

Ross Township Commissioners Meeting
1000 Ross Municipal Drive
Pittsburgh, PA 15237
April 18, 2016
7:38 p.m.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Jeremy Shaffer, Daniel L. DeMarco, Grace Stanko, David J. Mikec, Lana Mazur, Stephen Korbel, Richard Avon, Patrick Mullin and Jack Betkowski

SOLICITOR: Bonnie Brimmeier, Esq.

TOWNSHIP MANAGER: Douglas Sample

RECORDING SECRETARY: Deborah Ann Betzler

Pledge of Allegiance/Invocation

PLANNING/ZONING REDEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE REPORT:

Request Board motion to waive Building Permit fees for 7924 Roderick Drive.

Mr. Dave Barr, principal at Forbes Road Career Technology Center in Monroeville, addressed the Board regarding the daughter of one of the teachers at one of their schools named Genevieve Woods. Ms. Woods suffers from a severe case of mitochondrial disease. Mr. Barr discussed Genevieve's plight in detail. Genevieve's mother would like to add onto her house to have space to accommodate Genevieve. Donations have been solicited for the materials and the labor.

Motion to waive building fees associated with Ross Township made by Commissioner Mazur and seconded by Commissioner DeMarco.

Motion passes unanimously



PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS:

Mr. Ken Werner, 301 Crider Lane, Pittsburgh, PA 15237, commented that he had given the wrong information at the previous meeting regarding cleanup that the Walk/Bike Ross Committee would be doing. The cleanup is this Saturday at 1:00 p.m. They will be meeting at the Babcock Square strip mall to begin. All tools will be provided. The rain date is Sunday at 1:00 p.m.

PETITIONS AND COMPLAINTS:

Ms. Heather Collins addressed the Board regarding a school bus stop at Byron and Ridgewood Roads that has a large number of children. She addressed the need for additional stop signs at Woodsdale and Crestvale and Crestvale and Ridgewood. She also requested “Children at Play” signs. Ms. Leeann Hillegas also addressed the Board on the situation. Commissioner Shaffer advised Ms. Collins to address the matter with Chief Ley.

AWARDING OF BID:

Rental Supply of Work Uniforms for the Public Works Department and Other Rentals

Mr. Sample requested the bid for the three-year contract be awarded to UniFirst, low bidder for both uniform rental and supply rental.

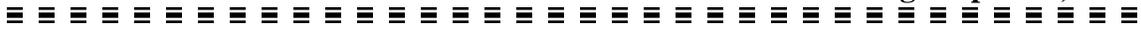
Motion to approve made by Commissioner Mazur and seconded by Commissioner DeMarco.

Motion passes unanimously

RESOLUTIONS TO BE ADOPTED – None

ORDINANCES TO BE INTRODUCED:

Ordinance No. 2370 - Amending Ordinance No. 2342 pertaining



to the Traffic Advisory Board to have the terms end on December 31st of the year.

Public hearing to be held on May 2, 2016

ORDINANCES TO BE ENACTED – None

CONSENT AGENDA:

Approval of Minutes – March 21, 2016

Motion to approve made by Commissioner DeMarco and seconded by Commissioner Mikec.

Motion passes – 7 to 0 with 2 abstentions
Commissioners Korbelt and Mazur abstaining

Approval of Minutes – Special Meeting – April 11, 2016

Motion to approve made by Commissioner Mazur and seconded by Commissioner Mikec.

Motion passes unanimously

PAYMENT OF BILLS AND FINANCIAL REPORTS:

Motion to approve made by Commissioner Mazur and seconded by Commissioner Mullin.

Commissioner Shaffer commented that he found the three-month summary packet useful, and he would like it to continue. Commissioner Korbelt thanked Commissioner Betkowski for lobbying for the report. Commissioner Betkowski requested some time with Mr. Berty for him to explain some of the differences between FASB and GASB. Mr. Berty was in agreement.

Motion passes – 8 to 0 with 1 abstention
Commissioner Mazur abstaining



PLANNING COMMISSION - None

**PLANNING/ZONING REDEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE REPORT
(continued):**

Commissioner Korbel stated Mr. Rickert is continuing to work on Zoning updates. Commissioner Korbel, Mr. Rickert and a representative from Gateway met with Kossman Development with respect to the Perry Shops on Route 19. Kossman is considering redeveloping that property, and they came in for a predevelopment plan meeting. Commissioner Korbel indicated there might be some positive improvements in that corridor. He anticipates receiving a plan within the next 60 to 90 days.

SOLICITOR’S REPORT - None

RECREATION COMMITTEE REPORT:

Commissioner Mazur stated this past weekend the Municipal Center was busy with the quilts display from Pineapple Pizzazz as well as artwork from Ross Elementary School. On Sunday Tomato Pie gave cooking demonstrations. The library is sponsoring Kite Day tomorrow from 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at the Municipal Center. Representative Dom Costa will be sponsoring a Job Fair, also at the Municipal Center. Details are being worked on for the 4th of July Parade, Community Day and the Fishing Tournament.

Motion to move forward with the low bid of \$110,400 for the base plus two alternates for the Evergreen Park fishing pier from Swede Construction made by Commissioner Mazur and seconded by Commissioner Mullin.

Commissioner Mikec inquired as to whether the contract could be delayed to ask the bidder for a breakdown of his costs to see if there would be any potential savings to delay the project or not. Discussion ensued. Ms. Peet stated the understanding was if the project was approved this evening, it would be completed by

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May 30th. Following further discussion, Commissioner Korbel commented that he was very dismayed that they don't have the ability to properly analyze the matter in order to make an informed decision.

Motion passes unanimously

ADMINISTRATION/LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE REPORT:

Request Board motion to award the 2016 Sewer Repair Contracts to the low bidder as follows:

Contract A to Soli Construction, Inc., in the amount of \$263,440.00.

Contract B to State Pipe Services, Inc., in the amount of \$131,060.00.

Contract C to Jet Jack, Inc., in the amount of \$195,724.00.

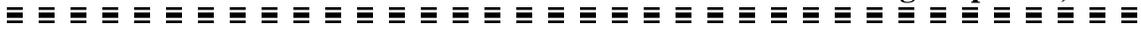
Contract D to State Pipe Services, Inc., in the amount of \$124,000.00.

Motion to approve made by Commissioner Stanko and seconded by Commissioner DeMarco.

Commissioner DeMarco commented that the funds are coming from the Sewer Fund and not the General Fund. Commissioner Stanko also commented that they were approved by Gateway Engineers. The numbers also came in under budget by approximately \$200,000. Commissioner Shaffer commented that it seemed more efficient for the same company to do all the repairs. Commissioner Mikec indicated it had a lot to do with scheduling. Mr. Sample also commented that it is more economical to split them out into the more specialized companies.

Motion passes unanimously

Request Board permission for Finance Director Dan Berty to attend the GFOA Conference in State College, PA, April 24-27, 2016, as a representative of the GFOA – PA Board. Estimated cost not to exceed \$500.00.



Motion to approve made by Commissioner Stanko and seconded by Commissioner Mazur.

Commissioner Betkowski commented that the cost was low for a four-day conference.

Motion passes unanimously

Request Board motion to award El Grande Industries, Inc., low bidder, the Base Bid and all the Alternates (Option 6) the 2016 Road Paving Program, for a total amount of \$1,092.486.50.

Discussion ensued regarding choosing ID-2 or Superpave.

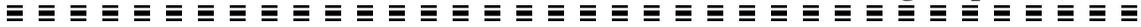
Motion to approve Option No. 6, the ID-2 paving mix, as recommended by Gateway Engineers and the Public Works director, made by Commissioner Stanko and seconded by Commissioner Korbel.

Commissioner Mikec discussed the pros and cons of ID-2 versus Superpave. He stated he would like to step forward with the industry standard and try to work with that and maybe improve the methods of construction to eliminate problems. Commissioner Shaffer commented Superpave was now the only official approved PennDOT specification, that you couldn't use ID-2. He inquired if a waiver would be needed to use ID-2. Commissioner Mikec commented that if the Liquid Fuel Tax money was used towards paving, ID-2 would not be permitted, but Liquid Fuel Tax money was not being used. Discussion ensued.

Motion to table made by Commissioner Mazur and seconded by Commissioner DeMarco.

Motion passes unanimously

Mr. Sample stated he could provide some locations where they use ID-2 and Superpave. Further information will be requested from Gateway and Mr. Funk, who was not in attendance this evening. Commissioner Mikec also requested that the materials engineer at District 11 be contacted to see if they could attend the May 2nd meeting to provide further information.



PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE REPORT:

Commissioner Mikec stated the application process for the Public Works employees was closed. He volunteered to spearhead the selection committee. Commissioners Stanko, Korbelt and Mullin volunteered to be on the committee.

PUBLIC SAFETY/POLICE COMMITTEE REPORT:

Commissioner Avon stated there will be a Crime Prevention meeting on Tuesday, April 26, 2016, at 6:30 p.m. at the Municipal Center. National drug take-back day is Saturday, April 30, 2016, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the Police Station.

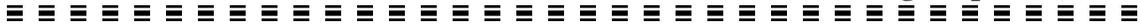
Request Board execution of the annual Ross Township Substation (Police Satellite Office) Lease at Ross Park Mall for the period 3/15/16 to 3/14/17 - Total rent \$0.00.

Motion to approve made by Commissioner Avon and seconded by Commissioner Mazur.

Commissioner Betkowski questioned Chief Ley if uniformed officers seen at the mall are on duty. Chief Ley stated some officers seen at the mall are doing special detail and other officers could be on patrol during their working hours. Extra work detail hours vary at the mall. The extra work hours are scheduled by the mall. Commissioner Shaffer questioned how much the mall pays for the officers annually. Mr. Berty stated he could provide the number.

Commissioner Korbelt inquired if Northway Block has inquired about police staffing. Chief Ley indicated they have not inquired yet. Chief Ley also stated the extra work is not a cost to the township. Mr. Berty stated \$160,000 was budgeted for extra work. Ross Township officers are not assigned to a particular zone. They patrol the township as a whole. There are no set times when officers will walk through the mall on their regular patrol shift.

Motion passes unanimously



PUBLIC SAFETY/FIRE/FIRE POLICE/EMS COMMITTEE REPORT:

Commissioner DeMarco inquired whether the EMS contribution has been sent. Mr. Sample stated \$62,000 was sent to EMS and \$60,000 was sent to each fire department. Commissioner DeMarco also stated the fire chiefs will be meeting this Wednesday.

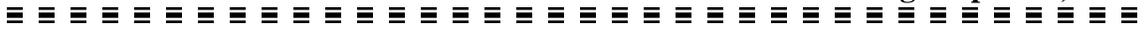
MANAGER’S REPORT:

Regarding the hiring committee for Public Works, Mr. Sample indicated the hiring policy states that the manager, director and assistant director of Public Works will sit on the committee with as many commissioners that are chosen. Commissioner Shaffer stated the four commissioners will be Commissioners Mikec, Korbel, Stanko and Mullin. Regarding the Recreation Committee, Commissioner Shaffer stated the members, including himself, will be Mr. Sample, Ms. Peet and Commissioners Mazur, Stanko and Mullin. This committee will be for social media and the recreation program.

Mr. Sample stated 20 applications were received for the Public Works openings, and 13 applications were received for the Recreation opening. Mr. Sample was reviewing the applications for the summer help positions and would be providing an update to the commissioners. The code enforcement officer, Howard Boyd, started today. Commissioner DeMarco stated Mr. Boyd asked him to provide his cellphone number to all Board members so that any issue can be directly communicated to him.

COMMISSIONERS’ COMMENTS:

Commissioner Korbel thanked the Kinvara Civic Association for inviting him to their annual meeting yesterday. Regarding Port Authority service on Perry Highway, there is a meeting scheduled for next Wednesday, April 27th, at 10:00 a.m. at CCAC North. Everyone is invited to attend. Regarding the Public Works building, Commissioner Korbel discussed having solar panels installed. Scalo Solar offers a no-strings-attached 15-minute presentation on their solar panel installation. Commissioner Korbel indicated he will make an effort to get that scheduled in the next month or two.



Commissioner Mullin offered his condolences to the family of five that recently died in a fire in Bellevue.

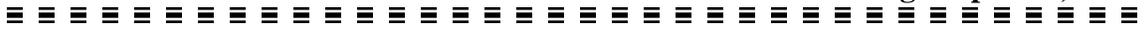
Commissioner DeMarco mentioned a pothole as you turn right from Babcock to Thompson Run Road. He requested the county be contacted. Commissioner Korbelt suggested contacting County Councilman Baker regarding the pothole.

Commissioner Stanko invited everyone to attend the RED meeting on Wednesday, April 20th, at 7:00 p.m. FBI Agent Bradley Orsini will be discussing active shooter preparedness. Officer Michael Thomas will also be discussing crime resistance for homes and businesses. There will not be a RED luncheon in lieu of this meeting.

Commissioner Mikec stated he attended the MRM Benefits Trust meeting. He received a check on behalf of the township for \$166,000. The budgeted amount was \$150,000. He also stated he will be attending an Association of Highway Engineers meeting at the same time as the scheduled RED meeting. He indicated he would be talking to the Secretary of Transportation, and he would get her opinion of ID-2 or Superpave. He also requested that Public Works look at a tree at Quail Park that is leaning over the basketball court. Ms. Peet commented that they have the same situation with some trees over the tennis courts at Denny Park.

Commissioner Mazur reminded everyone that this weekend is the Great American Cleanup. The township will provide bags and gloves. Ms. Peet indicated there would be a group going to Sangree Park to clean the creek bed. Commissioner Mazur stated she had a meeting with Christ Lutheran Church regarding the community garden. Scout Mike Miller, who is working on his Eagle Scout project, will be involved. Planting will be on May 15th. All are invited. Commissioner Korbelt stated members of the Kinvara Civic Association inquired if there could be a garden located in the northern quadrant of the township. He also inquired if this could be part of the Sangree Park master plan.

Commissioner Shaffer stated Active Allegheny has a grant program that's funded by some of the foundations for trails currently.



According to Commissioner Shaffer’s interpretation, you can apply for up to \$50,000 with no match required. Before the next meeting he will send out an E-mail getting everyone’s thoughts. He volunteered to help write the grant request. It was his understanding you couldn’t use the money to build the trails, but you could use the money for planning and designing them. Commissioner Shaffer also inquired if he wrote up a proposal and talked with Sean from Hollow Oak if potentially he could do a master trail connection plan for the township. Commissioner Mazur stated that was in the long-term plan. Commissioner Mikec stated Bellevue should be contacted about connecting with them, since there is no actual park. Ms. Peet stated she has been in contact with Bellevue, and they are interested.

Commissioner Shaffer also addressed having the packet information online, although some information cannot be shared online. Discussion ensued. Ms. Brimmeier commented as follows:

MS. BRIMMEIER: "I, obviously, spoke extensively with Commissioner Shaffer and the manager after your last meeting on this subject. I would want to review the packet before it's put out just to make sure that we're not accidentally putting something out there. And then that also protects you guys. If I've okayed it and something does get out in error, you're protected that it was through my review.

COMMISSIONER KORBEL: "Will you be able to look at it every Friday so it's timely?"

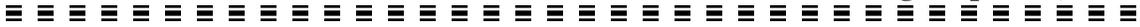
MS. BRIMMEIER: Sure."

Timing of getting the packet online was discussed. Commissioner Betkowski applauded Commissioner Shaffer for making the first step to get the packet online. The packets will still be received on Friday. Any concerns anyone has about any documents can be addressed with the manager and solicitor before the packet is put online.

CITIZENS’ COMMENTS - None

Motion to adjourn made by Commissioner Korbel and seconded by Commissioner Avon.

Motion passes unanimously



**MEETING ADJOURNED TO EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 9:02 P.M.
NO ACTION TO BE TAKEN**

**Douglas Sample
Manager/Secretary**

By:

**Jeremy Shaffer, President
Ross Township Board of
Commissioners**

Minutes transcribed by *Deborah Ann Betzler, Court Reporter*