

**Harmar Township Municipal Building
Township Board of Supervisors
REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING
Thursday, May 19, 2016**

PRESENT

Patricia A. Janoski	Chairperson
Robert W. Seibert, Jr.	Vice Chairperson
Linda Slomer	Supervisor
Robert Exler	Supervisor
Emiliano Cresta	Supervisor
Donna Piper	Secretary/Treasurer
Charles Means	Solicitor
Gordon Taylor	Senate Engineering

CALL TO ORDER

The Chairperson called the Board of Supervisor’s Regular Business Meeting of May 19, 2016 to order at 7:18 pm. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mae Brown was present to ask that a tree in Highbury Park be removed due to leaves that fall from the tree are blown into her yard and are clogging her gutters. Discussion ensued. There being no desire of a Board member to move to a vote, the discussion ended.

Mr. Paul Messich was present once again to speak on the topic of property maintenance. Mr. Seibert suggested that Mr. Messich meet with the Codes Officer and perhaps even look at some properties.

Stanley Malak requested that a “Welcome to Harmar” sign be placed at the end of Hulton Bridge.

Lorraine Casey of Terrace Drive asked that the Board adopt an ordinance that would hold property owners responsible for their tenants. Ms. Casey has specific complaints about the Terrace Drive housing units and was specifically concerned about children playing at Terrace Drive Park. Mr. Means suggested that the Board look into a landlord licensing ordinance.

Stanley Stoltie in reference to Terrace Drive housing, wants domestic tranquility and to live without fear. Mr. Stoltie stated that he could provide the Board with a sample ordinance from the City of Pittsburgh. Mr. Seibert stated that the Township is purchasing mowing equipment that would be used to clean up Terrace Drive so that it is more open. Mr. Seibert suggested that the property owners contact the District Attorney who has the power to seize the property.

Stanley Malak stated concerns about vacant lots and high grass that should be mowed. Mr. Seibert agreed that the current ordinance should be amended and discussed in further detail at the June meeting.

Richard Dietz asked if the Township’s fire hydrants are regularly checked. Mr. Exler stated, the water company checks hydrants twice a year.

Thelma Jewart asked if the Board intends to hold the Public Hearing as per the agenda.

PUBLIC HEARING

There being no further Public Comment, the Chair proceeded into the Public Hearing process at 8:04 and asked Attorney Means to summarize the proposed ordinance as advertised.

Attorney Means: The proposed Ordinance #417 provides authorization for the Codes Officer to write a ticket for property maintenance code violations. Ms. Jewart asked how many days a property owner would have to abate the violation. Mr. Means stated, the proposed ordinance provides a property owner 10 days to abate a violation. Dr. Piper asked the Board of their intentions for the amount of the ticket and summarized the discussions of the Board from the April meeting. Mr. Seibert provided clarification and stated the amount of the ticket to be \$15.00. There being no further public comments or comments from the Board, the Chair made a motion to pass Ordinance #417. Mr. Seibert provided the second and the motion was carried unanimously.

The Chair then proceeded to Board Comments at 8:15.

BOARD COMMENTS

Mr. Exler stated that the Township’s Police Department currently has a Chief, two Sergeants, a Lieutenant, and a Detective. Mr. Exler explained that the Department’s Labor Agreement also recognizes the position of Captain and made a motion to promote Brian Swetoff to Captain so as to maintain a ranking officer on all shifts. Ms. Slomer asked “what problems will this action alleviate?” Mr. Exler stated, it places a ranking officer on every shift. Ms. Slomer asked if there would be an increase in pay. Mr. Seibert answered, the salary for Captain is identified in the contract. Ms. Slomer asked if there is a recommendation from the Chief. Mr. Seibert answered, the Chief has not provided a written recommendation. Mr. Exler then read the qualifications of Officer Swetoff. The Chair then called for a Roll Call vote. Mr. Seibert-yes. Mr. Exler-yes. Mr. Cresta-yes. Ms. Janoski-yes. Ms. Slomer-no.

Ms. Slomer asked why the Road Crew has so much overtime and who authorized the overtime. Dr. Piper explained that the Road Foreman usually calls in the overtime prior to it

being assigned and that the most recent overtime was for work on the Forest Highlands Pump Station.

Ms. Slomer thanked the persons who participated in the April Clean-up.

Ms. Slomer asked who wrote the Spring Newsletter. Mr. Seibert answered that he had prepared the Newsletter. Ms. Slomer thanked Mr. Seibert for acknowledging that she was the only one that voted against the tax cut and stated (in her opinion), the big businesses are the main benefactors.

Ms. Slomer asked Mr. Means to clarify the definition of “grandfathering”. Mr. Means stated that he could not adequately answer the question out of context. Mr. Seibert, verified that Ms. Slomer was referring to the Panza property with regard to “grandfathering”. Mr. Seibert went on to establish that the opinion provided by Special Council more than a decade ago stands and that the Township does not need to spend any more money on this topic.

John Colpo made mention of the standing water behind Alpha Tennis along Alpha Drive by reminding everyone that water is a breeding area for mosquitos; and the Township should prepare for the Zika virus.

Emiliano Cresta thanked the Boy Scouts Pack 504 of Harmar and Pack 554 of Springdale for helping with Clean up and announced the upcoming Food Drive in November that the Scouts work.

CORRESPONDENCE

Mr. Seibert made a motion to authorize the Secretary/Treasurer to draft and send a letter to the Harmar Water Authority in support of their request for a grant to Penn Vest water improvements project. In addition, Mr. Seibert asked that the Secretary/Treasurer also contact Frank Dermody’s office and request that a letter be sent in support of the Harmar Water Authority. Mr. Exler provided the second and the motion was carried unanimously.

PRESENTATIONS

None.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Seibert made a motion to approve the minutes of the April 21, 2016 meeting. Mr. Exler provided the second and the motion was carried unanimously.

TREASURER’S REPORT

Ms. Janoski made a motion to approve the Treasurer’s Reports. Mr. Exler provided the second and the motion was carried unanimously.

SOLICITOR’S REPORT

Attorney Means had nothing to report that is not already included on the agenda under New Business and announced that he will speak on topics as they come up in order on the agenda.

ENGINEER’S REPORT

Gordan Taylor was present representing Senate Engineering.

Terrace Drive Phase III – CD 42: The Township selected the Terrace Drive Retaining Wall Phase III as their area-wide AVN COG project for 2016. The project will be advertised in July.

Guys Run Road Bridge: The bridge on Guys Run Road closest to Campbell’s Run Road will be closed during reconstruction of the the bridge over Guys Run.

Resolution 18-2016: Ms. Janoski made a motion to agree to pay 25% of the sanitary sewer relocation costs. Mr. Cresta provided the second and the motion was carried unanimously.

AVJSA Meeting: Mr. Taylor reported that the AVJSA presented the feasibility study on May 4, 2016 and that each municipality has until June 6th to provide comments. Mr. Seibert asked that Senate request the flow rates and give specific attention to the flows coming from U-PARC. Mr. Taylor said that Mr. Seiler is in the process of reviewing the flow rates as provided by AVJSA. Mr. Seibert stated that there should be a concentrated effort to remove from the system, the gutters and down spouts at U-PARC. Mr. Seibert also stated, based on the information that was presented by AVJSA, the costs associated to the upgrades will increase customer bills by \$50 per month and is committed to mitigating excess flows in Harmar.

2016 Paving Program: Mr. Taylor reported that the bids are scheduled to be opened prior to the June Board meeting.

Soccer Field Improvements: The construction drawings are complete and ready to bid. The Township is awaiting the announcement of the GEDF Grant awards. Senate is currently designing the project as authorized at the February meeting. Mr. Seibert commended Mr. Seiler for his work on the application in a timely manner.

Resolution 19-2016: Ms. Janoski made a motion to enter into the grant Contract with the Redevelopment Authority of Allegheny County for the GEDF Grant. Mr. Exler provided the second and the motion was carried unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

Police Department Vehicle Camera Policy: Dr. Piper reported that the Solicitor has provided a sample policy to be included in the Police Policies and Procedures Manual. The Chief is still reviewing the policy. Mr. Seibert asked if there is a concern with operation of the cameras prior to policy implementation. Mr. Means stated that the Chief should seek to implement a policy addition to the Police Manual pertaining to vehicle cameras. The agenda item was tabled and will be addressed again at a later meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Oakmont Capital as Pension Plan(s) Investment Manager: Mr. Cresta reported that the Pension Board of Trustees reviewed the proposals as submitted and interviewed two candidates for the position. Mr. Cresta reported that the companies are similar but Oakmont Capital's fees are slightly less and the company is conveniently located across the river in Oakmont. The Pension Board's recommendation for appointment is for Oakmont Capital. Mr. Cresta made a motion to appoint Oakmont Capital as the Township's Pension Plans Investment Manager. Mr. Seibert provided the second. Attorney Means stated that he reviewed contract agreement and it is acceptable. The motion was carried unanimously. Mr. Means added that the summary of qualifications as presented to the Board must be provided on the Township's website for a minimum of seven days prior to execution of the Agreement.

Request by the Chief of Police to Hire Part-Time Police Officer: Mr. Seibert made a motion to authorize the Chief to hire an additional part-time officer. Mr. Exler provided the second and the motion was carried unanimously.

2015 Financial Audit: Ms. Janoski made a motion to approve the 2015 Financial Audit as prepared by Rich Hill, CPA and to ratify the associated Management Letter as prepared by Dr. Piper. Mr. Seibert provided the second and the motion was carried unanimously.

GEDF Audit (Rich Hill Road Project): Mr. Seibert made a motion to approve the GEDF Audit for the Rich Hill Road Project as prepared by Rich Hill, CPA and to ratify the associated Management Letter as prepared by Dr. Piper. Mr. Exler provided the second and the motion was carried unanimously.

Hulton Bridge Sign: Mr. Exler made a motion to move the sign in front of the Municipal Building to a location at the Hulton Bridge. Mr. Seibert provided the second. Mr. Cresta asked if PADOT has any part in the sign relocation. Mr. Seibert stated that Mike Ziencik

will work with PADOT to have the sign installed at a proper location. The motion was carried unanimously.

Brush Cutter Purchase for Roads Department: Mr. Seibert made a motion to purchase a Brush Cutter as an attachment to the backhoe. Dr. Piper clarified the financial aspects of the purchase. Mr. Exler provided the second and the motion was carried unanimously.

Light Fixture Updates for the Municipal Building Parking Lot: Mr. Seibert suggested that the interior components of the lights be changed to enhance the lighting of the parking and to save money on the electric bills. A citizen suggested that the Township move to solar lighting. Mr. Seibert stated that the cost to install solar panels is too expensive. Ms. Janoski made a motion to update the light fixtures for the Municipal Building Parking Lot. Mr. Exler provided the second and the motion was carried unanimously.

Interior Improvements for the Municipal Building: The Board discussed various areas in the Municipal Building that need a fresh coat of paint. Discussion among the Board ensued as to the particulars of the painting. Mr. Seibert also suggested that the murals on the back walls of the Meeting Room be removed and replaced with historical pictures of Harmar Township and suggested that the murals could be used elsewhere in the building. Mr. Seibert's thoughts for the back wall could be a "Heritage Wall" to display the history of Harmar. Discussion ensued about storage and future use of the murals. Mr. Seibert made a motion to authorize the work as discussed. Mr. Exler provided the second. Ms. Slomer asked if the office has obtained any estimates for the cost of the work as proposed. Mr. Seibert stated that the Secretary/Treasurer will obtain quotes and authorize work to be completed so as to comply with the Second Class Township Code. Ms. Janoski suggested that the Road Crew may be able to do some of the work. Ms. Slomer asked when the Board discussed removal of the mural. Mr. Seibert responded, just now. Ms. Slomer again asked when these items were discussed. Mr. Seibert responded, "Right now, What do you have to say?" Ms. Slomer suggested a Heritage Wall be in the foyer and went on to say that she likes the murals in the meeting room. Mr. Seibert suggested, the student art work in the hall should be removed and returned to the school. Ms. Slomer again suggested that the Heritage Wall be located in the foyer. Mr. Seibert suggested that the prints be returned so that they could be displayed at other venues such as the Springdale Public Library. Mr. Cresta asked what type of pictures would be included in the Heritage Wall. Mr. Seibert answered historical photographs of Harmar and even the portraits of the Dennys could be on the back wall. Mr. Seibert felt that the Secretary/Treasurer should have the discretion as to the work to be completed. Mr. Cresta stated that he is indifferent about the murals and that he rather likes them. Mr. Cresta asked that the motion for work to be completed and removal of murals be separate motions. Mr. Seibert restated the initial motion to be more specific – a motion to complete interior improvements to the building to include the Secretary's office, the central business office, the foyer, and the baseboards in the main hallway, restrooms, finance office if needed, and carpet in tax collector's office; with all paint colors to be

decided upon by the office staff and subject to the PA Township Code bidding limits. Mr. Seibert made a second motion to have the two murals removed from the back wall to have that area become a Heritage Wall to celebrate the history of Harmar Township past and present. Mr. Exler provided the second. Mr. Seibert called for a roll call vote. Mr. Seibert – yes, Mr. Exler – yes, Mr. Cresta – no, Ms. Janoski – yes, Ms. Slomer – no.

Freeport Road ADA Curb Project: Attorney Means reported he has reviewed and responded to a proposed agreement with PADOT to replace the ADA curbing at Heron, Jefferson, School, and Wilson Streets. He explained that twenty percent (20%) of the costs associated to improving the curb ramps that cross the Township Streets (to include design and engineering) is the responsibility of the Township. Attorney Means explained that if the Township does not participate in the project as proposed, then the project will not be completed and at some future point in time, the Township will need to make the necessary improvements to be in compliance with ADA requirements and will have to pay 100% of the project costs. Attorney Means stated the estimated Township portion of project cost as proposed at 20% is estimated at \$4,467+/- . In addition, Attorney Means also pointed out that the Township will be responsible for the maintenance of the access curbs. Finally, Mr. Means suggested that he contact PADOT to ask that the indemnification language in the agreement be revised. Mr. Means also explained that PADOT has provided various options for payment of the Township’s share. Mr. Seibert stated that he looked at the ADA ramps currently in place at these stated locations and they are in good condition and further explained that the ADA law has changed and the ramps must be improved to comply with the law. Mr. Seibert asked if the ramps are actually within the Township’s road right-of-way. Attorney Means answered, he believes the ramps are the Township’s responsibility as is the sidewalk. Attorney Means also commented on liability issues related to not making upgrades to the ramps.

Resolution #20-2016: Mr. Seibert made a motion to enter into the Agreement with PADOT to have the improvements completed. Mr. Exler provided the second. Dr. Piper asked Attorney Means to review the payment options. Dr. Piper asked the Board’s preference for payment. Attorney Means suggested that the Board choose option B and pay the amount in full within 30 days from receipt of the invoice. The Chair called for the vote and the motion was carried unanimously.

There being no further business before the Board, the Chairperson made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:30. Mr. Seibert provided the second and the motion was carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Donna J. Piper
Secretary/Treasurer