Harrison Township Board of Commissioners
Regular Public Meeting
April 22, 2019

The Harrison Township Board of Commissioners Meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m., by Chairman William Heasley.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Commissioners William Heasley, William Poston, Gary Lilly, Robin Bergstrom and Chuck Dizard were present. Township Solicitor Emily Mueller and Township Engineer Raymond Antonelli, Jr. were also present.

Chairman Heasley announced that the Board of Commissioners held an Executive Session prior to the Regular Public Meeting, to discuss legal issues.

Ch. Heasley dismissed reading the minutes from the March 28, 2019 Regular Meeting, and announced that they are posted on the Harrison Township website.

REMARKS FROM VISITORS

Guy Delusio spoke regarding sidewalks along the highway, to get to the mall. He feels it's dangerous, he sees kids, people with strollers and in wheelchairs walking along the highway.

Mr. Poston PENNDOT has right of ways on both sides of the road. The businesses along the highway extend out to the highway.

Mrs. Bergstrom said that the Township is trying to get grant money to do this.

Attorney Mueller stated that you cannot put a sidewalk in the right of way, and you can't force the property owners to have a sidewalk. The Township is asking that when any new development does come in, we're encouraging them to put sidewalks in. Right now, it's not a requirement.

Ch. Heasley said we know it's dangerous, but we can't force people or businesses. It would be safer for people to walk along Old Freeport Road rather than along the highway.

Karen Meanor, announced that she is representing the National Day of Prayer. One of the areas we pray for is our government. I'm here for support, and to say that I appreciate what all of you do. We pray for you and your families. In 1988, our President Ronald Reagan, declared May 2nd of every year to be the National Day of Prayer. This has been written into law. I think we need prayer and help. Mrs. Meanor passed out brochures regarding the National Day of Prayer. There's seven different areas that we pray for.

The Board thanked Mrs. Meanor for her prayers and support.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Fire, Property and Grants: Mrs. Bergstrom said that she was asked to go the RACP Meeting and present to their Board a project she submitted for $100,000 on the CITF grant for the next level design for the Biking/Walking Corridor Phase I, which is Milelock Lane to Springhill Road.

Mr. Dizard said the $78,000 grant for the demolitions, once we the official award letter from the COG, before they can go out to bid, we have to be able to the have the asbestos certification from the engineers. That grant was awarded for five specific properties. One of them on Ivanhoe, which has already had the asbestos inspection. The Solicitor did the deed survey. It's old and will probably have to be done again. The Solicitor won't do the deed surveys until we're closer. We need the asbestos and condemnation inspections.

Ch. Heasley asked if he asbestos removal can be paid out of the $78,000.

Mr. Dizard said no, and that he did give to Rich, the company that did the asbestos on the previous places. The other four properties are in Natrona.

Mrs. Bergstrom said if we get the grant for $100,000, the total grants we've received in the last five years is 2.9 million dollars.

Mrs. Bergstrom read monthly reports from Citizens Hose Fire Co., Harrison Hills Fire Co. and Hilltop Hose Fire Co. She announced that the ladder truck is out of service. We have backups on standby. We had a fire in Sheldon Park today, all three fire companies were there. Mrs. Bergstrom also announced that the Citizens Hose Fire Co. drive is on, and it's due at the end of the month.

Mr. Heasley commended Mrs. Bergstrom for all of her work on the grants.

Finance: Mr. Dizard we just got these bills, so I haven't had a chance to look at them carefully. The bills to be ratified for March, 2019 amounts to $78,675.62. Mrs. Begstrom moved to ratify these bills. Seconded by Mr. Poston. Motion carried.

General Fund bills payable for April, 2019 - $56,240.55. Mr. Poston moved to approve the bills payable. Seconded by Mr. Lilly. Motion carried.

Bond Account bills payable for April 2019 - $68,791.19. Mr. Poston moved to approve. Seconded by Mr. Lilly. Motion carried.

Mr. Dizard requested that the monthly Engineering and Legal invoices be sent to the Board.

Zoning and Ordinance: Mr. Lilly read the Zoning/Ordinance Report for the period of March 22 through April 22, 2019.

Public Safety: Mr. Poston read the Police Report for the month of March, 2019.

Mr. Poston said just like the firemen, the police are in constant training also. In our audience, we have our District Justice, Carolyn Bengel. I would like to mention what a great job she's doing.

Public Works: Ch. Heasley read the Public Works report for the month of March, 2019.

Engineer's Report: Mr. Antonelli announced that the Lane Avenue storm sewer project will start next week.

Mr. Antonelli submitted a letter and invoice regarding the Pond Street/Penn Street Sewer Re-Routing project. The invoice from Drnach Environmental, Inc. in amount of $1,304.00 for March, 2019, and recommends payment. Mr. Dizard moved to approve payment of this invoice. Seconded by Mrs. Bergstrom. Motion carried.

The Community Development Block Grant projects, there are two currently underway in Natrona for ADA Handicapped Sidewalk Ramps. It's the same contractor doing both contracts. This is Phase I. This is grant money, the Township has a small investment of about $600 in the Phase II Contract, but nothing in Phase I. The payments will be made by AVNCOG, they want the Township to approve the payment. I did inspect all of these ramps last week. There's some punch list work to be done.

Mr. Dizard asked the Engineer if the 10% that we're holding back, is enough money to cover the things that aren't done to spec?

Mr. Antonelli said I believe it is. They also have a performance bond. He's a local contractor and we know where to find him. I think the 10% is sufficient to cover the remaining punch list.

Mr. Lilly asked if he ramps are all at the right angle, and the way they're supposed to be?

Mr. Antonelli said yes.

Mr. Dizard moved that the Township approve, as the beneficiary of the Community Development Block Grant, that payment be made to Ron Gillette, Inc., in amount of $34,735.93, Payment No. 1 for the ADA Handicapped Sidewalk Ramps, by Allegheny Valley North Council of Governments, per recommendation of Township Engineer. Seconded by Mrs. Bergstrom. Motion carried. Mr. Lilly opposed.

Mr. Dizard moved that the Township approve, as the beneficiary of the Community Development Block Grant, that payment be made to Ron Gillette, Inc., in amount of $37,695.26, Payment No. 1 for the ADA Handicapped Sidewalk Ramps, Phase II, by Allegheny Valley North Council of Governments, per recommendation of the Township Engineer. Seconded by Mr. Poston. Motion carried. Mr. Lilly opposed.

Mr. Antonelli said that the Township's budget for the combination of the two 2019 Road Improvement Projects. We have hot mix paving and we have the fiber mat sealing of alleys. Between those two contracts, we are over the budget. I'd like to have the Board approve a

change order to both of those contracts, so that we can eliminate work as needed, to keep the projects within the budget.

Mr. Poston asked what the change orders will be on? Is this strictly on the alleys?

Mr. Antonelli said there's two blocks of hot mix paving that are being proposed to be removed, and at least two alleys. The two blocks of hot mix to be eliminated are Roosevelt Street. It's the most expensive because of its condition, there's not adequate base under the road. The two blocks of Roosevelt Street, based on the bids, would save $56,000. I need the approval to do that.

Mrs. Bergstrom said if they're so bad that they need done, and we have money, why don't we get them done? Can't we change the budget?

Mr. Hill said we can transfer money in the budget, but we can't go over the total budget that was approved. You can move money around within the budget.

Mr. Antonelli said if you can move money around in the budget to cover this, that's fine, but in case you can't, I need a motion on the books, whether we use it or not, at least I'll have the authority to do it, if we need to. The contract has been awarded. That contractor has incurred costs, and if you decide to terminate the contract to seal the alleys, you'll have costs.

Ch. Heasley said he needs the leeway to be able to cut costs, and he needs to have a change order on the books.

Mr. Dizard made a motion to approve a change order to the 2019 Paving Project. Seconded by Mrs. Bergstrom. Motion carried. Mr. Lilly opposed.

Mr. Lilly said I think the whole deal is a joke, I get one street. They won't even pave the streets in Natrona. I couldn't even tell you how bad some of the alleys are. These are all requests by the other Commissioners I assume, I thought they repair them if they're bad. That's my opinion, I think it's a waste of money. This paving is a joke. J O K E. Did I spell that right? I didn't know you were going around picking all your friends streets.

Ch. Heasley asked if he made any recommendations? You had the same argument last year. I told you to submit your recommendations.

Mr. Poston said you have no clue what you're talking about. You just ramble and ramble. Like you were supposed to call in your vote when you were in Florida, and you didn't.

Mr. Lilly said that's right I didn't, so you didn't get your way.

Resolution No. 1833 – Amendment of the Lease Agreement between Harrison Township and the Burtner House Restoration Inc. Mrs. Bergstrom moved to accept Resolution No. 1833. Seconded by Mr. Dizard. Motion carried.

Resolution No. 1834 – Authorize and Approve signatures on Harrison Township checking/savings accounts held with First Commonwealth Bank. Mr. Poston moved to accept Resolution No. 1834. Seconded by Mrs. Bergstrom. Motion carried.

Authorize the transfer of funds from Washington Financial Bank to First Commonwealth Bank.

Ch. Heasely stated that two years ago Washington Financial Bank was offering a higher interest rate. First Commonwealth will match that, or do better, so we're going to bring the money back to Harrison Township, where it should be anyhow.

Mr. Poston made a motion to transfer funds from Washington Financial Bank to First Commonwealth Bank.

Mr. Dizard said I would ask that, before we vote on this, maybe do it next month, to see a comparison.

Mr. Hill said I can give that information now. The interest rate at Washington National Bank is 2.347%. First Commonwealth Bank is willing to give us 2.35% which is better. It's advantageous to have the money locally, so that we can move the money back and forth. They're definitely matching or going above the current interest rate we're currently getting. It's not an introductory rate, it's a permanent rate, and they don't charge transfer fees.

Motion seconded by Mrs. Bergstrom. Motion carried. Mr. Lilly opposed.

Authorize to accept various Spring Commodity Bids from South Hills Allegheny Council of Governments. Mr. Dizard moved. Seconded by Mrs. Bergstrom. Motion carried.

Authorize Second Quarter 2019 Allocation to each Volunteer Fire Company in amount of $1,750. Mr. Lilly moved to authorize 2nd Quarter Allocations. Seconded by Mrs. Bergstrom. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Act on appointment to the Harrison Township Planning Commission, effective June 1, 2019, for a four year term. Mrs. Bergstrom moved to appoint Cody Nolen. He has a degree in Urban Planning, he works for Mackin Engineering Co. He's on the Comprehensive Planning Committee. Seconded by Mr. Dizard. Motion carried.

Mrs. Bergstrom said we did the income tax credit for the fireman last year. There's also an option to do a real estate tax credit. Jim Erb is requesting that we do that because some folks are volunteers, but they don't have an income or are on social security. I move that we amend the ordinance to do this.

Attorney Mueller said we would just be amending it to add the real estate. Do you want it to be either or, or both? I'll have to see if we can do it effective now or if we have to wait.

Mr. Hill said some of them have already chose the earned income tax. It's based on 2018. Some of these people have already taken the earned income tax. You may want to wait until the year 2019. It would be confusing.

Mr. Dizard seconded the motion to authorize the Solicitor to prepare an amendment, to include real estate tax as a tax credit for the volunteer firemen for 2019. Motion carried.

Mrs. Bergstrom said at the last meeting the War Memorial came up, and there was to be an add for volunteers to help with that. Carrie, has there been anyone?

Mrs. Bengel said you can talk to Susan. People responded to Susan.

Mrs. Motosicky said we've had six or seven people.

Mr. Dizard said I contacted the Soldiers and Sailors. They're having someone come up tomorrow at 3:00 p.m. to look at the monument.

Mrs. Bengel said I wish you would have let someone know what was going on, Susan or me. If someone wants to take over that's fine, but I said I would be willing to do it. You have a meeting and we didn't know anything about it.

Mrs. Motosicky said I didn't know anything about it either.

Ch. Heasely suggested to Mr. Dizard to share information with the Committee.

Mrs. Bengel said I think we should communicate.

Mr. Hill said people were supposed to contact the Administrative Office. It would have been nice to know.

Mrs. Bengel said we all need to get on the same page.

A resident in the audience said you didn't communicate that to them. This isn't a one man show sir. You were here when we said we were setting up a committee, and once again, you went rogue.

Mrs. Bengel said the meeting is on May 2nd at 6:30 p.m. Everyone is welcome. Everyone was supposed to respond to Susan. We should all be on the same page.

Mrs. Bergstrom asked what's going on with the RACP Grant. Are we going to do it, not do it?

Mr. Hill said we need to talk about what the cost will be to Township. There's a lot of legal and engineering fees. There needs to be discussion about what the match is going to be before we would accept that Grant. We need to come up with a budget of what we can spend. We have until August 31st to accept it. It's nice to get a half a million dollars, but you have to consider the costs that go with that.

Mr. Dizard said the cancelling the agenda meetings between now and August, I felt that gave the Board the opportunity to talk about things. I think we should be maintaining the meetings. We can cancel a meeting if we don't have a quarum.

Mr. Poston said we could have a meeting before the meeting, but you don't have to take up two days.

Ch. Heasley said we have an agenda meeting, and three days later we have the regular meeting, so what does three days give you?

Mr. Dizard said I think we should have the agenda meetings.

Mr. Hill said you need to communicate with the office, instead of adding things to the agenda on the meeting night, like tonight.

Ch. Heasley said like in the newspaper, there's things published in the paper before we've even discussed it. We'll see how it goes through August.

Mrs. Bengel suggested to the Secretary to advertise on the website the upcoming meeting of the War Memorial Committee, and she asked Mr. Dizard to let the people on his facebook page that were told to contact him, to let Susan know if they would like be on the committee.

Mr. Poston said a couple years ago two of the big boys looked at the monument and they said you'd be better off pushing it over, because it's in really bad shape. Nobody gave a formal bid. They said we'd be better off starting over. We'd have to get bids. I think the person that is the Chairman of this Committee should be a veteran. I think the VFW and the American Legion should be involved.

Mr. Poston said well, unbeknownst to me, and article comes out in the Valley, chaired by him, and a big splash.....

Mr. Poston said we have $30,000 set aside in the budget for the monument.

Attorney Meuller asked if we've confirmed if the Township owns the property. I think we should could confirm if we do own it. The Committee can be fact-finding, but the Board ultimately, would make the decisions.

Bill Godfrey from Natrona Comes Together announced that they received a grant for $6,000 for the Educational Program. It's our 10th year, and I think we're making great progress.

Mr. Poston moved to adjourn. Seconded by Mrs. Bergstrom. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned 8:20 p.m.

ATTEST:

Susan K Motosicky
Township Secretary

TOWNSHIP OF HARISON

Neil M Hearley
Chairman, Board of Commissioners