

Ross Township Commissioners Meeting  
1000 Ross Municipal Drive  
Pittsburgh, PA 15237  
August 3, 2015  
7:30 p.m.

**COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:** Grant Montgomery, David J. Mikec,  
Paul Trilli, Jeremy Shaffer, John Sponcer, Daniel L. DeMarco,  
Stephen Korbelt, Grace Stanko and Lana Mazur

**SOLICITOR:** Bonnie Brimmeier, Esq.

**TOWNSHIP MANAGER:** Douglas Sample

**DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT/ZONING  
ADMINISTRATOR:** Dominic Rickert

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*Pledge of Allegiance/Invocation*

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**PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS - None**

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**PETITIONS AND COMPLAINTS - None**

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**RESOLUTIONS TO BE ADOPTED – None**

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**ZONING ORDINANCE TO BE INTRODUCED - None**

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**ORDINANCES TO BE INTRODUCED:**

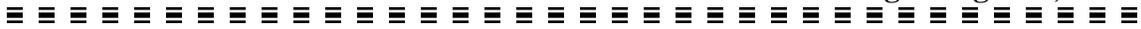
**Ordinance No. 2357 – Vacating the southerly half of Millvale  
Avenue as described herein.**

**Public hearing to be held on August 17, 2015**

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**ORDINANCES TO BE ENACTED:**

**Ordinance No. 2354 – Amending the Ross Township Code of  
Ordinances at Chapter 27 (Zoning), Part 11, Planned Residential  
Development, Section 1106.3 and Section 1106.4.**



**Motion to enact made by Commissioner Korbelt and seconded by Commissioner Shaffer.**

Commissioner Mikec questioned the section dealing with common useable open space and area limitations that don't have to be included in calculations. He discussed sidewalks. He felt developers should be rewarded by having multiuse sidewalks. Bike riding on sidewalks was discussed.

Commissioner Korbelt commented that what the ordinance is designed to do is under the current PRD scheme developers are permitted to use many of the things that the township is now excluding such as steep slopes and stormwater detention facilities to meet their open space requirements. Commissioner Korbelt also stated the committee that worked on this did not believe that the developer should receive credit for an amenity that they believe many new developments should be required to install for their open space. If credit is given for the sidewalks, that is less open space that will be required in the remainder of the development. Discussion ensued.

Commissioner Shaffer commented previously the director of community development was asked to distribute some wording that reminded all developers that the current ordinances allow the Board to instruct any development that borders a public street to install a sidewalk.

**Motion passes unanimously**

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**Ordinance No. 2355 – Amending Ross Zoning Ordinance, establishing definitions for solar photovoltaic systems incorporating new sections to permit certain solar photovoltaic systems as accessory uses in any zoning district and by adding provisions for the permitting of certain solar photovoltaic systems.**

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

Commissioner Mikec questioned the size of ground-mounted panels. Mr. Sample stated the ground-mounted are treated as an



accessory use. Commissioner Korbel stated typically a ground-mounted solar panel would be in a very wide open field area. There is a farmhouse just past Berkeley Hills Lutheran Church that has a ground-mounted solar panel. The typical panel that most people use is the roof mounted.

**Motion passes unanimously**

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**CONSENT AGENDA:**

**Approval of Minutes – July 6, 2015  
Payment of Bills and Financial Reports**

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

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

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**PLANNING COMMISSION - None**

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**PLANNING/ZONING DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE REPORT:**

**Motion to hire Roy Johnston as the Building Code Official/Chief Inspector at an annual salary of \$70,000 made by Commissioner Korbel and seconded by Commissioner Mazur.**

**Motion passes unanimously**

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**SOLICITOR’S REPORT - None**

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**RECREATION COMMITTEE REPORT:**

Commissioner Mazur stated the summer rec program was a success. She congratulated C. B. McDonald and all the staff for their efforts. She stated the senior program is continuing and getting bigger. The next senior movie will be “Casablanca” on August 23<sup>rd</sup> at 2:00 p.m. The Rec Department was part of the Regional Alliance of North Pittsburgh at Richland Community Park, which conducted a recreation week. “The Muppet Movie” will be shown at the Municipal



Center property on August 17<sup>th</sup>. This Saturday at Blueberry Park from 12:00 to 3:00 volunteers are needed for a Special Needs Day. Blocks will be sold for the walkway at Evergreen Park. Information will be in the upcoming magazine. Commissioner Mazur stated she attended the meeting regarding solar panels. She thanked Natalie and Doug Sample for their efforts.

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**ADMINISTRATION/LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE REPORT:**

**Request Board approval for Pay Application No. 1 from Shields Asphalt Paving, Inc., in the amount of \$607,472.84 for work completed between June 1, 2015, and June 24, 2015, for the 2015 Road Program.**

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

Commissioner Stanko indicated it was approved by Gateway Engineers.

**Motion passes unanimously**

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**Request Board approval for Pay Application Request No. 1 from Sports and Recreation Associates for work completed between June 15, 2015, and July 15, 2015, for the Herge Park Rehabilitation Project in the amount of \$63,801.**

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

**Motion passes unanimously**

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**Request Board approval to appoint Brian M. Rosatone to the Traffic Advisory Board.**

**Motion made by Commissioner Stanko and seconded by Commissioner Trilli.**

**Motion passes unanimously**

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**PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE REPORT:**

Commissioner Mikec stated the wall repairs have been made on the Public Works building. Trucks can now be moved back in. Playground equipment was installed in Nelson Run Park. They are currently installing the play surface. The stormwater project is being completed on Russell Road, which is being done in-house.

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**PUBLIC SAFETY/POLICE COMMITTEE REPORT:**

**Request Board permission for Sergeant William Barrett to attend the American Polygraph Association Seminar and Workshop in Chicago, IL, August 29<sup>th</sup> to September 5, 2015. Estimated cost: Not to exceed \$1,600.00.**

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

**Motion passes unanimously**

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**Request Board motion to adopt the changes to the Civil Service Rules and Regulations.**

**Motion to adopt made by Commissioner Trilli and seconded by Commissioner Mazur.**

**Motion passes unanimously**

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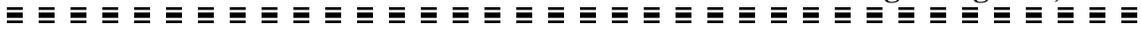
**Motion to authorize the Civil Service to form an eligibility list for hiring made by Commissioner Trilli and seconded by Commissioner Mazur.**

**Motion passes unanimously**

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

Commissioner Sponcer reported “progress” under Fire. He commented that there is a dentist on Babcock Boulevard that is willing to join the retention program. He indicated he will be meeting with her tomorrow.



**MANAGER’S REPORT:**

Regarding the solar panels, Mr. Sample indicated there was a link on the township website or you can go to the Solarize Allegheny website for additional information and to get a free quote to see if your house would be a candidate for solar energy. One of the things stated at the meeting was the cost to do nothing is approximately \$35,000 in energy costs over 20 years. And by doing something with solar, you have the potential to save money, which is a win/win situation.

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**COMMISSIONERS’ COMMENTS:**

Commissioner Korbelt stated his daughters attended the summer rec program and enjoyed it. He thanked everyone in the Rec Department for their efforts. It is an affordable option for working parents in the township. Regarding the solar program, he indicated he put it out on his social media and got a positive response. Last Wednesday Commissioner Korbelt attended the Grand Opening of Aldi’s on McKnight Road. The executives from Aldi’s said that there are 40,000 people a month that go to the Aldi’s at Northway Mall. It was hoped that the new store would relieve some of the congestion at Northway Mall. He stated the Movie in the Park at Sangree Park was a success. He thanked Mr. Funk for the signs that Public Works put together.

Commissioner Shaffer stated he wasn’t able to attend the Aldi’s opening, but he commented that in his ward there are now two Aldi’s and two Starbucks. He indicated the township should be receiving more money for road paving and parks. Northland Library will be having a fundraiser for children this weekend from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. It is Hot Dog Day. Thomas the Tank Engine will be there. There will be face painting and other activities. He will be in attendance selling raffle tickets.

Commissioner Shaffer also reminded everyone of the 5K/1 Mile Fun Run on August 16<sup>th</sup>. He also indicated this weekend is the Pittsburgh Triathlon, which a part of it comes into Ross Township. He stated he will be doing part of it, the adventure length.



Commissioner Trilli stated he attended the lethal driving program put on by Officers Thomas and Elway. He indicated it was very informative. They will be putting the program on again in October, and he encouraged everyone to attend. Commissioner Trilli state the Traffic Advisory Board is filled and will be meeting next Tuesday, August 11<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Sample stated he believed it will not meet until September. Mr. Sample indicated he would confirm that and get it corrected on the calendar. Next Friday there will be a Movie in the Park at Denny Park, “Star Wars: Episode IV.” As an added feature, the person with the best costume will win four Pirate tickets.

Commissioner Sponcer stated North Hills Estates has received three awards in the past month for the best neighborhood from Northwood Realty, the Ingomar Women’s Club and from WTAE. They do the backyard of one of the residents on Washington.

Commissioner Mikec stated he had the opportunity to host the Allegheny and Western Pennsylvania Association of Township Commissioners at Evergreen Park. He indicated they loved the improvements made to the park.

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**CITIZENS’ COMMENTS - None**

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

**Motion passes unanimously**

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**MEETING ADJOURNED AT 8:01 P.M.**

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**Douglas Sample  
Manager/Secretary**

**By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Grant Montgomery, President  
Ross Township Board of  
Commissioners**

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

