

Ross Township Commissioners Meeting  
1000 Ross Municipal Drive  
Pittsburgh, PA 15237  
October 6, 2014  
7:30 p.m.

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

**ABSENT:** Junior Commissioner Jake Stanton

**SOLICITOR:** Bonnie Brimmeier, Esq.

**TOWNSHIP MANAGER:** Douglas Sample

**ZONING ADMINISTRATOR:** Dominic J. 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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**2014 COMMERCIAL LANDSCAPE AWARD PRESENTATIONS:**

Commissioner Montgomery announced the following winners,  
who were not present:

Hal's Bar & Grill – 3225 Babcock Boulevard  
Rum Runners Saloon – 3885 Babcock Boulevard  
Sieb's Pub – 3382 Babcock Boulevard

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**RESOLUTIONS TO BE ADOPTED - None**

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**ORDINANCES TO BE INTRODUCED - None**

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**ORDINANCES TO BE ENACTED:**

**Ordinance No. 2343 – Amending the Ross Township Code of Ordinances at Chapter 20, Solid Waste, Part 1, Collection, Section 106, Hours for Collection**

**Motion to enact made by Commissioner Trilli and seconded by Commissioner DeMarco.**

**Motion passes – 8 to 1  
Commissioner Stanko voting in the negative**

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**CONSENT AGENDA:**

**Approval of Minutes – Tuesday, September 2, 2014, and Monday, September 29, 2014 – Special Meeting**

**Payment of Bills and Financial Reports**

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

**Motion passes – 7 to 0 with 2 abstentions  
Commissioner Montgomery abstaining due to absence from the September 29<sup>th</sup> meeting and  
Commissioner Mazur abstaining from the Payment of Bills and Financial Reports**

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**PLANNING COMMISSION:**

**S-14-4 – James and Julie Long requesting Subdivision approval to consolidate three lots (353-C-168, 353-C-170 and 353-C-172) in order to build a new residential dwelling on property located on Thompson Run Road in an R-1 Zoning District of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Ward.**

Ms. Julie Long was present and stated they want to consolidate three lots to build one residential home.

MR. RICKERT: “The Planning Commission, having reviewed this application, is of the opinion that it meets the terms as set forth in



the Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance, and/or the Zoning Ordinance, and hereby recommends approval of the request by a vote of 6-0, with the condition that the metes and bounds information be placed on the sanitary sewer easement.”

Mr. Rickert indicated the metes and bounds and the sanitary sewer easement have been added to the plans. Upon inquiry by Commissioner Montgomery, Ms. Long indicated they were not in a flood plain. Also upon inquiry by Commissioner Montgomery, Ms. Long indicated they were in the process of getting a water and sewer tap, which are available.

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

**Motion passes unanimously**

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**PLANNING/ZONING REDEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE REPORT:**

**For consideration: To accept the low bid from Jadell Minniefield Construction Services, Inc., for a total price of \$14,000.00 for the CDBG Year 40 demolition projects.**

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

Mr. Sample stated this was for 135 McIntyre Road and 280 Bascom Avenue.

**Motion passes unanimously**

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**SOLICITOR’S REPORT:**

Ms. Brimmeier indicated she would like a brief executive session.

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*Executive session held from 7:41 p.m. to 7:56 p.m.*

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**Motion to honorably discharge from employment as a police officer from Ross Township James Fish effective**



**immediately and in accordance with the Rules and Regulations of the Civil Service Commission of Ross Township and applicable law made by Commissioner Korbel and seconded by Commissioner Sponcer.**

**Motion passes – 8 to 0  
(Commissioner Mazur no longer available by phone)**

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**RECREATION COMMITTEE REPORT:**

Commissioner Shaffer thanked all the volunteers for helping with Community Day. The dunk tank raised \$400 for North Hills Community Outreach. He also thanked the Fire Police, EMS, firefighters, Parks and Recreation and Public Works for their help. Commissioner Shaffer also indicated the plans for Evergreen Community Park are moving forward. Trail work is scheduled to begin. He indicated they are looking at holding a public meeting soon to update the public on the plans for the park. Miss Peet has been working with Gateway in developing some plans on parking and just general layout of the park itself.

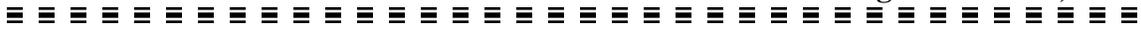
3500 senior citizen surveys will be going out next week. Fall programming is starting. The Halloween event will be held at the Community Center on October 25<sup>th</sup>. Commissioner Shaffer also stated basketball signups were being conducted tonight.

Commissioner Trilli stated the night before Community Day a “Movie in the Park” was held at Denny Park. He indicated it is a program that the township should continue doing from park to park at least in the summertime to get the community together and get involved.

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**ADMINISTRATION/LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE REPORT:**

**Request Board approval for Building Code Official Dan Hankins to attend the Pennsylvania Building Officials Conference from October 21-24, 2014, at Seven Springs Resort and Conference Center. The cost should not exceed \$820.00 for the four (4) day conference, which is budgeted. Also requesting the use of his township car for transportation to and from the conference.**



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

**Motion passes – 8 to 0**

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**Request Board approval to accept Northland Public Library's 2015 Budget.**

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

**Motion passes – 8 to 0**

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**Request Board approval for the PA Department of Transportation request to permit contractors to perform the work at night between 8:00 p.m. and 6:00 a.m., when the traffic volumes will be at their lowest, and allow an exception to local noise ordinances for a Group Project on S.R. 4001 (Babcock Boulevard) which consists of milling and resurfacing, drainage and base repair improvements scheduled to begin construction on April 27, 2015.**

Commissioner Shaffer requested an amendment that the township also request that PennDOT investigate the concerns around Evergreen Volunteer Fire Department related to the passing area and then also request for them to add bicycle lane striping, as per the Ross Parks and Rec Comprehensive Plan.

**Motion to approve with amendment made by Commissioner Stanko and seconded by Commissioner Korbel.**

Commissioner Mikec commented that if they are allowed to work during the evenings that they must maintain driveway access to the businesses in the area during their hours of operation.

**Further amendment agreed to by both Commissioners Stanko and Korbel.**

**Motion passes – 8 to 0**

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**Request Board approval for Pay Application No. 3 from State Pipe Services, Inc., in the amount of \$53,974.80, for repair work completed between August 1, 2014, and August 31, 2014, for the Ross Township 2014 Sewer Repair Contract A – Excavation Repairs as required by the Consent Order.**

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

**Motion passes – 8 to 0**

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**PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE REPORT:**

**Request Board motion to adopt the Public Works Hiring Policies and Procedures.**

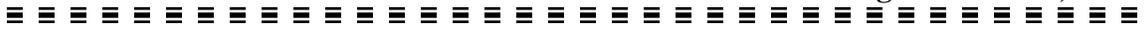
**Motion to adopt made by Commissioner Mikec and seconded by Commissioner Korbel.**

Roll call:

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

**Motion passes – 6 to 2**

Upon inquiry by Commissioner Mikec if everyone had an opportunity to put in their challenges to the new policy, Commissioner DeMarco responded his challenges were addressed, but he did not agree with them. Commissioner Shaffer stated there was a preference clause about how employees are ranked that he wasn't comfortable with. Commissioner Mikec stated it was a living document and that issues could be addressed in the future.



**For Consideration – Approving advertisement for Public Works Laborer.**

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

**Motion passes – 8 to 0**

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**Request Board motion for Gateway Engineers to inspect eight (8) township bridges.**

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

Commissioner Mikec stated it is not covered by the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation Bridge Inspection Program.

Commissioner Shaffer indicated he felt the price was too high. Discussion ensued.

Roll call:

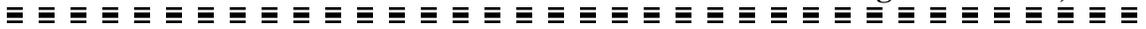
- Commissioner Stanko – No
- Commissioner Mikec – No
- Commissioner Korbelt – No
- Commissioner Shaffer – No
- Commissioner Trilli – No
- Commissioner Sponcer – No
- Commissioner DeMarco - Yes
- Commissioner Montgomery – No

**Motion passes – 7 to 1  
Commissioner DeMarco voting in the negative**

Commissioner Mikec requested the matter be placed on the committee agenda.

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**Request Board approve the bidding process for the proposed Public Works Building.**

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

Roll call:

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

**Motion fails– 4 to 4**

The matter will be addressed in committee. Commissioner Montgomery requested Mr. McLean provide the requested information. Commissioner Montgomery also invited suggestions from Mr. Funk. He stated further communication on a short-term plan is needed.

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**PUBLIC SAFETY/POLICE COMMITTEE REPORT - None**

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

Commissioner Sponcer reported “progress.”

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**MANAGER’S REPORT - None**

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**COMMISSIONERS’ COMMENTS:**

Commissioner Stanko thanked Eloise Peet, the Recreation Department, Public Works and Mike Funk for their assistance with the playground equipment in Sharmyn Park. She indicated the children are enjoying the new climbing wall.



Commissioner Shaffer thanked Public Works for their quick responses provided for some community picnics, signs and road repair.

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**Motion to get a second and full structural analysis of the existing Public Works building made by Commissioner Shaffer and seconded by Commissioner Korbel.**

Upon inquiry by Commissioner Montgomery, Commissioner Shaffer indicated he was anticipating spending up to maybe \$10,000 to get a full structural assessment done by someone who specializes in buildings and structural and geotechnical of the current building.

Upon inquiry by Commissioner Mikec if an RFP was needed, Ms. Brimmeier responded as follows:

MS. BRIMMEIER: "You don't have to bid it, because it's professional services. But if you want to try to get the most competitive cost, then I would suggest doing an RFP and let everybody including Gateway give you an idea of what they would charge to do the more in-depth analysis. Then you could decide from there if you want to spend that money or not."

Discussion ensued. Commissioner Shaffer reiterated the cost not to exceed \$10,000.

Roll call:

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

**Motion fails– 4 to 4**

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Commissioner Trilli inquired as to how the salt dome was to be fixed. Mr. Funk stated he would have to talk to the manager regarding a full plan. He indicated the roof would be torn off the salt building and a company would come in with an excavator and try to clean that out and knock the walls down with a pigeon coop and try to put the salt in there. 800 tons will be stored in the pigeon coop. The salt dome walls will be used to house an additional 2000 tons, and the area will be tarped. The trucks will load out of the pigeon coop temporarily. The items currently stored in the pigeon coop will be stored outside. Equipment and trucks will be stored outside. Mr. Funk stated getting storage sheds up the street was discussed. Mr. Sample indicated the backhoe and tractor will not fit in a standard storage shed. Mr. Sample stated more conversation is needed.

Commissioner DeMarco commented regarding the negative and misinformed comments on social media about the Public Works building. He also stated the comment that the township is mismanaged is not correct. He stated the township is managed frugally.

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**CITIZENS' COMMENTS - None**

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**Motion to adjourn made by Commissioner Korbel and seconded by Commissioner Trilli.**

**Motion passes – 8 to 0**

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**MEETING ADJOURNED AT 8:23 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, Court Reporter