HARMAR TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING
Thursday, April 15, 2021

PRESENT

Lee Biermeyer Supervisor
Robert Exler Supervisor
Harry Lenhart Supervisor – on phone
Linda Exler Supervisor
Robert Seibert, Jr. Supervisor - absent
Charles Means Solicitor
Kate Diersen Solicitor
Ian Fitzgerald Manager

**CALL TO ORDER**

Mr. Fitzgerald called the proceedings to order at 6:01p.m.
Meeting is being recorded.

**CHAIRMAN APPOINTMENT FOR 2021**

Motion to appoint Robert Exler Chairman for 2021 by Lee Biermeyer, second by Linda Exler.
Vote: Motion carried - Robert Exler is Chairman for 2021
Mr. Fitzgerald turned meeting over to new Chairman Robert Exler

**VICE CHAIRMAN APPOINTMENT FOR 2021**

Motion to appoint Lee Biermeyer as Vice Chairman for 2021 by Robert Exler, second by Linda Exler.
Vote: Motion carried – Lee Biermeyer is Vice Chair for 2021

**HARMAR WATER AUTHORITY BOARD APPOINTMENT FOR 2021**

Motion to appoint Christianne McCall as Harmar Water Authority Board Member by Lee Biermeyer
 second by Linda Exler
Vote: Motion carried with Harry Lenhart voting no – Christianne McCall is Harmar Water Authority Board

**CHAIRMAN OF VACANCY BOARD FOR 2021**

Motion to appoint Christianne McCall as Chairman of Vacancy Board for 2021 by Robert Exler,
 second by
Vote: Motion carried with Harry Lenhart voting no – Christianne McCall is Chairman of Vacancy Board for 2021

 **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Donna Thompson, Chapel Downs – Park is run down, hasn’t been renovated in 40 years, many people have dogs and would like to know if a part of the park can be designated as a dog park. No one uses tennis courts, maybe can charge for use so outside residents don’t use it.

Mr. Exler suggested maybe making the dog area at the tennis court site. Mr. Pitsch agreed it would be possible, would take some time to replace the grass, also stated there is enough area in the park to put up new fencing. Possibly locate the dog park at the spider location. Mr. Pitsch also advised a “for parks only” grant is coming up. Grant would not be awarded until the end of the year, therefore, the project would not begin until 2022.

Margie, 36 Highbury - agrees with the dog park. The maintenance crew working at the park is awesome, but the park is old and needs freshened. She requested signs at the entrance of the park for people to pick up after their dogs, improved lighting, cameras, trail asphalt needs repaired, spider jungle gym needs repaired, painted or removed, plant new trees, trim loose branches, ruts filled in, parking area needs repaired.

Leslie Bonk – founder of I Heart Hoops – girls basketball grades 2-6, for Allegheny Valley School District communities and is free for them, a 10-week program and established in 2016. They would like to use the basketball courts in Acme Park for the program this summer. Since she is not a Harmar Twp. Resident, she is requesting the girls be allowed to use the Acme Basketball courts because the organization serves the Allegheny Valley School District community. Mr. Pitsch advised we are working on an ordinance to service such situations and can work on a lease agreement. Ms. Block advised they are affiliated with Springdale High School Alumni Association and have insurance. Mr. Pitsch advised we could also use the hockey rink and install hoops also. Mr. Exler advised he is concerned with reserving the basketball court for I Heart Hoops, the neighborhood children would not be able to play. He does not think we would be able to reserve the courts.

Mr. Lenhart – having problems understanding people talking, Mr. Fitzgerald explained the hybrid model has and echo and a mic problem.

**EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT REPORT – BRUNO MORETTI**

Allegheny Co. Migration Plan – 3 options, you can adopt the Allegheny County plan, you can do your own plan which would cost a fortune and take up to one year, or you can do nothing which means you will not be eligible for hazard mitigation funds that would come available during this period. There are only two communities in Allegheny County that opted to not go in on this plan. Mr. Fitzgerald and I have been attending the meetings, so we are up to date, and the only thing that needs done is adopt the resolutions. Question to Mr. Means – “Did Greg Alexander get in touch with you?” Mr. Means, “No.” Mr. Moretti’s response, “He was supposed to contact you.”
Mr. Moretti, was advised doing the last 10 years it was assumed that whoever was responding to an incident and was hurt, it was their community’s insurance that would cover the injury. The insurance companies are now saying they are not going to cover us. The communities are going to need to come together and figure out what to do. He is not sending someone out into the field and them not be covered. He would like the three community solicitors to get together and resolve the situation. Mr. Means advised, unless he is instructed, he can do nothing, but if the Board directs me to do so, Mr. Means said he will. Mr. Exler inquired what benefit it will serve Harmar Twp. to enter
the plan, Mr. Moretti responded, it will keep Harmar Twp. eligible for grants. This discussion will continue in Executive Session.

**MANAGER’S REPORT**

Mr. Fitzgerald: Covid update – 281 cases as of March 16, up to 293, numbers are dwindling. Pittsburgh Mills hosting a vaccine clinic which has now ended, will probably do it again. Land development proposal coming up next to KFC for a fast-food chicken restaurant. Mary Sacks requested to update park at Chapel Downs and improve playground equipment.
No Board comments.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Motion to approve minutes form regular meetings of February 18, 2021 and March 18, 2021.
Mr. Biermeyer objected to minutes being approved, advised there are statements made in the February 18, 2021 minutes he did not say and statements that should be in the minutes for the March 18, 2021 minutes that he made that are not written in the minutes. There are some false statements made.
Mr. Biermeyer motions to not approve the minutes, second by Mr. Exler.
Motion carried not to approve the minutes.
Mr. Lenhart questioned what happens if the minutes are not approved. Mr. Means responded – nothing, the minutes are just not approved, but they should eventually be approved. Mr. Means suggested that with the minutes being disapproved in their present form, for any minutes with items that do not need a vote or motion, do not need extensive detail and should be brief, do not need details. Merely make an entry of the subject that was discussed, just brief, neutral, and generic. If you want precise, detailed minutes of everything you said, then you should hire a stenographer, and have a professional transcript certified under oath. Mr. Means continued, failing that, he suggested in both months’ minutes the items under dispute, remove the reference under that subject and replace it with a sentence saying a discussion arose about Township investment procedures in the past. All you need to say, is the topic. If you want to discuss a road, state the road and its condition, that’s it. If you would do that, you would have minutes that comply with the law. The person states their name and address, which is required by law, that’s why we ask for it, what were all the motions, who second the motions, and the votes. Doesn’t need to state all the words everyone states. Mr. Means states this is what he thinks, otherwise we will never get these minutes approved.
Mr. Exler requested Mr. Biermeyer collaborate with Mr. Fitzgerald and go over minutes. Mr. Lenhart stated that the meetings are recorded and a matter of record. Mr. Means said he understands there is an audio recording the minutes and this is not the place to debate that. If we are going to restate everything in the minutes, we need to get a stenographer. Otherwise, we are going to spend our time debating what is reflected in the minutes. That is not the purpose of the minutes. They are to reflect the topic of discussion unless it is a matter voted upon. Then, we would need the motion, matter of motion, who made the motion and who second the motion, and the out-come of the vote, with details.

**APPROVAL OF TREASURER’S REPORT**

Motion to approve the treasurer’s report by Mr. Biermeyer, second by Mr. Exler.
Vote: Motion carried.

**REPORTS**

**Solicitor’s Report**: Mr. Means suggests his partner, Kate Diersen, typed a report and will bring you up to date on the terms of two items under new business of Field Usage Agreements she finished drafting.

Ms. Kate Diersen states field usage agreements are in dispute, between the Harmar Soccer Club and the Lower Valley Little League and agreements are basically in the same form. The Manager has been in contact to obtain necessary information from them needed by the Township. Ms. Diersen drafted two resolutions that are under new business, we can revisit the present resolutions, or look at other municipalities’ resolutions. We can review, change, add or start over.
Mr. Exler, Mr. Biermeyer, Mrs. Exler advised they read the proposed field usage agreements presented by Ms. Diersen and feel they are good with what they read.

**Engineer’s Report:** Mr. Pitsch still waiting to hear on a road repair. Talked of budgetary numbers. Reported on Freeport Road, updated on sewer line situation – report not audible
Mr. Lenhart asked a question – not audible
Mr. Exler advised he spoke to Mr. Zienzik and they were pumping it out and not experiencing any problems, and it was not filling up, dealing with it that way has been successful.

**Zoning Officer’s Report:** Not audible

**NEW BUSINESS**

Ordinance 439 – Increasing the Non-Uniform Pension Plan from 2.6% to 5% per Resolution 17-2014.
Motion to approve Resolution 17-2014 by Mr. Biermeyer, second by Mr. Exler.
Vote: Motion carried.

Resolution 11-2021 Allegheny County 2020 Hazard Mitigation Plan Update Resolution
Motion to approve Resolution 11-2021 by Mr. Biermeyer, second by Mr. Exler.
Vote: Motion Carried

Resolution 12-2021 approving the field usage between Harmar Township and the Lower Valley Little League.
Motion to approve Resolution 12-2021 by Mr. Biermeyer, second by Mr. Exler.
Vote: Motion carried.

Resolution 13-2021 approving the field usage between Harmar Township and the Harmar Soccer Club
Motion to approve Resolution 13-2021 by Mr. Exler, second by Mr. Biermeyer.
Vote: Motion carried.

Motion to exonerate Tax Collector Jim DiPalma from collecting the outstanding (delinquent) 2020 Township Real Estate Taxes due in the amount of $15,612.69.
Motion to exonerate Tax Collector Jim DiPalma from collecting the outstanding (delinquent) 2020 Township Real Estate Taxes and initiate Jordan Tax Services to collect the delinquent taxes by Mr. Biermeyer, second by Mrs. Exler.
Vote: Motion carried

Motion to approve proposal from Shank Waste for collecting large refuse items for four weeks at a cost of $8,000.
Motion to approve Shank Waste for collecting large refuse items for four weeks at a cost of $8,000 by Mr. Exler, second by Mrs. Exler.
Vote: Motion carried.

Motion to approve the police vacation schedule.
Motion to approve the police vacation schedule by Mr. Biermeyer, second by Mr. Exler.
Vote: Motion carried

Motion to approve the second option for the purchase of rock salt for the year from Cargo, Inc.
Motion to approve the purchase of rock salt for the year from Cargo, Inc. by Mr. Biermeyer, second by Mr. Exler.
Vote: Motion carried

Mr. Exler advise meeting will be in recess to go into Executive Session and upon returning, meeting will basically be over and will at that time be adjourned. Resident requested a question: the $8,000 for Shank, does that mean, is there a trash pickup? Answer by Mr. Exler: Yes.
Mr. Means suggested to adjourn the meeting into Executive Session so the Board would not have to return to adjourn, people will understand there will be no further business.
Resident question: Why are the baseball fields able to be reserved by the organizations and not the basketball courts. Mr. Exler: Because no one uses the baseball fields, but the basketball courts are used by the neighborhood children. Resident: Are the basketball courts used by boys or girls. Mr. Exler: Boys. Resident: If we do not give the girls an opportunity and a place to play basketball, we will not have girls participating in the sport. Mr. Exler: I agree.

Resident question: When people come to use the ball field, are they registered to play or practice on that field. Mr. Exler: yes. Resident: But, the basketball courts are not like that, they are open all the time. Mr. Exler: Yes, this is the first time we have had the issue of reserving the basketball courts. Mr. Biermeyer: It has always been pickup games. Mr. Exler: Yes, all pickup games. Softball and baseball are organized play.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Call for a motion to adjourn the meeting by Mr. Exler.
Motion to adjourn the meeting by Mr. Biermeyer, second by Mrs. Exler.
Vote: Motion carried.
Meeting adjourned.