

Ross Township Commissioners Meeting  
1000 Ross Municipal Drive  
Pittsburgh, PA 15237  
November 17, 2014  
7:30 p.m.

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

**ABSENT:** Grant Montgomery  
Junior Commissioner Ruby Brunet

**SOLICITOR:** Bonnie Brimmeier, Esq.

**TOWNSHIP MANAGER:** Douglas Sample

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*Pledge of Allegiance/Invocation*

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**PRESENTATION TO THE BOARD:**

Lieutenant Keith Jones, Station Commander, Pennsylvania State Police, Pittsburgh, addressed the Board. He complimented Ross Township on having one of the signature police departments that everybody talks about. He also gave the Board a breakdown of the incidents that the State Police have handled in Ross Township, mainly on the interstate. From the beginning of this calendar year, they've handled 3 DUIs, 9 nonreportable crashes, 16 reportable crashes (one on February 4 which was a fatal), 31 motorist assists, 5 traffic violations and 37 other types of incidents, the bulk of which was debris on the roadway. Lieutenant Jones stated the other things the State Police handle are any complaints from citizens or spot-checks regarding inspection stations. The LCE, which is controlled by the State Police, also handles any restaurants or bars that have a liquor license.

Commissioner Shaffer inquired as to whether, theoretically, if Ross Township didn't have a police department, would the State Police come in and provide police services. Lieutenant Jones responded that they would, but the level of services would not be the same.

Commissioner DeMarco questioned if the PSP barracks is still in Pittsburgh, and Lieutenant Jones responded that it is in Moon Township, and they also rent offices in Harmarville for the LCE and some of the undercover units. Commissioner DeMarco also discussed a speed surveillance program that the PSP ran on McKnight Road a few years ago. Lieutenant Jones responded that he has been there for three years and has no knowledge of it but they would typically only do that at the request of a local department. Chief Bellan confirmed that the PSP assisted Ross Township police with their aviation.

Lieutenant Jones also stated that the PSP is the only department in the state that can use radar, and they will assist townships upon request. He also stated that every once in a while they will run the HOV lane details.

Commissioner Shaffer questioned the hours of the HOV lanes, and Lieutenant Jones stated he believes they're 6:00 to 10:00 in the morning and 3:00 to 7:00 in the afternoon. Commissioner Trilli thanked Lieutenant Jones for his services and dedication. Lieutenant Jones thanked the Board for the opportunity to address them.

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**PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS -- None**

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**PETITIONS AND COMPLAINTS -- None**

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**RESOLUTIONS TO BE ADOPTED:**

**Resolution No. 2153 – 2012, 2013 and 2014 Real Estate Tax Refunds – Various -- \$18,069.64.**

**Motion to adopt made by Commissioner Korbelt and seconded by Commissioner Mazur.**

**Motion passes 8 to 0**

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**Resolution No. 2154 – Requesting a grant in the amount of \$25,000 from the Allegheny County Department of Development for the purpose of demolishing the properties at 802 Quail Avenue and 138 Reis Run Road.**

Mr. Sample stated this is part of the grant application.

**Motion to adopt made by Commissioner Mazur and seconded by Commissioner Stanko.**

**Motion passes 8 to 0**

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**Resolution No. 2155 – Sustainability Practices.**

Commissioner Shaffer stated he would like to amend 2-A to include the words “when possible.”

**Motion to adopt, with the amendment, made by Commissioner Korbel and seconded by Commissioner Mazur.**

**Motion passes 8 to 0**

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**ORDINANCES TO BE INTRODUCED:**

**Ordinance No. 2346 – 2015 Appropriation Budget**

Commissioner Mikec questioned how this would be publically advertised or displayed. Mr. Sample stated that it will be posted around the building and on the Township Web site, and it is also advertised in the Post-Gazette.

**Public hearing to be held on December 1, 2014.**

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**Ordinance No. 2347 – Fixing the Tax Rate for 2015**

Mr. Sample stated this can also be posted up front, and there is no tax increase.

**Public hearing to be held on December 1, 2014.**

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**ORDINANCES TO BE ENACTED -- None**

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**CONSENT AGENDA:**

**Approval of Minutes – October 20, 2014  
Payment of Bills and Financial Reports**

**Motion to approve the minutes of October 20, 2014, and the Payment of Bills and Financial Reports made by Commissioner Trilli and seconded by Commissioner Sponcer.**

Commissioner Mazur stated she is abstaining due to Check No. 80348 to Mazur's.

**Motion passes 7 to 0 with 1 abstention  
Commissioner Mazur abstaining**

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**PLANNING COMMISSION -- None**

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**PLANNING/ZONING DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE REPORT:**

Commissioner Korbel stated that Monday, November 24, there will be a comprehensive planning meeting in the gymnasium at 6:00. He stated it is a community meeting to reveal the results of the questionnaire that was sent to the citizens and businesses. He also stated there will be prizes and that they will be seeking additional feedback from the public.

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**SOLICITOR'S REPORT -- None**

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**RECREATION COMMITTEE REPORT:**

Commissioner Mazur stated that at least 30 seniors had their Thanksgiving feast this last week. She also stated that any corrections to the magazine that was sent by e-mail are to be sent to Eloise Peet by tomorrow. Commissioner Mazur also stated that they are still signing children up for the Santa Claus/North Pole phone calls. Also, Santa's luncheon is December 13 from 12:30 to 3:30. There will be live reindeer with Santa Claus, and the cost is \$10.00. She also stated that volunteers are welcome to help decorate the Municipal Building, and they should call the Municipal Building for the times.

Commissioner Shaffer stated there is going to be a lot of rearrangement of Evergreen Park and that the existing playground equipment is basically going to be torn down, and the grant doesn't have any money for new playground equipment. He stated Ms. Peet thought of the idea of selling squares for a new walkway to raise money for new

playground equipment. Commissioner Shaffer also stated they are planning a community meeting to let everyone know what's going to be done at Evergreen Park.

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**ADMINISTRATION/LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE REPORT:**

**Request Board approval of Pay Application No. 4 from State Pipe Services, Inc., in the amount of \$89,555.55 for repair work completed between September 2, 2014, and September 30, 2014, for the Ross Township 2014 Sewer Repair Contract B – Lining Repairs as required by the Consent Order.**

Commissioner Stanko stated that this has been approved by Gateway Engineers.

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

**Motion passes 8 to 0**

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**Request Board approval for Pay Application No. 4 from State Pipe Services, Inc., in the amount of \$159,488.29 for repair work completed between September 2, 2014, and October 1, 2014, for the Ross Township 2014 Sewer Repair Contract A – Excavation Repairs as required by the Consent Order.**

Commissioner Stanko stated that this was also approved by Gateway Engineers.

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

**Motion passes 8 to 0**

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**Request Board approval to appoint PNC as Ross Township's Underwriters.**

Commissioner Mikec stated that this recommendation was made by the Committee, and he thought Piper Jaffray should be considered because the Township has established a good relationship with them since the Municipal Building was built.

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

**Motion passes 7 to 1  
Commissioner Mikec voting negatively**

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**Request Board approval to appoint Maher Duessel as Ross Township's Auditors.**

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

**Motion passes 8 to 0**

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**Request Board approval of Sangree Farms Winter Services Agreement.**

Commissioner Mikec stated that this was an agreement that the Township's had for the last several years, and it has been reviewed and actually been increased to fit the production or the fair rate determined by the Department of Public Works. Commissioner DeMarco stated that this is an agreement with the developer because he has not reached the percentage of homes built that he needs, so he has agreed to pay the Township to clean the roads. Commissioner DeMarco also stated they were built to the Township's specs.

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

**Motion passes 8 to 0**

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**PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE REPORT:**

Commissioner Mazur questioned Michael Funk if the leaf pickup is until the end of November, and Mr. Funk responded that it is.

Commissioner Mazur also asked if Mr. Funk has any guidelines for snow removal or what people should do during this snow season. Mr. Funk responded that people should not park on the road and should be patient with the Township drivers. He stated there is an article in the magazine that explains a lot of that.

Commissioner Stanko questioned Mr. Funk as to whether the routes have been changed at all this year. Mr. Funk stated that a new truck came in and a 14<sup>th</sup> route has been added, which includes the Municipal Building. Commissioner Stanko requested a copy of the routes from Mr. Funk.

Commissioner Mazur asked Mr. Funk to explain cul-de-sacs. Mr. Funk stated that cul-de-sacs are not plowed during a snow event, that they come back and deal with it after the event. He stated they push all the snow towards the grassy areas, and he asked that people not park in the cul-de-sacs during a snow event.

Commissioner DeMarco raised the issue of some municipalities sucking up leaves. He stated that he slid on wet leaves in Mt. Lebanon because of their leaf program. Mr. Funk stated that with the bags the Township is controlling where the leaves are. Mr. Funk also stated they are a day behind on picking up the leaf bags.

Commissioner Mikec questioned whether the Township picks up trees that residents cut down themselves. Mr. Funk stated if the residents bundle them no longer than 6 feet, the Township will pick them up, but the resident must call to make arrangements first. Commissioner Mikec asked if that information can be put on the Web site, and Mr. Sample stated that it will be put on the Web site and in the next newsletter. Mr. Funk commended the workers who did the tree trimming in the Township. Commissioner Mikec also discussed shift work during the winter maintenance, and Mr. Funk stated there aren't enough people to do that, but he'll see when the new employees start.

Commissioner Shaffer questioned if there is a tree in a county roadway right-of-way blocking views, if it is the county's job to take it down. Mr. Funk replied yes, if it's below 17 feet. Anything in the right-of-way is the responsibility of the homeowner. They discussed Evergreen and Babcock, and Mr. Funk stated he's called, and Commissioner Shaffer asked him to call again about the one on Evergreen.

Commissioner Mazur questioned if a Township sign is in the trees, does the Township trim it. Mr. Funk stated they would.

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**PUBLIC SAFETY/POLICE COMMITTEE REPORT:**

Commissioner Trilli Stated the North Hills DUI Task Force will be conducting a roving patrol in Ross and West View this Friday from 11:00 to 1:00. He also stated by the next meeting the new K-9s will be introduced. He stated he was invited to see how they're trained, and it's a lot of hard work and dedication by the police officers.

Commissioner Trilli stated the Traffic Advisory Board had their second meeting last Tuesday, and it went quite well. They approved a street classification list and ownership of the roads. Their next meeting is December 9 at 7:00. Commissioner Mikec suggested handicapped parking should be the first agenda item.

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

Commissioner Sponcer stated the fire chiefs meet this Wednesday.

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**MANAGER'S REPORT -- None**

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**JUNIOR COMMISSIONER REPORT -- None**

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**COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS:**

Commissioner Shaffer stated, regarding the importance of pedestrians, when he was driving up to the Municipal Building, there was a person walking down that road with a flashlight. Commissioner Shaffer also asked Mr. Sample to make copies for the next packet of information he has regarding the business privilege and mercantile tax issues. He stated he talked with the school board and RED, and RED came back with a proposal of what they recommend for an amnesty period for those two taxes.

Commissioner DeMarco discussed two potholes that need addressed, and he asked Mr. Funk to look into it. Mr. Funk stated he

would. Commissioner DeMarco also stated he went to a Local Government Academy seminar last Thursday, and the issue of what's called a CSA came up. He stated he can bring the information and maybe put it on the agenda at a future time. Mr. Sample stated he'll look into it if Commissioner DeMarco brings him the information; but when it was discussed in the past, there were a limited number of people that came, and they ultimately agreed with the decision by FEMA.

Commissioner Stanko stated that last week was the joint RED and Perrysville Business Association meeting. Councilman Tom Baker was present and he was asked to try and have the 11C bus reinstated along Perry Highway. Commissioner Stanko also informed Mr. Sample that she received a phone call today that water is coming out of the new Highland plan onto Highland Avenue; and now that it's cold, it's freezing.

Commissioner Stanko also asked why the lights were out in the driveway tonight. Mr. Sample stated they're out on the back side, that the electrical ends got pulled up, and they're looking for the junction box. Mr. Funk stated that H & L Electric is looking into it.

Commissioner Mazur asked everyone to sing Happy Birthday to Commissioner Korbel.

Commissioner Mikec stated he had a list of potholes, but he believed Commissioner DeMarco covered all of them.

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## **CITIZENS' COMMENTS:**

Ms. Joann Lucas, 111 Enger Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15214, addressed the Board regarding her opposition to the sale of Seville Elementary School to Pressley Ridge. Commissioner Mikec stated it was his understanding that Seville was in need of too many repairs to ever be a school. Commissioner DeMarco stated he was disappointed with the school board. Commissioner Shaffer indicated he had spoken to several school board members who indicated they were willing to almost give the Township the school facility to get it off their hands. He suggested possibly the school could be demolished and the property developed into ten residential lots for single family homes, which would add to the tax rolls.

Mr. James Erdner, 112 Wanker Drive, Pittsburgh, PA 15214, addressed the Board regarding the Seville Elementary property. He indicated he was told by Mr. David Hall that the property was up for sale and the only one that was interested was Pressley Ridge.

Commissioner Korbelt indicated he discussed the matter with the superintendent, vice president and president of the school system and Mr. Hall. He stated he was informed that it would be autistic children and not troubled youth. He was also told that the deed was not restricted in any way, shape or form. Classroom size in the district was discussed.

Commissioner Shaffer stated he would discuss the matter with some school board members tomorrow. Commissioner Mikec suggested if anyone knows anyone on the school board, to contact them to try and help out. Commissioner Korbelt and Commissioner Spencer are the liaisons between the Board of Commissioners and the school board. Commissioner Mazur suggested they meet with some of the school board members to discuss the situation. Commissioner Mikec stated he would like to be involved, also.

Commissioner Spencer stated he would like to speak to Mr. Hankins regarding the exceptional uses that were part of the building when it was built.

Ms. Patricia Lennon, 441 Bascom Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15214, indicated to the Board that it was her belief that it would not be just handicapped or autistic children, that there would be troubled youth at the facility.

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

**Motion passes 8 to 0**

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**MEETING ADJOURNED AT 8:31 P.M.**

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**Douglas Sample**  
**Manager/Secretary**

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

**Minutes prepared by** *Deborah Betzler, Court Reporter*