. We are paying \$24,000 to get \$10,000.

Mr. Antonelli advised there is no asbestos abatement required by the County due to the position of the structures proposed to be demolished so we won't have those costs.

Mr. Mitchell moved to adjourn. Motion seconded by Mrs. Bergstrom. Meeting adjourned at 8:27 P.M.

Attest:

TOWNSHIP OF HARRISON

Executive Secretary

By _____
President, Board of
Commissioners