

Ross Township Commissioners Meeting
1000 Ross Municipal Drive
Pittsburgh, PA 15237
October 20, 2014
7:30 p.m.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Grant Montgomery, David J. Mikec,
Jeremy Shaffer, Daniel L. DeMarco, John Sponcer, Stephen Korbel
(via telephone at 7:36 p.m.), Grace Stanko and Lana Mazur

ABSENT: Paul Trilli
Junior Commissioner Jake Stanton

SOLICITOR: Bonnie Brimmeier, Esq.

TOWNSHIP MANAGER: Douglas Sample

Pledge of Allegiance/Invocation

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS:

Mr. Joe Zawoysky, 123 Fifth Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15229, questioned the agenda item regarding McLean Architects and whether it has already been approved. Commissioner Montgomery responded that it has not been approved yet and this is the final design process. Commissioner Montgomery stated that this was talked about at length during the Committee Meeting, and the intent is to finalize the external and internal portions so that it can be put out to bid.

Ms. Pamela Jean Heck, 100 Fairley Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15237, commented on the decision by the Commonwealth Court to deny the appeal of Bill Ansell of 109 Fairley Road to overturn the magistrate's decision requiring him to remove the vulgar signs from his house. Ms. Heck stated that she and numerous residents of Fairley Road would like to know if the Township has established a plan for removal of the signs which still remain. Commissioner Montgomery replied that there are actually two plans that the Township is going to proceed with to address that issue.

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PETITIONS AND COMPLAINTS -- None

RESOLUTIONS TO BE ADOPTED -- None

ORDINANCES TO BE INTRODUCED -- None

ORDINANCES TO BE ENACTED -- None

CONSENT AGENDA:

**Approval of Minutes – September 15, 2014
Payment of Bills and Financial Reports**

Motion to approve the minutes of September 15, 2014, and the Payment of Bills and Financial Reports made by Commissioner Mazur and seconded by Commissioner Mikec.

Motion passes 8 to 0

PLANNING COMMISSION -- None

PLANNING/ZONING DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE REPORT -- None

SOLICITOR'S REPORT -- None

RECREATION COMMITTEE REPORT -- None

ADMINISTRATION/LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE REPORT:

Request Board approval of Pay Application No. 1, dated September 26, 2014, from Shields Asphalt Paving, Inc., in the amount of \$776,595.79 for resurfacing work that is part of the 2014 Road Program.

Commissioner Stanko stated that Gateway Engineers has approved this.



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

Motion passes 8 to 0

Request Board approval for Pay Application No. 3 from State Pipe Services, Inc., in the amount of \$60,268.00 for repair work completed between August 4, 2014, and August 28, 2014, for the Ross Township 2014 Sewer Repair Contract B – Lining Repairs as required by the Consent Order.

Commissioner Stanko stated this was also approved by Gateway Engineers.

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

Motion passes 8 to 0

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE REPORT:

Request Board approval for Gateway Engineers to inspect eight Township bridges at a cost not to exceed \$12,800.00.

Commissioner Mikec questioned whether that reflects the negotiated price, and Mr. Sample responded that it does. Commissioner Sponcer stated that the original price was \$16,000.00 and was reduced by \$3,500.00.

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

Motion passes 8 to 0

Request Board approval of the design process from McLean Architects for the Public Works Facility.

Commissioner Mikec stated that a lot of work was done between the last proposal and this one; there are reductions in the building size, some slight reduction in site work; and a decision can



be made whether to phase this complex project out over some years or go ahead with it all at once. Commissioner Montgomery stated once this passes, then the structures that were discussed this evening, the outsides can't change but the insides can. Commissioner Sponcer stated the Committee will still bring everything back to the Board so everyone knows what's going on.

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

Motion passes 8 to 0

PUBLIC SAFETY/POLICE COMMITTEE REPORT -- None

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

Commissioner Sponcer reported "progress."

MANAGER'S REPORT:

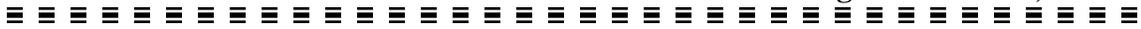
Mr. Sample stated there are audit proposals in the Commissioners' packets and that they will be working with the Finance Committee to interview the firms that submitted and they'll bring back a recommendation to the Board for approval.

Commissioner Montgomery questioned whether there is going to be a Junior Commissioner anymore, and Mr. Sample responded that there will be a new one at the next meeting, which is Wednesday, November 5, due to Election Day.

JUNIOR COMMISSIONER REPORT -- None

COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS:

Commissioner Mikec stated, regarding the fireman recruitment and retention, that since the articles in the last magazine and at Community Days, there has been an influx of a few more volunteers to the program. He also stated if anyone has a business that would like further information, send him an e-mail and he will get you the packet.



Commissioner Mazur stated that this coming Saturday, Ross Township is celebrating Halloween with the kids at the Municipal Building. Anyone who would like to get their children in the Halloween parade needs to go to the Rec Department tomorrow. She also thanked ahead of time the police and fire departments and everyone else that will be out Halloween night to protect our children.

Commissioner Shaffer stated he followed up with PennDOT per the last meeting about the repaving of Babcock Boulevard, and there is a meeting set for Monday, October 27, at 11:30 a.m. at the Municipal Building. He stated the district safety engineer, two project managers and possibly the district traffic engineer are scheduled to meet with him, Mr. Sample and Mr. Funk. Mr. Sample stated that Chief Bellan will also be attending.

The Board of Commissioners directs Township planning staff to specifically request verbally and in writing that any new developments or site redevelopments contain adequate pedestrian plans, including the presence of sidewalks along roadways and sidewalks on both sides of newly-constructed roadways, as appropriate. The Board kindly reminds applicants of the Existing Ross Township Ordinance 21-301.

Commissioner Spincer questioned whether Commissioner Shaffer was asking that the ordinance be changed. Commissioner Montgomery responded no, that it's to reinforce the desire to get sidewalks because it's easier to ask for them up front than it is when the plan is finished.

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

Motion passes 8 to 0

Commissioner Spincer stated he would like to Board to consider, before the budget comes out this year, an RFP for grass cutting for next year to free the road crew up to work on the roads. He stated that he and Mike Funk looked at about 40 catch basins and over half were deficient. Commissioner Montgomery suggested Commissioner Spincer discuss it with Commissioner Mikec and

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figure out what to do next since the Township now owns all the equipment.

Commissioner DeMarco gave a heads-up that he will be distributing a memo on the permit parking ordinance, and he stated he would like that on the agenda for the next Committee meeting. Commissioner DeMarco also wanted to make sure it was announced that next Monday at 6:30 there will be a Committee meeting specifically for the budget. Commissioner DeMarco also stated this Saturday at 11:00 is the McKnight Village Halloween parade.

Commissioner Stanko questioned whether the Junior Councilperson has decided not to come back. Mr. Sample stated that Mr. Stanton is having conflicts with the band and that Ruby will be the new Junior Councilperson, and she will be sworn in on November 5.

Commissioner Mikec questioned whether the Traffic Advisory Board has considered the issue of handicapped parking yet. Commissioner Mazur stated that the Traffic Advisory Board did have their first meeting, and president, vice president and secretary were picked. Commissioner Mikec suggested that could be the Traffic Advisory Board's first subject, and Commissioner Montgomery indicated he will convey that to Commissioner Trilli.

Commissioner Montgomery stated that when he arrived, Officer Thomas was doing a tour of the building and a safety speech. Commissioner Montgomery commended the police department on the good stuff they do on a daily basis and thanked Officer Thomas and the department for that they do.

Commissioner Mazur reminded everyone that any articles for the magazine must be to Eloise Peet this week.

CITIZENS' COMMENTS:

Mr. Frank Kodrich, 109 First Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15229, addressed the Board regarding the poor condition of catch basins.

Mr. Joe Zawoysky, 123 Fifth Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15229, addressed the Board regarding a spam phone call he received, grass

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cutting on Fifth Avenue, the weight limit of cement trucks and the bus that rolled over, water in gas lines, his request to view documents, payments to employees who are terminated, stop signs, speed bumps and a complaint he sent to the Insurance Commission.

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

Motion passes 8 to 0

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 8:01 P.M.

**Douglas Sample
Manager/Secretary**

By:

**David J. Mikec, Vice President
Ross Township Board of
Commissioners**

Minutes prepared by Deborah Betzler, Court Reporter