

Ross Township Commissioners Meeting
1000 Ross Municipal Drive
Pittsburgh, PA 15237
September 6, 2016
7:33 p.m.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Jeremy Shaffer, Daniel L. DeMarco (via telephone), Grace Stanko, David J. Mikec, Stephen Korbel, Richard Avon and Jack Betkowski

ABSENT: Patrick Mullin and Lana Mazur

SOLICITOR: John Stranahan, Esq.

TOWNSHIP MANAGER: Douglas Sample

RECORDING SECRETARY: Deborah Ann Betzler

DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND BOARD LIAISON: Dominic J. Rickert

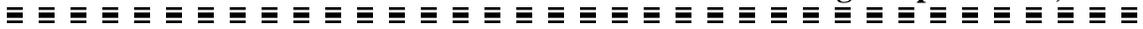
Pledge of Allegiance/Invocation

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS - None

PETITIONS AND COMPLAINTS:

Joseph Studeny, 335 Thompson Run Road - Re: Property on Thompson Run Road, formerly the 7-Eleven store, is not up to code and problems with trash, et cetera.

Mr. Joseph Studeny, 335 Thompson Run Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15237, addressed the Board regarding issues with the former 7-Eleven property. Commissioner DeMarco stated if there are any violations, the township will investigate it. Mr. Sample provided Mr. Studeny with his card and told him to call him to discuss the matter. The history of the property was discussed.



Paul Robbins, 992 Perry Highway - Re: Complaints about dog feces left by dog handlers while away from their own private property.

Mr. Paul Robbins, 992 Perry Highway, Pittsburgh, PA 15237, addressed the Board regarding control of dogs in a neighborhood and removal of feces. Mr. Robbins indicated they know who the perpetrator is. Mr. Robbins presented a petition with 48 names. Mr. Sample stated if a witness will come forward and name the perpetrator, a citation could be issued. The issue of dogs in parks was also discussed.

Mr. Paul Stutz, 1023 Grandview Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15237, addressed the Board regarding conditions on Perry Highway.

Mr. Gary Daley, 402 Good Lane, Pittsburgh, PA 15237, addressed the Board regarding the nuisance dog issue.

Mr. Joe Zawoysky, 123 5th Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15229, addressed the Board regarding the dog issue and recommended a picture be taken of the perpetrator.

Commissioner Mikec commented that a barking dog complaint is difficult to enforce and prove at a magistrate.



RESOLUTIONS TO BE ADOPTED:

Resolution 2213 – Authorizing an Agreement with the Allegheny County Redevelopment Authority for an Active Allegheny Grant in the amount of \$33,500.00.

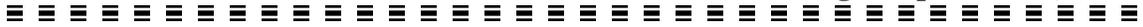
Motion to adopt made by Commissioner Korb and seconded by Commissioner Stanko.

Commissioner Shaffer stated this is basically to do a master pedestrian trail plan for the township.

Motion passes – 7 to 0



ORDINANCES TO BE INTRODUCED - None



ORDINANCES TO BE ENACTED - None

CONSENT AGENDA:

Approval of Minutes – July 18, 2016

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

Motion passes – 7 to 0

PAYMENT OF BILLS AND FINANCIAL REPORTS:

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

Motion passes – 7 to 0

PLANNING COMMISSION - None

PLANNING/ZONING REDEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE REPORT:

Commissioner Korbel stated there was an upcoming motion for night construction related to the construction of a Jason’s Deli at the Northway Mall site. He also welcomed Nordstrom Rack to the township. The Container Store will be opening on October 8th. Saks Off 5th is scheduled to open October 13th. Ross Park Mall is turning 30 years old. There will be a celebration on Friday at 11:00 a.m. in the Food Court at which Commissioner Korbel will be speaking. Commissioner Korbel also indicated an administrative assistant will be hired to assist Mr. Rickert. One zoning issue that Mr. Rickert will be looking into is one that will include a mixed use overlay district for McKnight Road that will permit commercial, residential and office space.

SOLICITOR’S REPORT - None



RECREATION COMMITTEE REPORT:

Ms. Peet stated the deadline for brick orders for Evergreen Park is September 30th. The children’s Halloween event is scheduled for October 22nd. Classes at the Municipal Center will start the first week in October.

ADMINISTRATION/LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE REPORT:

Request Board permission for LRC Realty’s contractors to start work on Monday, September 12th, thru September 16th, from 10:00 p.m. until 8:00 a.m., for the sewer tie-in and waterline tie-in, which both are in the main thruway in front of ALDI’s and America’s Best Eyeglass Store on McKnight Road.

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

Discussion ensued regarding the handling of possible complaints. It was decided, following discussion, that the motion would be amended that the work would be limited to three nights with the option to extend based on the discretion of the township manager, which would be based on any complaints that are received, and the permission could be considered null and void depending on complaints received. The motioner and seconder agreed. Further discussion ensued. The motion was further clarified to grant the contractor up to three nights per the discretion of the manager with an additional two days, if necessary, under the discretion of the manager.

Roll call:

- Commissioner Avon - Yes
- Commissioner Betkowski - No
- Commissioner DeMarco - Yes
- Commissioner Stanko - No
- Commissioner Mikec - Yes
- Commissioner Korbelt - No
- Commissioner Shaffer – No

Motion fails – 3 to 4



Motion to approve the hiring of Jessica Crawshaw for the position of receptionist, contingent upon successful completion of the background check with salary and benefits in accordance with the clerical union contract made by Commissioner Stanko and seconded by Commissioner Korbel.

Motion passes – 7 to 0

Request Board approval of Ross Township’s 5-Year Capital Improvement Plan 2017-2021.

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

Commissioner Mikec stated the local park or neighborhood park improvements were inserted into this capital improvement plan at a rate of \$50,000 a year to be distributed. Commissioner Shaffer stated this is a great initiative for the township manager and staff to undertake this to give a view of the potential expenses and the necessary investments that are coming up in the township so the items can be planned and budgeted for.

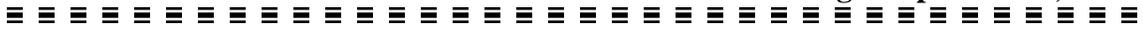
Motion passes – 7 to 0

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE REPORT:

Commissioner Mikec stated on October 3rd there will be a grand opening of the Public Works complex on Cemetery Lane. It will be open to the public, and light refreshments will be served. The building will be open an hour before the meeting.

PUBLIC SAFETY/POLICE COMMITTEE REPORT:

Request approval for Patrolman Michael P. Thomas and Patrolman Al Elway to attend the Pennsylvania State Police Collision Reconstruction Seminar at the Ramada Inn & Conference Center, State College, PA, September 26-29, 2016, cost not to exceed \$600.00. (Training is free of charge.)



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

Motion passes – 7 to 0

Commissioner Avon stated the Ross Township police officers are now trained and equipped to carry NARCAN in the fight against overdoses. The Ross Police Department thanked the Ross/West View EMS for their assistance in putting the program together and the training of the department. They also thanked Allegheny General Hospital for supplying the kits for the Police Department.

There will be a roving DUI patrol in Ross Township this Saturday, September 10th, from 9:00 p.m. to 2:00 a.m. The Ross Township Police Department will sponsor a class designed to increase your odds of surviving an active shooter incident on Thursday, October 13th, at 7:15 in the Municipal Center.

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

Commissioner DeMarco stated this Sunday is the Firemen’s Association picnic at Denny Park. Breakfast will be at 9:00 a.m.

MANAGER’S REPORT - None

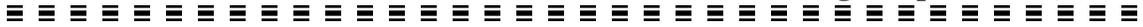
COMMISSIONERS’ COMMENTS:

Commissioner Betkowski thanked the Police Department for their help with the traffic involved with the grand opening of Nordstrom’s.

Commissioner DeMarco thanked code enforcement for their efforts.

Commissioner Stanko also thanked the Police Department for their efforts with traffic control involved with the grand opening of Nordstrom’s.

Commissioner Mikec stated he had a meeting with County Councilman Tom Baker and Mr. Sam DeMarco at a public officials

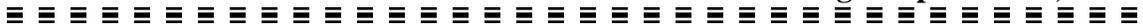


meeting. He indicated he turned over three work orders directed to the county. Two were taken care of. The third one was thrown back to the township, which Commissioner Mikec will address at a future meeting. He also thanked the Quail Fire Department for the invitation to their summer picnic on August 25th. Unfortunately, the invitation was not received until September 2nd. He requested the manager give them the commissioners' e-mail addresses.

Commissioner Korbel personally thanked Chief Ley for taking the ball on the NARCAN issue. He also commented on an e-mail from Officer Thomas reminding everyone that there is a prescription drop-off box located in the Police Department. Commissioner Korbel also stated another e-mail was received from Officer Thomas regarding Project Lifesaver, where individuals with special needs or people with dementia and Alzheimer's are able to have special tracking devices in case they get lost. Also, officers have been trained on how to deal with people with special needs or other medical conditions if they were to respond to a call at a home or business. People with a special needs person in their home can provide their name and address to the police so the officers will know about the person with special needs. He also thanked everyone who came out to the movies in the park in his ward.

Commissioner Shaffer stated he would like to create two new committees. The first committee is a stormwater committee to investigate all of the continuing challenges that the township has with stormwater, both complying with new regulations and looking at how to better manage it for the benefit of residents and downstream communities. He appointed Commissioner Mikec as the chairman, along with Commissioner Korbel and himself. The second committee will be a TIF committee, tax incremental financing committee, for the Northway Mall property, which will be in conjunction with action that the school board has taken. He appointed Commissioner Korbel, Mr. Dan Berty and himself.

Commissioner Shaffer also mentioned the sidewalk ordinance. The committee met and reviewed the comments from the county. A conclusion of the meeting was to clean up some of the language and clarify for any new housing developments with four or more units that the sidewalks would be required on both sides of the street for new



housing residential developments. It was also decided that sidewalks would be required on certain streets as outlined in the ordinance. Commissioner Avon commented that he felt requiring sidewalks in a residential area is overstepping the township's bounds.

Commissioner Korbel stated he was very hopeful and optimistic that the study by Active Allegheny will result in the township having a plan that can be relied on for the ordinance so there are focused areas.

Commissioner Shaffer also suggested having a committee to review material submitted by LRC and have approval power. The proposed night work by LRC was discussed. The solicitor commented as follows:

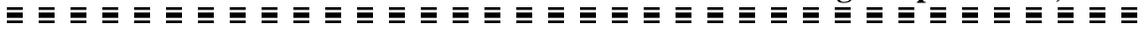
MR. STRANAHAN: "I would just opine that you probably need to act on it now at the public hearing."



CITIZENS' COMMENTS:

Mr. Joe Zawoysky, 123 5th Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15229, questioned the Board if the meeting fell on a holiday if it would be moved to Tuesday. Commissioner Shaffer stated Mr. Zawoysky was correct, except on Election Day, when the meeting is moved to Wednesday. Mr. Zawoysky also commented regarding maintenance of the area around the Laurel Gardens sign. He stated a little old lady maintains the area and deserves a citation for her efforts. He also inquired as to the next transportation meeting. Mr. Sample stated the next meeting is at 7:00 p.m. on October 11th. Mr. Sample reminded Mr. Zawoysky that to be placed on the agenda, notice has to be received 14 days before the meeting. Mr. Zawoysky also indicated he would be providing a packet. He also mentioned an incident with a barking dog.

Mr. Harry Armstrong, 500 Browns Lane, Pittsburgh, PA 15237, addressed the Board regarding signage advertising for Nordstrom's on Browns Lane and Marie Drive. Commissioner Shaffer stated he would look into the matter. Commissioner Shaffer also commented that in the plans the entrance through the apartment building was to be closed.



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

Motion passes – 7 to 0

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 9:02 P.M.

**Douglas Sample
Manager/Secretary**

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

Minutes transcribed by *Deborah Ann Betzler, Court Reporter*