

Ross Township Commissioners Meeting
1000 Ross Municipal Drive
Pittsburgh, PA 15237
March 16, 2015
7:30 p.m.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Grant Montgomery, David J. Mikec, Paul Trilli, Jeremy Shaffer (via telephone), John Sponcer, Daniel L. DeMarco, Stephen Korbel, Grace Stanko and Lana Mazur

ABSENT: Junior Councilperson Jake Stanton

SOLICITOR: Bonnie Brimmeier, Esq.

TOWNSHIP MANAGER: Douglas Sample

Pledge of Allegiance/Invocation

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS:

Ms. Harriett Koedel, 209 Pittview Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15237, addressed the Board regarding the coyote issue in White Oak Heights. Ms. Koedel stated her property abuts the open space between her home and Ross Park Mall. She indicated the coyotes are rampant. She saw three coyotes outside of her fenced-in yard who were nose-to-nose with her dogs. Her neighbor was out with her grandchild in the driveway when a coyote ran past. Last night at the corner of her property next to the woods she saw a hunter with a laser sight on their gun, which alarmed her. Ms. Koedel also stated she grew up in the area and that coyotes have never been seen before. She contacted the Game Commission about the matter.

Commissioner Montgomery advised Ms. Koedel if she saw anyone pointing a gun to call 911. He stated the township has reached out to the Game Commission to schedule a meeting.

Mr. Sample indicated there would be a sign-up sheet at the recreation desk for anyone who would be interested in attending the meeting.

Mr. William Kaczmarek, 118 Sycamore Drive, Pittsburgh, PA 15237, stated one of his feral cats was attacked by a coyote in his back yard. He expressed concern for his cats and children in the neighborhood.

Mr. Eric Pitchford, 109 Crestvale Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15237, stated he felt the overabundant deer were the real problem.

Ms. Leila Slieman, 3564 McClure Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15212, stated she was at the meeting on behalf of the wildlife. She indicated she provided some information regarding nonlethal methods of dealing with the coyote with Ms. Peet. She also stated she could provide a plan to deal with specific issues to the township in the next week or so.

Ms. Marian Brady, 110 Woodsdale Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15237, addressed the Board regarding the coyote issue. She indicated she has been in her home for 29 years and this is the first time she has heard coyotes howling and yipping very, very close to her home. She indicated her concern for children who walk through the buffer zone from Ross Park Mall. Ms. Brady stated she spoke to the mall manager, who indicated the deer have been a problem in the mall parking lot. She also indicated there are a couple coyote dens in the buffer zone. Ms. Brady suggested possible signage to warn people that there are coyote in the area. Along with notification of the residents, she suggested education to teach the residents how to deal with a coyote if they encounter one, also.

Commissioner Mikec commented that coyotes are a common occurrence in the area with some years having a concentration in certain areas rather than others.

Commissioner Montgomery commented that the buffer area is privately owned.

Ms. Noreen Re, 122 Woodsdale Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15237, commented that the coyotes are howling directly behind her home in the boulders on the hillside. She indicated although coyote have been in Pennsylvania forever, this is the first time they have made their den in the boulders behind her home. Ms. Re also indicated this is the first time she has heard howling, also. She expressed concern for the children who play in the boulders when their siblings have baseball games at Bartlett Field.

PRESENTATION OF PLAQUE:

Eagle Scout Dirk Randolph Hasenbein

Commissioner Stanko presented a plaque to Dirk Randolph Hasenbein for attaining the highest rank in Scouting, which is the Eagle Scout. Dirk stated for his Eagle Scout project he worked with St. Teresa of Avila Festival in making a golf game and redoing the dice table.

PETITIONS AND COMPLAINTS:

Beth Seiler and Debbie Sucha - Re: McKnight Village Run for the Rec this summer on June 7th

Mrs. Beth Seiler, 174 Baker Drive, Pittsburgh, PA 15237, and Mrs. Debbie Sucha, 112 Tillotson Circle, Pittsburgh, PA 15237, addressed the Board regarding the McKnight Village Run for the Rec, which will be held

on June 7, 2015. They thanked the township for their past support and asked for the same consideration this year.

This fundraiser helps support the McKnight Village playground and recreation area. They indicated they hoped to raise at least \$3,000 and indicated they were focusing on runners and walkers of all ages. Mrs. Seiler indicated on April 11th the playground will be resurfaced and invited everyone to come and help.

Commissioner DeMarco also commented that they accept sponsorships for the event, also. Mrs. Sucha stated that is a great way for local business to do some advertising at a low cost.

Marian Brady, 110 Woodsdale Road - Re: Coyote Issue

(This matter was addressed under “Public Comment on Agenda Items” above.)

RESOLUTIONS TO BE ADOPTED - None

ORDINANCES TO BE INTRODUCED - None

ORDINANCES TO BE ENACTED - None

CONSENT AGENDA:

Approval of Minutes – February 27, 2015

Payment of Bills and Financial Reports

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

Motion passes unanimously

PLANNING COMMISSION - None

PLANNING/ZONING REDEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE REPORT:

Commissioner Korbel advised the Board that a meeting was held with Commissioners Trilli and Mazur, along with himself and Mr. Rickert to discuss revisions to the PRD ordinance and other technical amendments to the Zoning Ordinance. Mr. Rickert will be giving a presentation to the Board in the near future with proposed recommendations. Mr. Rickert will be meeting with the solicitor's office and finalizing what the committee has been working on

SOLICITOR'S REPORT - None

RECREATION COMMITTEE REPORT:

Request Board motion to award R&B Contracting and Excavation, low bidder, the Evergreen Park Phase I Improvements Project in the amount of \$157,195.00.

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

Motion passes unanimously

Commissioner Montgomery commented that the bid came in under budget and under expectation as well.

Commissioner Mazur reminded everyone that the township Easter Egg Hunt will be this Saturday from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. She stated volunteers are to report between 9:30 a.m. and 10:00 a.m.

ADMINISTRATION/LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE REPORT:

Request Board permission to bid 2015 Ross Township Parks and Ball Field Lawn Maintenance.

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

Motion passes unanimously

Request Board permission to bid washing of township vehicles.

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

Motion passes unanimously

Board selection of the official voting Delegate or Alternate representing Ross Township for the MRM Workers' Comp Pooled Trust at Seven Springs, Friday, April 10, 2015.

Motion to select Commissioner Mikec as the delegate representing Ross Township for the MRM Workers' Comp Pooled Trust at Seven Springs on Friday, April 10, 2015, made by Commissioner Stanko and seconded by Commissioner Mazur.

Motion passes unanimously

Request Board motion to award First National Bank, lowest bidder, the 2015 financing for police vehicles (3 years – 1.75% /2years - 1.56%).

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

Motion passes unanimously

Health Insurance Opt-Out Policy

Motion for approval of the Health Insurance Opt-Out Policy made by Commissioner Stanko and seconded by Commissioner Mazur.

Motion passes unanimously

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE REPORT:

Request Board motion to award Insight Pipe Contracting, low bidder, the 2015 CCTV Inspections in the amount of \$65,175.00.

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

Motion passes unanimously

PUBLIC SAFETY/POLICE COMMITTEE REPORT - None

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

Commissioner Sponcer commented that the chiefs will meet next Wednesday.

MANAGER'S REPORT:

Mr. Sample requested Board authorization for the special meeting on March 23rd at 6:30 to discuss the Public Works building.

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

Motion passes unanimously

JUNIOR COUNCILPERSON REPORT - None

COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS:

Commissioner Mazur commented that everyone should have received their new Ross magazine in the mail by now. She indicated if anyone hadn't received theirs to please contact the Rec Department. The first and second week of April the township will be collecting leaf bags. The Historic Society will meet this Friday at

6:30 p.m., and they will be honoring female veterans. If anyone is interested in the Molly's Trolleys tour for April 18th, they need to be signed up. The tour will be from 9:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Representative Dom Costa will be hosting a Job Fair on March 20th from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. She also stated she hoped to see everyone at the Easter Egg Hunt.

Commissioner Korbelt stated he would be at the Easter Egg Hunt with his girls. He also thanked Ms. Peet and the Rec Department for planning the summer rec program. He encouraged anyone with school-aged children to attend. Commissioner Korbelt thanked all the residents who came out this evening to voice their concerns about the coyote issue. He stated he was looking forward to seeing everyone when the meeting with the Game Commission is finalized so everybody can be educated and the township can see what, if anything, they can do to address this issue.

Commissioner Shaffer stated the next Pedestrian/Bicycle Committee meeting will be on March 25th at 7:00 p.m. He also thanked the organizers for the Run for the Rec for their efforts. He stated he would be running in the event and invited his fellow commissioners to join him.

Commissioner Trilli stated he would be available to help with the Easter Egg Hunt. He also thanked the Evergreen Volunteer Fire members who showed up yesterday for the fire prevention seminar.

Commissioner DeMarco stated he would be in attendance at the Easter Egg Hunt. He also indicated he would not be running in the Run for the Rec, but he would be sending whatever sponsorship they request from him.

Commissioner Stanko announced that this Wednesday is the RED meeting at lunchtime at the Municipal Center. The speaker will be Amy Steele from Northland Library. She stated if anyone was interested in attending to please contact her or Mr. Craig Linner.

Commissioner Mikec indicated he promptly registered to work the Easter Egg Hunt.

Commissioner Montgomery stated Saturday is the North Hills Business and Entrepreneurial Fair at the Middle School from 9:00 a.m. until noon.

CITIZENS' COMMENTS – None

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

Motion passes unanimously

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 8:06 P.M.

**Douglas Sample
Manager/Secretary**

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

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