

Ross Township Commissioners Meeting
1000 Ross Municipal Drive
Pittsburgh, PA 15237
April 20, 2015
7:30 p.m.

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

SOLICITOR: Bonnie Brimmeier, Esq. (Absent)

TOWNSHIP MANAGER: Douglas Sample

Pledge of Allegiance/Invocation

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS - None

PETITIONS AND COMPLAINTS - None

RESOLUTIONS TO BE ADOPTED:

**Resolution No. 2170 – Securities and Exchange Commission
continuing Disclosure Procedures for Tax-Exempt Bonds.**

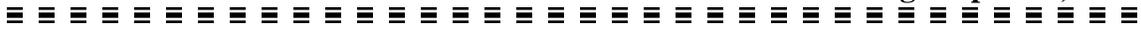
**Motion to approve made by Commissioner DeMarco and
seconded by Commissioner Sponcer.**

Motion passes unanimously

ORDINANCES TO BE INTRODUCED:

**Ordinance No. 2354 – Amending the Ross Township Code of
Ordinances at Chapter 27, Part 11, Planned Residential
Development, Section 1106.04.**

Commissioner Korbel indicated the ordinance will be addressed
at the second meeting in May. Comments are to be submitted to
Mr. Rickert.



Ordinance No. 2355 – Amending Ordinance No. X, otherwise known as the Township of Ross Zoning Ordinance, establishing Article X by adding 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.

Public hearing to be held on Wednesday, May 20, 2015

ORDINANCES TO BE ENACTED:

Ordinance No. 2351 – Restricting parking from the driveway at 32 Clarion Drive to the intersection of Simplon Street so that Fairview Fire Department and residents have ample room to make a safe turn in case of an emergency.

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

Motion passes unanimously

Ordinance No. 2353 – Ordinance for the amnesty program for payment of delinquent business privilege and delinquent mercantile tax pursuant to Act 533.

Commissioner Montgomery commented that the ordinance will be moved to the May 4th agenda.

CONSENT AGENDA:

**Approval of Minutes – None
Payment of Bills and Financial Reports**

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

Motion passes unanimously

PLANNING COMMISSION - None



PLANNING/ZONING REDEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE REPORT:

Request Board approval to send out Partnership District letter for properties along McKnight Road.

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

Motion passes unanimously

SOLICITOR’S REPORT - None

RECREATION COMMITTEE REPORT:

Mr. C. B. McDonald reported the deadline for the Summer Rec program is May 1st. Currently there are 87 participants registered for the program. Renovations in the parking lot have begun. Herge Park is going out for bid. A Community Day meeting is scheduled for May 4th. The proof for the Ross community magazine will be sent to the commissioners to review in a week. The gym floor was just restriped and waxed.

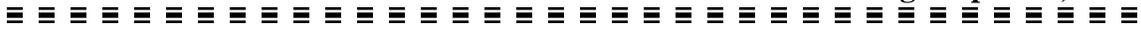
Motion to authorize the Ross Township Pedestrian and Bicycle Committee to conduct a 5K on August 16th with the cost not to exceed \$1,000 made by Commissioner Shaffer and seconded by Commissioner Korbel.

Commissioner Shaffer stated the Pedestrian and Bicycle Committee coordinated with Ross Park Mall in order to have a 5K running event and one-mile fun walk for all the children and residents of the township and other areas to participate in.

Motion passes unanimously

ADMINISTRATION/LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE REPORT:

Request Board motion to award the 2015 Sewer Repair Contracts to the low bidder as follows:



Contract A to Soli Construction, Inc., in the amount of \$349,840.00.

Contract B to Jet Jacks, Inc., in the amount of \$386,105.00.

Contract C to State Pipe Services, Inc., in the amount of \$126,000.00.

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

Commissioner Mikec stated Gateway Engineers reviewed the matter and was in agreement.

Motion passes unanimously

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE REPORT:

Mr. Funk stated paving is being worked on now. Shields Paving has been approved. Regarding the sewer bids, Mr. Funk indicated they are looking forward to the pre-construction meeting. The 20,000 feet that the sewer camera truck has been working on is complete. Gateway downloaded the information into the township’s system. ECP is moving forward. Dirt will soon be moved. Plans are in place. Water will soon be turned on in the parks.

Regarding the Public Works building, they are progressing on cleaning out the lot in the back so once the dirt starts to be moved and work is to proceed that they will be ready. The leaf mulch will be at the Public Works building for the next two weeks for residents who would like to take some.

Ms. Dawn Lane discussed the favorable issue statement from the bond issues. She also indicated she provided the Maher Duessel summary report, which is not the final report. She also provided the January, February and March finance reports. She stated for the first quarter the township should be at about 25 percent of expenses and revenues, and she discussed the figures for expenses and revenues. Ms. Lane stated they had some training with Harris, the new financial software. She indicated they should be going live with the software the week of June 15th.



PUBLIC SAFETY/POLICE COMMITTEE REPORT:

Request Board permission for Sergeant Joseph LaMonica to attend a Pennsylvania Gang Conference in State College, PA, May 12-14, 2015. Estimated Cost: Not to exceed \$400.00.

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

Motion passes unanimously

Request Board permission for Patrolman Robert Zegar and Patrolman Mark Sullivan to attend a Sungard User Group Annual Conference in Atlanta, GA, May 17-21, 2015. Estimated cost: Not to exceed \$2,500.00.

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

Motion passes unanimously

Chief Bellan stated the Police Department is continuing handling calls and doing investigations. They will be getting ready to start doing vehicle switchovers for the budgeted vehicles. They are also proceeding with capital purchases that were budgeted for this year.

Lieutenant Ley discussed the new digital speed sign, which will have data collection for speed and traffic volume. Portability and battery life are better on the new machine. They can get up-to-the-minute data, and they can log in online to get data. There is also a stealth feature, among others.

Commissioner Shaffer stated the police are having a Bicycle Safety Rodeo on May 9th from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at St. Sebastian Church.



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

Commissioner Sponcer reported that the chiefs will be adopting new Standard Operating Guidelines for the township. Commissioner Sponcer stated he spoke with Lieutenant Ley regarding everyone at the fire departments are going to have to go through state and federal background checks. He indicated if everyone needs fingerprinted that it would be a “nightmare.” The chief was looking into seeing if they were fingerprinted before whether it was still on file. The background checks need to be completed by July 15th. Commissioner Sponcer also commented that this would be required, because all the fire departments work with children.

MANAGER’S REPORT:

Mr. Sample stated that Ross Township was named a Banner Community for 2015, one of 42 communities to receive the award. Ross Township was only one of 17 to be named a Banner Community for three years in a row since the inception of the award.

Upon inquiry by Commissioner Montgomery regarding the junior commissioner, Mr. Sample stated the new junior commissioner will start at the beginning of the next school year.

COMMISSIONERS’ COMMENTS:

Commissioner Shaffer thanked the commissioners for approving the 5K and one mile fun walk. He also thanked Mr. Ron Faller for his efforts on the 5K and one mile fun walk. The monthly meeting of the Pedestrian and Bicycle Committee will be held on Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. They have started the process of compiling a map showing where all the sidewalks are in Ross as well as a map identifying corridors where additional sidewalks and bicycle areas could be located.

Commissioner Trilli stated the Traffic Advisory Board came up with a draft ordinance for parking on Stevens Drive, which was distributed to the Board. He also requested that a letter be sent to the Civil Service Commission to inform them that the Board would like them to start the process for testing for new police officers.



Commissioner Trilli also inquired as to whether the township could possibly purchase in bulk the green “Watch for Children” signs so residents could purchase them at a discount through the township. Mr. Sample stated he would look into prices for the signs.

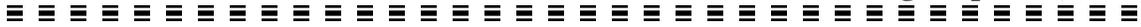
Regarding Civil Service, Chief Bellan stated there were some kinks the last time and with the new solicitor they are trying to streamline the process. Chief Bellan stated what Commissioner Trilli was requesting for the next agenda was that at that time the chief would come forth and request the Board to send a letter to Civil Service asking them to create an eligibility list, which is to start the testing process, et cetera. The chief stated he has already had meetings with the Commission and that he spoke to the solicitor.

Commissioner Stanko informed the Board that Craig Linner was stepping down as president of the Ross Economic Development group. She indicated they have formed a nominating committee who will be working on securing a new president.

Commissioner Mikec drew everyone’s attention to the spring dinner meeting for the Western Pennsylvania Association of Township Commissioners. He indicated he had the privilege of being the president for the past two years. He stated they might have some announcements of new board members. At the educational seminar held a couple weeks ago he attended the MRM Trust Workers’ Group meeting. The township received a dividend check for \$159,221.06. He also had a couple matters for executive session. He also commented to Mr. Funk that there is damage to a county guiderail at the corner of Forest and Center.

Commissioner Korbelt extended his thanks to Ms. Peet for her efforts in submitting the Sangree Master Plan grant application. He also wanted to thank the White Oak Heights Women’s Club, the Berkeley Hills Civic Association and the Kinvara Civic Association for submitting their letters of support for the grant.

Motion to terminate the employment of Dan Hankins effective immediately made by Commissioner Korbelt and seconded by Commissioner Trilli.



Roll call:

- Commissioner Shaffer – Yes
- Commissioner Trilli – Yes
- Commissioner Sponcer – No
- Commissioner DeMarco – Yes
- Commissioner Stanko – Yes
- Commissioner Mikec – No
- Commissioner Mazur – Yes
- Commissioner Korbek – Yes
- Commissioner Montgomery – Yes

Motion passes – 7 to 2

Commissioner Korbek stated he would not be in attendance at the May 18th meeting, but he would like the manager to look into a domestic violence policy. He had a sample to provide to the manager.

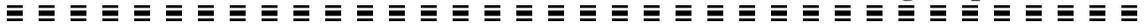
Commissioner Sponcer requested that Waste Management be at the next meeting to address concerns regarding garbage and recycling pick-up.

CITIZENS' COMMENTS:

Mr. Joe Zawoysky, 123 5th Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15229, addressed the Board regarding garbage pick-up, a gas pipe on Grandview Avenue, stop signs and speed bumps. He also inquired if the gym was ever looked at as being a maintenance building. Commissioner Montgomery stated that would not be feasible. Mr. Zawoysky also discussed contracting snowplowing and salting. He also mentioned speaking with the District Attorney regarding the commissioners' salary and health care. Mr. Zawoysky also stated he submitted a Right-to-Know request regarding the bond issue.

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

Motion passes unanimously



MEETING ADJOURNED TO EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 8:21 P.M.

Douglas Sample
Manager/Secretary

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

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