

Ross Township Commissioners Meeting
1000 Ross Municipal Drive
Pittsburgh, PA 15237
September 8, 2015
7:30 p.m.

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

ABSENT: Stephen Korbel and Lana Mazur

SOLICITOR: Bonnie Brimmeier, Esq.

TOWNSHIP MANAGER: Douglas Sample

DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT/ZONING ADMINISTRATOR: Dominic Rickert

Pledge of Allegiance/Invocation

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS - None

PETITIONS AND COMPLAINTS - None

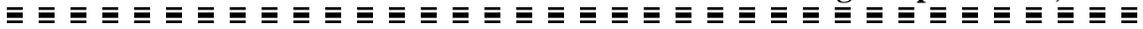
RESOLUTIONS TO BE ADOPTED:

Resolution No. 2181 – Authorizing the acquisition and subsequent disposition of a parcel of vacant property known as Lot and Block No. 516-A-52 (Maple Avenue) would be in accord with the Comprehensive Plan of the Municipality.

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

Commissioner Stanko commented that she would like the name added, which is Mark S. Hirsh.

Upon inquiry by Commissioner Mikec, Mr. Sample stated if it is a paper street, half of the street reverts to the adjoining property



owner. Commissioner Montgomery stated since he's the property owner on one side, so he gets half the street; and he's going to get the property on the other side, so he gets the property on the other side. Essentially the whole street will dissolve, per the County ruling. The only thing the township said was that it was not a public street.

Motion passes – 7 to 0

Resolution No. 2182 – Authorizing the 2016 Minimum Municipal Obligations (MMOs) for the Police and General Employees' Pension Plans.

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

Upon inquiry by Commissioner Shaffer, Mr. Sample stated it was Option 2 where the interest rate assumption is reduced from 7.5 to 7.75, which does make the cost higher.

Motion passes – 7 to 0

Resolution No. 2183 – Requiring a five percent (5%) police officer contribution to the Ross Township Police Pension Plan for the year 2016.

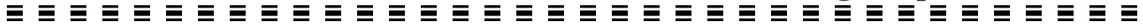
Motion to approve made by Commissioner DeMarco and seconded by Commissioner Sponcer.

Motion passes –7 to 0

Resolution No. 2184 – Requiring a three percent (3%) general employee contribution to the Ross Township General Employees' Pension Plan for the year 2016.

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

Motion passes –7 to 0



Resolution No. 2185 – Temporary banner placement over McKnight Road south of McIntyre Road for Vincentian Academy, which message reads: Vincentian Academy Fall Open Houses – October 11, 11:00 a.m.-2:30 p.m., and October 25, 1:00 to 2:30 p.m.

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

Upon inquiry by Commissioner Shaffer, Mr. Sample confirmed that the matter was not in the packets, but they understood that they would have to be responsible for erecting and maintaining the sign during the course of its stay. The information was only received late in the afternoon.

Motion passes – 7 to 0

ORDINANCES TO BE INTRODUCED - None

ORDINANCES TO BE ENACTED - None

CONSENT AGENDA:

Approval of Minutes – None

Payment of Bills and Financial Reports

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

Motion passes – 7 to 0

PLANNING COMMISSION - None

PLANNING/ZONING DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE REPORT - None



RECREATION COMMITTEE REPORT:

Request Board permission for Eloise Peet to attend the Pennsylvania Greenways and Trail Summit in Warren, PA, September 20-22, 2015. Estimated Cost: Not to exceed \$800.00.

Motion to approve made by Commissioner Shaffer and seconded by Commissioner Trilli.

Motion passes – 7 to 0

Commissioner Shaffer reminded everyone that registration forms are available for the Halloween party on Saturday, October 24th, from 1:00 p.m. until 3:00 p.m. at the Municipal Center. There will be a fundraiser at the Municipal Center on October 16th called “The Halloween Monster Bash.” The proceeds will benefit the Evergreen Park playground. The event is BYOB and for those 21 and older. The cost is \$30 per person, \$150 for a reserved table. Commissioner Trilli requested that the two Halloween events be placed on the website.

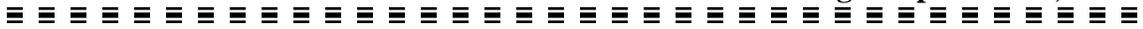
ADMINISTRATION/LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE REPORT:

Request Board approval for Pay Application and Certification for Payment No. 2 for Gurtner Construction in the amount of \$180,090.00 for work done on the new Public Works and Salt Storage Facility.

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

Motion passes – 7 to 0

Request Board authorization for Independence Excavating, Inc., request for overnight work hours for Thursday, September 10th and 17th, and Friday, September 11th and 18th, from 10:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m. for waterline shutdown and miscellaneous electrical trenching.



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

**Motion passes – 6 to1
Commissioner Shaffer voting in the negative**

Commissioner Mikec reminded everyone of the upcoming educational seminars to be held at the end of the month. Items to be discussed are the pros and cons of having police body cameras, the local government regulations on firearms update based on the Harrisburg lawsuit, how the Internet has changed and personal practice of local government and its impact and what municipal authorities absolutely must do under the new child protective laws. There will be a labor update by Palumbo & Associates. Requests for videotapes will also be discussed as well as a presentation by the K-9 Unit. There will be a State of Union address by Rich Fitzgerald and a legislative round table by the state representatives. A lot of the local municipalities will be attending. Commissioner Mikec encouraged everyone to attend.

SOLICITOR’S REPORT:

Ms. Brimmeier read a Press Release given by the township as follows:

"The Board of Commissioners of Ross Township wishes to release the following information publicly and formally to assure the dissemination of accurate information and deter the dissemination of rumors. The Township has been made aware that the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania State Ethics Commission is currently conducting an inquiry into the actions of Ross Township Tax Collector Gerald O'Brien stemming from his conduct while a member of the Township's Board of Commissioners, which included but is not limited to the use of Township Resources for his private gain.

"The Township is cooperating fully with the Ethics Commission in the conduct of its inquiry. Said conduct was previously investigated by the Township and resulted in a censure of Mr. O'Brien by the Board of Commissioners, the terms of which included limiting Mr. O'Brien's presence in the Municipal Center and contact with Township employees."



PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE REPORT:

Commissioner Mikec stated Public Works is hard at work inspecting and GPSing 500 manholes by the end of the year, which is required under the consent order. On Russell and Byron, storm sewer work has been completed. Wood carpet has been put into the township parks to upgrade the fall surfaces. The footer is currently being dug and concrete installed for the salt storage dome up at the new Public Works complex. Contractors will be doing work this week on Patrick Place replacing the center island and paving the lawn on Neola and sewer work on Pennsylvania Avenue.

PUBLIC SAFETY/POLICE COMMITTEE REPORT:

Request Board permission for Sergeant Randy McAllister and Patrolman Daniel Papale to attend the NW3C Cyber Investigation 201-Social Media & Technical Skills in Fairmont, West Virginia, October 6-8, 2015.

Motion to approve made by Commissioner Trilli and seconded by Commissioner Sponcer.

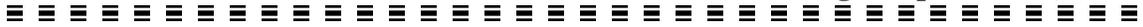
Motion passes – 7 to 0

Commissioner Trilli also commented that the Civil Service is going to advertise this weekend for testing for police officers, so it will be out in the newspapers.

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

Commissioner Sponcer reported “progress.” He indicated there were two structure fires since the last meeting, which were both extinguished. He also stated the chiefs’ meeting is on the 19th, and the firemen's picnic is this Sunday.

Commissioner Mikec stated he received an E-mail inquiring as to which department is called out first on a fire based on a Bellevue Road address. Commissioner Sponcer responded that each fire chief decides what companies he wants on his calls, which is set by state law. Commissioner Mikec asked if Ross Township would



respond first for a Ross Township resident and West View would follow up. Commissioner Sponcer stated that was correct.

Commissioner DeMarco commented that the township has received all the projected budgets for the township’s fire departments for 2016 in a timely fashion. He also requested the manager be sure that the township has its projected budget for EMS. Mr. Sample stated he would touch base with them.

MANAGER’S REPORT - None

COMMISSIONERS’ COMMENTS:

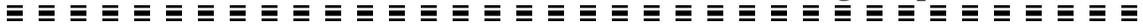
Commissioner Trilli stated the traffic light at Braunlich and McKnight was tested, and the walk signal was adequate. He indicated he has received 79 responses regarding the survey for Denny Park, which he felt was a good response. Commissioner Trilli also requested some guidance from the Board in implementing a “concern line” for residents to report issues. The matter will be discussed at the next committee meeting.

Commissioner Sponcer commented that there is a survey on the township website regarding bus service on Perry Highway.

Commissioner DeMarco stated he was attending the meeting tomorrow night at DiPietro’s with Commissioner Tom Baker. Commissioner Mikec stated he also would be in attendance. Commissioner DeMarco stated if anyone had any concerns they want addressed to please advise him or Commissioner Mikec. Mr. Sample indicated he was also going to attend and that anyone could also E-mail him.

Commissioner Shaffer stated that he, Ms. Peet and Commissioner Trilli rode the senior bus to see how it functions. He indicated the people who were riders were appreciative that the township provides that service.

Commissioner Montgomery commented to Mr. Funk that he saw some Public Works employees working on the catch basin on



Van Fleet Circle. He indicated the finished product is pretty nice. He also thanked them for their hard work and to keep it up.

CITIZENS' COMMENTS:

Mr. Joe Zawoysky, 123 Fifth Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15229, inquired if the agenda was posted on the website, because he couldn't find it. Commissioner Montgomery apologized if there was a glitch. He also stated he submitted a Right-to-Know request. He also inquired about sidewalks.

Motion to adjourn made by Commissioner DeMarco and seconded by Commissioner Trilli.

Motion passes – 7 to 0

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 7:58 P.M.

Manager/Secretary

**President,
Grant Montgomery
Ross Township Board of
Commissioners**

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