

Ross Township Commissioners Meeting  
1000 Ross Municipal Drive  
Pittsburgh, PA 15237  
May 2, 2016  
7:30 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:** John Stranahan, Esq., and Bonnie Brimmeier, Esq. (via telephone)

**TOWNSHIP MANAGER:** Douglas Sample

**RECORDING SECRETARY:** Noreen A. Re

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*Pledge of Allegiance/Invocation*

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**PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS - None**

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**ADDRESSING THE BOARD:**

**Thomas G. Lawlor, Esq. - Re: Presenting the eligible candidates for the position of police officer.**

Mr. Lawlor presented the following three eligible candidates to the Board for their consideration:

1. Michael Daley
2. Timothy Wach
3. Andrew Redman

Mr. Lawlor stated Mr. Daley satisfied the definition as a veteran under all the applicable rules.

**Motion to hire Michael Daley as a Ross Township patrol officer conditioned upon successful completion of a physical and psychological evaluation made by Commissioner Avon and seconded by Commissioner Mazur.**



**Motion passes unanimously**

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Mr. Lawlor presented the following three eligible candidates to the Board for their consideration:

1. Timothy Wach
2. Andrew Redman
3. Steven Smith

**Motion to hire Timothy Wach as a Ross Township patrol officer conditioned upon successful completion of a physical and psychological evaluation made by Commissioner Avon and seconded by Commissioner Mazur.**

**Motion passes unanimously**

Mr. Lawlor stated the list will remain eligible for a year under the rules. But if so notified by the commissioners, it can be extended for an additional year. Commissioner Mikec requested the Civil Service Commission notify the Board when it is time to request the additional year. Mr. Lawlor was in agreement. Mr. Lawlor also thanked Commissioner Mazur for her attendance at their meetings. Commissioners DeMarco and Shaffer thanked the Civil Service Commission for their efforts.

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**Board motion to direct Civil Service to begin the lieutenant hiring process.**

**Motion made by Commissioner DeMarco and seconded by Commissioner Mazur.**

**Motion passes unanimously**

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**PETITIONS AND COMPLAINTS – None**

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**AWARDING OF BIDS:**

**2016 Parks and Ball Field Lawn Maintenance**



Mr. Sample requested the Board approve the following bids that were received:

- Steel City Landscape – Fertilization and weed control - \$5,508
- Pittsburgh Lawn Care – Aeration and overseed - \$3,940
- Pittsburgh Lawn Care – Lime application - \$1,100
- Steel City Landscape – Herb Field fertilization - \$1,300

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

**Motion passes unanimously**

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**Washing of Township Vehicles**

Mr. Sample stated one bid was received from Northway Car Wash for \$360 per vehicle, which is an increase of \$10 over last year.

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

**Motion passes unanimously**

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**RESOLUTIONS TO BE ADOPTED - None**

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**ORDINANCES TO BE ENACTED:**

**Ordinance No. 2370 - Amending Ordinance No. 2342 to change the expiration date of terms for Traffic Advisory Board members.**

**Motion to enact made by Commissioner Mazur and seconded by Commissioner Mullin.**

Commissioner Shaffer stated, for clarification for the audience members, this is adjusting the Traffic Advisory Board members' terms to start January 1st and end December 31st of the specified time frame so that they're in line with all of the other appointments that are made.

**Motion passes unanimously**



**CONSENT AGENDA:**

**Approval of Minutes – April 4, 2016**

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

**Motion passes unanimously**

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**PAYMENT OF BILLS AND FINANCIAL REPORTS:**

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

**Motion passes unanimously**

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**PLANNING COMMISSION - None**

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**PLANNING/ZONING REDEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE REPORT:**

Commissioner Korbelt stated the township received an application for an 85 townhouse community off of Buckhill and Mayer Road. The application will be reviewed by the Planning Commission on May 26<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Rickert has been working on several zoning updates including an update that would repeal the PRD that is currently in the ordinance. Commissioner Korbelt wanted to make sure no one had an objection to moving on the matter in an expedited fashion. Mr. Rickert is also working on an update to the sign ordinance to address temporary signs and to broaden that definition to include temporary political signs.

Commissioner Korbelt also indicated that he, Commissioner Shaffer and Mr. Rickert will be meeting concerning sidewalks perhaps this week. Commissioner Korbelt also stated that he and Commissioners Stanko and Betkowski attended a meeting concerning extending bus service on Perry Highway beyond West View Plaza. Port Authority should be making a decision around May 19<sup>th</sup>. He also mentioned they are considering a pending ordinance involving the PRD issue to get it on the books.



**SOLICITOR'S REPORT - None**

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**RECREATION COMMITTEE REPORT - None**

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**ADMINISTRATION/LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE REPORT:**

**Board motion to ratify the Settlement Agreement and Release between Safway Services, LLC, and Ross Township regarding payment for scaffolding for the Public Works Building.**

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

Commissioner Betkowski asked that the Board “pursue some type of postmortem on the process” and see what lessons can be learned from the \$38,000 that is being spent and try to improve the process moving forward. He also questioned whether the Board or if the township has a process with contract reviews. Commissioner Shaffer requested Commissioner Stanko look into the matter.

**Motion passes unanimously**

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**PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE REPORT:**

**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.**

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

Commissioner Mikec commented that he would prefer Superpave and work with add mixtures for next year’s design and maybe look into the warm mix design procedures. He was in agreement to have a mix of the two designs.

Commissioner Betkowski expressed concern in regard to paving Browns Lane at the intersection with Babcock Boulevard knowing there is construction ongoing at the Northway Block site. He also expressed concern over the practice of rating roads and that



they would be prioritized based on need. He felt the process has not been fully implemented this year.

Roll call:

- Commissioner Avon – Yes
- Commissioner Mullin – No
- Commissioner Betkowski – No
- Commissioner DeMarco – Yes
- Commissioner Stanko – Yes
- Commissioner Mikec – Yes
- Commissioner Mazur – Yes
- Commissioner Korbel – No
- Commissioner Shaffer - Yes

**Motion passes – 6 to 3**

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Regarding the Public Works Complex, Commissioner Mikec stated West View Water should be finished this week with the water line going to the site. Duquesne Light will be on site installing a 2KV service with poles to the building. The pump pad has been poured. The dry wall is up in the offices and been painted.

Crack sealing work has been ongoing. Later In the year there will be crack repairing. Commissioner Mikec also stated he will be setting up a meeting with the Public Works Selection Committee. He would like any further comments by Thursday.

Commissioner Shaffer inquired regarding the summer help. Mr. Sample indicated workers from last year were contacted. Mr. Sample also stated he sent E-mails to the commissioners with the names of those who have expressed interest. He requested the commissioners' selections in the next couple days so the individuals could be notified.

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**PUBLIC SAFETY/POLICE COMMITTEE REPORT:**

**Board motion to purchase 2016 BMW R1200 RT-P Police Motorcycle at a cost not to exceed \$25,460.00.**



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

Commissioner Betkowski stated for him it is a matter of principle to buy American. Commissioner Mikec stated he would go with the chief's suggestion, even though he, too, would rather buy American. Everyone was in agreement about buying American, but still agreed with going with the chief's suggestion. Commissioner Korbel stated he was interested in seeing how the motorcycle performed.

**Motion passes – 8 to 1  
Commissioner Betkowski voting in the negative**

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Commissioner Avon commented that the Police Department will be having a "Bike Rodeo" on Saturday, May 7<sup>th</sup>, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the North Hills Middle School, 55 Rochester Road.

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**PUBLIC SAFETY/FIRE/FIRE POLICE/EMS COMMITTEE REPORT - None**

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**MANAGER'S REPORT:**

Mr. Sample thanked Mr. Funk for spearheading the township's first ever MS-4 assembly with North Hills elementary schools. Last Friday Mr. Sample, Mr. Funk and Ms. Slagle from Gateway traveled to Highcliff and had an assembly about the importance of stormwater and environmental protection with over 600 kids. Tomorrow they are going to West View. Ross is scheduled, and they are working on a time for McIntyre.

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**COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS:**

Commissioner Mullin stated "Let's go Pens."

Commissioner Betkowski thanked the manager for getting the meeting documents online for the public.

Commissioner Mikec also stated "Let's go Pens." He also stated he attended the spring meeting of the Allegheny County

Western Pennsylvania Association of Township Commissioners, for which he is ending his two-year presidency. The new president will be announced at the meeting on May 26<sup>th</sup> at the Shannopin Country Club. He invited everyone to attend. He also stated some new members are needed for the discount club for the volunteer firemen. Commissioner Stanko volunteered. Commissioner Mikec indicated another fire chief is also needed on the committee.

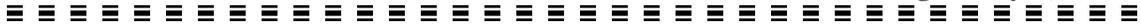
Commissioner Korbel stated he voted no on the paving because of the inclusion of Browns Lane. He also thanked Mr. Sample for getting the meeting information online for the public. He also thanked Ms. Peet for taking him and Commissioner Betkowski on a tour of Windhurst Field and discussing opportunities there and elsewhere in the park system. Commissioner Korbel also indicated he would be reaching out to the civic associations in his ward to find volunteers for the steering committee regarding the water park issue in Sangree Park.

Commissioner Shaffer also thanked Mr. Sample for his efforts on getting the meeting information online for the public. He stated, hopefully, they can continue to make it more easily accessible within the website. He also thanked all the people involved in the cleanup day event. Commissioner Shaffer also discussed the issue of paving Browns Lane. He stated the PASER ratings will be redone in the summer. He also indicated the township should be spending more money on paving. Commissioner Shaffer also commented that he felt with the available funds and flexibility of the contract that additional roads could be added. Mr. Sample stated the Public Works building is an ongoing concern and that there is fall paving to be considered, also. Commissioner Shaffer further commented that they will continue to evaluate what potential funds are available to extend the paving program. Commissioner Mikec commented that there are some roads in the 6<sup>th</sup> Ward that are approximately 60 years old that are brick paving.

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**CITIZENS' COMMENTS:**

Mr. Joe Zawoysky, 123 5th Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15229, commented that he saw the street sweeper on Cheryl Drive and inquired if it was a township road. Mr. Sample stated the township



has a section of Cheryl Drive. Mr. Zawoysky also questioned if jaywalkers are ticketed. He also questioned the timing of pedestrians crossing McKnight Road and the impact of having sidewalks. He also discussed the average salary of Public Works employees. All Public Works employees have CDL licenses. He also discussed physicals for police officers. He also mentioned a large commissioners' building near Mechanicsburg. He agreed with the chief on the purchase of the BMW motorcycles, although he agreed on buying American.

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**Motion to adjourn made by Commissioner Mazur and seconded by Commissioner Mullin.**

**Motion passes unanimously**

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**MEETING ADJOURNED TO EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 8:17 P.M.  
NO ACTION TO BE TAKEN**

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**Douglas Sample  
Manager/Secretary**

**By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Jeremy Shaffer, President  
Ross Township Board of  
Commissioners**

**Minutes transcribed by *Noreen A. Re, Court Reporter***