

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING
MONDAY, MAY 7, 2012

CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Samuel Abatta called the regular meeting of May 7, 2012 to order at the Municipal Complex, 1000 Church Hill Road at 7:10 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL: Cegelski-Present, Mapel-Present, Shiwarski-Present, Forquer-Present, Abatta-Present

THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS CONDUCTED AN EXECUTIVE SESSION ON APRIL 23, 2012 FROM 6:00 P.M. TO 7:00 P.M. TO DISCUSS LEGAL AND PERSONNEL MATTERS. THE BOARD WILL TAKE OFFICIAL ACTION, IF ANY, FROM THIS EXECUTIVE SESSION AT THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING ON MAY 7, 2012.

Chairman Abatta read into the record, Resolution No. 11 Of 2112. This Resolution 11 Of 2012 establishes rules of order and decorum to govern the manner and conduct of public comment by residents and/or taxpayers at public meetings.

CITIZENS COMMENTS

Jerry Brouker – 284 Coraopolis Rd., Between your Caucus Mtg. and the Regular Mtg., one of the folks here shook my arm and said “I see you are on the agenda again.” I asked what he meant and then he explained that they are moving the citizens comments again, just like they did to you five or six years ago when you used to come up and speak all of the time. I told him that I was glad that he remembered that and I appreciate that. I did come up here a lot back then and I asked pointed questions and asked quite a bit about the state of the government, the state of administration and the state of our finances. At that time, that Board chose to ignore or make fun of me and then ultimately suppress me from speaking. That got them all beat the following year in their election. What is going on here tonight, just so everybody is aware, I understand that Mr. Abatta just read the resolution and I am not sure if everybody understands it in plain English. In plain English, if there is something on an agenda that you wish to speak about, you can do so during this period of time. If you wish to speak about other things, maybe something more specific to you or your community, you get to do it after they have adjourned. It will not be a matter of public record and it will not be televised for anyone to understand or see it. I think that is far worse than what the Commissioners back in 2004 did. Tonight is a throwback to that type of bad mentality. It cost those Commissioners dearly. What you did tonight is designed to deter the public from speaking and to hide information from those that listen and are eager to learn. This is a tremendous disservice

to our community and will not be viewed as anything more than a desperate attempt by this Board to run from the facts and hide from the truth. In short, this makes all of you look like frightened school children afraid of the dark. If anything any of us would ever have to say at a public meeting was said inaccurately or erroneously, you all have every opportunity to refute that or discredit it or prove us wrong. None of you choose to do that because we never are wrong when we come up here to speak. You just don't want anybody to hear what we have to say. I think you have chosen to lower your government board to the very base of non-transparency. Stephanie Triko resigned from this Board three or four months ago suggesting that this was a non-transparent Board. I have little use for the Board as most of you know, but there are specific people that I would like to say something to. Ron, you and I, I think we are friendly. You have championed (allegedly) transparency in this government from the day that you started office. You said it out loud multiple times and you went along with this? To oppress people from not speaking publicly so everyone can hear? Jesse, my goodness, you alluded to it in the caucus. You came up here and spoke more fervently than anyone that I have ever seen. You demanded that people get arrested from this government at that time. You said that people should be behind bars. You were more over the top than anyone.

Chairman Abatta, please finish it up. You have 15 seconds. Please stay on task. There will be no personal attacks.

Mr. Brouker, I don't know you Bobbie hardly at all, but you work for the school district. You are a negotiator of teacher's contracts. Much of what is going to be said or will be said, just not under these comments, is going to have a lot of do with the finances of the school district....

Chairman Abatta, you are going into personal attacks. I am going to warn you to cease and desist from going into personal attacks. I will give you another 15 seconds to clarify and finish up.

Mr. Brouker, I have made no personal attacks. I have told my side of the story and what the facts are. My final statement on the way out the door is, again Bobbie, you have to vote on stuff that is going to be a major conflict of interest. I think you should think about that before you continue to serve on this Board. Finally, this Resolution tonight, shows the shadiness and lack of transparency of this Board.

Bob Sughrue (Comments read by Dr. Paul John Jakubec), I have been asked to read Mr. Sughrue's remarks as he is unable to speak due to a medical condition. I believe that permitting me to speak for Mr. Sughrue is what is termed "reasonable accommodations pursuant to the American with Disabilities Act." Residing at 1704 Ventana Drive. I am a retired executive from Highmark Blue Cross/Blue Shield and former President of the Allegheny County Transit Council and former member of the Bethel Park School Board.

Imagine if you would, the Saturday night mass at Holy Family Church starting immediately after the last confession. Pretty ludicrous, right? People would not know when to come to the church and would probably not go. They simply would lose interest. Imagine if you would, Pirate games starting immediately after batting practice. Batting practice could be any unspecified length of time. Pretty ridiculous, right? People would not know when batting practice ended and probably would not go to the game. They would probably lose interest. Imagine if the Giant Eagle Pharmacy opened the prescription drug counter after the pharmacist had coffee, donuts and read the paper. People would not know when they could get their medications and would go elsewhere. They simply would lose interest. All of these examples are remarkably beyond simple minded belief because these organizations in order to survive, must be responsible and accountable to the public they serve. Imagine if you would, the Robinson Township Commissioners monthly meeting starting immediately after the Caucus Meeting, which could vary in content or length. People would not know when to come to the meeting. They would simply lose interest. Unbelievably this is the case in our Township. It appears that the Commissioners do not want the public to know when the meeting starts. It further appears that the current policy is a veiled attempt to limit public comment. Finally, citizens do not know when to tune in to watch the meeting on television. Simply put, people are confused that there is no designated start time for the meeting. Some citizens feel that they have been disenfranchised by the arbitrary start time. In this citizen's humble opinion, the Board of Commissioners has turned a blind eye to the public they serve and have thrown responsibility and accountability by the wayside. This is a shame. The monthly public meeting should have a designated start time to maximize public participation, provide unimpeded visibility with respect to critical Township matters and to impose an environment of responsibility and accountability for our Commissioners.

Chairman Abatta, Linda Jakubec, you have signed in to speak on March Commissioner Comments, which is not on the agenda. This will not be your forum as of right now. You can speak to these comments at the conclusion of the meeting.

Ms. Jakubec (539 Meade Dr.), when will we be able to bring up issues brought up in Commissioners comments?

Chairman Abatta, you are supposed to speak to agenda items. Your topic is not on the agenda.

Ms. Jakubec, going forward from today, if there is an item mentioned in Commissioners Comments, next meeting I would come back to speak to that and ask my questions and clarify and seek transparency? When will I do that?.

Chairman Abatta, maybe I can clarify it for you. If the Commissioners make a comment and you would like to address it at some point in time, the portion of the meeting for you to do it would be at the conclusion of the regular meeting. This is a business meeting. We are commenting on agenda items.

Ms. Jakubec, so Commissioners Comments are not considered agenda items? Is that what you are making clear?

Chairman Abatta, you have March Commissioners Comments listed.

Ms. Jakubec, that is correct. I mean going forward. I just want to understand it.

Chairman Abatta, I hope that I clarified it for you. I have told you a couple of times here.

Ms. Jakubec, I think all of the Commissioners Comments are usually business oriented and I think the public should have an opportunity to respond to them.

Chairman Abatta, I am telling you that you are able to do that, but it is not an agenda item. This is a business meeting.

Ms. Jakubec, so Commissioners Comments are not agenda items. I get it, thank you.

Jane Marks was signed in to speak but was not present. Her son, Chuck Marks requested to speak. Chairman Abatta stated that he would be willing to hear from Mrs. Marks at any time. She is a resident.

Mr. Brouker spoke from the rear of the room and was out of order. He was removed from the room by Lt. Krall.

Mr. Marks, I have three businesses in this township and I do pay taxes.

Chairman Abatta, where do you pay your taxes?

Mr. Marks, I pay business taxes here. You can ask my wife.

Chairman Abatta, you signed in under your mother's name. You cannot speak. Your mother is more than welcome to speak. You are not a Township resident. You may bring your mother here.

Mr. Marks, you are an embarrassment to this Township. All of you are.

Steve Taylor (108 Scottdale Dr.)

Chairman Abatta, I see that Mr. Taylor has signed in to speak about building permits. That is not an agenda item and I am going to relay the same message to you that I related to Ms. Jakubec. You may speak to that point under Item #6 of the Resolution at the conclusion of the business meeting.

Mr. Taylor, I signed in before I heard your last statements. I figured tonight you would have limited understanding for the people that came here.

Chairman Abatta, we have a forum that we are following. I hope that you can appreciate that. This is a business meeting. You may speak to any issue as long as you follow the same rules that we have set up in the Resolution at the conclusion of the business meeting.

Ed Miller (37 Fawnvue Drive)

Chairman Abatta, again Mr. Miller you have signed in for building permits. As I told Mr. Taylor and Ms. Jakubec, that is not an agenda item at this time. You may speak after the meeting to Item #6. The agenda was available on Friday prior to 4:00 p.m. so you had ample time to speak to an agenda item.

Scott Suess (539 Meade Dr.), I wanted to address an issue related to the TIF contracts. It is a very confusing and complex issue in the Township right now. First, concerning the Robinson Mall TIF, the TIF involves three parties, Robinson Township, the Redevelopment Authority of Allegheny County and Montour School District. The mall was originally assessed at \$104.7 million. The assessors granted an appeal lowering that assessment to \$93.5 million. Shortly thereafter, the assessment office granted the lower assessment. The Montour School District and the Redevelopment Authority of Allegheny County came to an agreement with the bondholder that they would accept a \$100 million assessment for the remaining term of the TIF. Robinson Township did not agree to this. Had the Township agreed to the \$100 million assessment, which was enough money to fund the TIF for the remaining term, a lot of the current mess that we find ourselves in would have been avoided. Instead, Robinson Twp. filed a lawsuit asking for the assessment to be raised back to \$104.7 million, which would have been nominal to the Township. This lawsuit prevented the TIF from being refinanced. Which would have saved the school district several hundred thousand dollars per year. It probably cost the Township more in legal fees than it would have realized from accepting a \$100 million assessment. To make matters worse, because the Township did not agree to the assessment, it has since been lowed to \$76.2 million based on the recent court mandated reassessment. Mr. Forquer made references to a meeting with the Montour School District on September 15 in his April Commissioners comments. He then made References that he attempted to set up a joint meeting that was unsuccessful. I am sure that you are aware that there was an election in November and five new Board members were elected. Not one of the members on the Board has been contacted by you or anyone else with the Township regarding a meeting. We have several Board members here this evening and we are absolutely hoping that we can work with the Township to come to a viable solution to the TIF.

Vice-Chairman Forquer, I would suggest that you stay after the meeting.

FINANCE UPDATE BY COMMISSIONER JESSE FORQUER

Vice-Chairman Forquer, the real big news in this month's financial report is that the 2011 audit is complete and we have had good results as you heard from Kim Turnley at the

Caucus Meeting. The audit confirmed that we were within budget and our balance forward for the last year was \$2 million in cash. Our finances are sound and we do not have excessive debt. We still do not have the reserve funds that we would like to have but we are moving in the right direction. I would like to congratulate our Manager, Aaron Bibro on the birth of his son Landon William Bibro. I would also like to congratulate Aaron for his good work in implementing spending controls and managing a tight budget in 2011. Congratulations are also due to the rest of the Board for all of their contributions which contributed to our good results in 2011. It was in fact a team effort. The balance in the general fund account as of this morning was \$3,696,000. Our balance forward in the general account given at the April 2, 2012 was \$3,680,432. The market value of the police pension fund as of the close of business day on Friday, May 4th was \$10,169,550. This is down from the April 2nd report, which was \$10,309,586. The police pension is funded every year by the Township and the state. Because a good portion of the account is in stock and bond funds, the account balance is subject to market volatility. For the April Treasurer's Report, the EIT transfers were \$46,200. Year to date was \$533,570. The amount received represents payments from Centax from the prior year. The year to date average for 2007 at the end of April was exactly \$533,000, so we are right on average. Mgr. Bibro contacted Jordan today at my request and confirmed that we may not receive EIT tax payments from Jordan Tax Services for the first quarter in 2012 until the end of June. Employers have 30 days to remit EIT payments to Jordan and Jordan has sixty days to remit payments to the municipalities. At the beginning of the year, because of the uncertainties we were facing with the reassessment looming and the fact that Jordan was going to transfer EIT quarterly, the Township took out a bridge loan at a very low interest rate. Item #23 on the agenda is a motion to pay back \$1.2 million of that loan. We are planning to pay back the other half in June. The LST collected in April was \$18,000.10, which brings the year to date total to \$340,190. The past history to date shows that the high was \$268,000 and the low was \$123,000. Real Estate taxes, including interim collected for April were \$504,160 to date and \$638,690 for the year. Real Estate Delinquent Taxes collected by Jordan were \$21,065.00 and year to date \$86,500.00. We are already over budget in collection. Although the unemployment rate has dropped to 8.1%, the bad news is that it did not drop entirely because people were being hired, it dropped because the labor force is shrinking and people are running out of unemployment benefits. There have been some reports that the number of new hires will increase in the 4th quarter. Let's hope that those reports are correct. On May 16th there is an arbitration session scheduled concerning the police contracts. Police Commissioner Mapel, Aaron Bibro and myself will be attending that session.

BUILDING INSPECTOR/ZONING OFFICER REPORT

The Building Inspector/Zoning Officer Report for April, 2012 is attached.

MINUTES

MOTION Shiwarski, SECOND Forquer to approve the 2012 budget Public Hearing Meeting Minutes dated December 29, 2011 as submitted
ROLL-CALL: Cegelski-A, Mapel-A, Shiwarski-Y, Forquer-Y, Abatta-Y.
M/C 3-0, Yes 2 Abstain

MOTION Forquer, SECOND Shiwarski to approve the Board of Commissioners Continued Meeting Minutes dated December 29, 2011 as submitted.
ROLL CALL: Cegelski-A, Mapel-A, Shiwarski-Y, Forquer-Y, Abatta-Y.
M/C 3-Yes 2 Abstain

MOTION Shiwarski, SECOND Shiwarski to approve the Board of Commissioners Reorganization Meeting Minutes dated January 2, 2012 as submitted.
ROLL CALL: Cegelski-A, Mapel-Y, Shiwarski-Y, Forquer-Y, Abatta-Y
M/C 4-Yes, 1 Abstain

MOTION Shiwarski, SECOND Forquer to approve the Board of Commissioners continued Reorganization Meeting Minutes dated January 9, 2012 as submitted.
ROLL CALL: Cegelski-A, Mapel-Y, Shiwarski-Y, Forquer-Y, Abatta-Y
M/C 4 Yes, 1 Abstain

MOTION Cegelski, SECOND Forquer to approve the Board of Commissioners Caucus Meeting Minutes dated April 2, 2012 as submitted
ROLL CALL: Cegelski-Y, Mapel-Y, Shiwarski-Y, Forquer-Y, Abatta-Y
M/C 5-0

MOTION Shiwarski, SECOND Mapel to approve the Board of Commissioners Regular Meeting Minutes dated April 2, 2012 as submitted
ROLL CALL: Cegelski-Y, Mapel-Y, Shiwarski-Y, Forquer-Y, Abatta-Y
M/C 5-0

TREASURERS REPORT

MOTION Shiwarski, SECOND Mapel to approve the April, 2012 Treasurer's Report.
ROLL CALL: Cegelski-Y, Mapel-Y, Shiwarski-Y, Forquer-Y, Abatta-Y
M/C 5-0

MOTION Mapel, SECOND Shiwarski to approve the April, 2012 Lit of Bills
ROLL CALL: Cegelski-Y, Mapel-Y, Shiwarski-Y, Forquer-Y, Abatta-Y
M/C 5-0

NEW BUSINESS

MOTION Mapel, SECOND Forquer to adopt Resolution No. 11 of 2012 establishing rules of order and decorum to govern the manner and conduct of public comment by residents and/or taxpayers at public meetings.

ROLL CALL: Cegelski-Y, Mapel-Y, Shiwarski-Y, Forquer-Y, Abatta-Y
M/C 5 Yes

MOTION Cegelski, SECOND Mapel to appoint Commissioner Jesse Forquer to the Three Rivers Wet Weather Elected Officials Basin Group.

Cegelski-Y, Mapel-Y, Shiwarski-Y, Forquer-A, Abatta-Y
M/C 4 Yes, 1 Abstain

MOTION Forquer, SECOND Mapel to appoint Commissioner Bobbie Cegelski as the Township representative to the Char-West Council of Governments.

Cegelski-A, Mapel-Y, Shiwarski-Y, Forquer-Y, Abatta-Y
M/C 4 Yes, 1 Abstain

MOTION Mapel, SECOND Cegelski to approve the purchase of three (3) 2013 Ford Interceptors for the Robinson Township Police Department at a total cost of \$76,431.00 purchased through the SHACOG Joint Purchasing Alliance.

ROLL CALL: Cegelski-Y, Mapel-Y, Shiwarski-Abstain, Forquer-Y, Abatta-Y.
M/C 4 Yes, 1 Abstain

Commissioner Shiwarski, the reason for my abstention is that I believe that Day Corporation was involved in the SHACOG bid and I am an employee of the Day Corporation.

MOTION Cegelski, SECOND Forquer to hire Beth Crawford and Kim Gray as Co-Directors for the Summer Recreation Program contingent upon completion of a successful background check and Act 33-34 clearances at a rate not to exceed a total of \$2,100 for both employees.

Cegelski-Y, Mapel-Y, Shiwarski-Y, Forquer-A, Abatta-Y
M/C 5-0.

MOTION Shiwarski, SECOND Forquer to adopt Resolution No. 12 of 2012 to create a smoke-free policy at all Robinson Township Parks in accordance with Tobacco Free Allegheny's Young Lungs at Play Initiative.

Cegelski-Y, Mapel-Y, Shiwarski-Y, Forquer-A, Abatta-Y
M/C 5-0.

MOTION Shiwarski, SECOND Forquer to make a payment in the amount of \$1.25 million to First Commonwealth Bank towards the 2012 Robinson Township Tax Anticipation Note. This payment is for half of the total amount of \$2.5 million.

Cegelski-Y, Mapel-Y, Shiwarski-Y, Forquer-A, Abatta-Y
M/C 5-0.

MOTION Shiwarski, SECOND Mapel to adopt Resolution No. 13 of 2012 authorizing the entry into a reimbursement agreement for the Pennsylvania Community Transportation Initiative between the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Dept. of Transportation; Airport Corridor Transportation Association and Township of Robinson subject to finalization of the agreement in a form and content acceptable to the Township and Solicitor.

Cegelski-Y, Mapel-Y, Shiwarski-Y, Forquer-A, Abatta-Y
M/C 5-0.

MOTION Mapel, SECOND Shiwarski to approve the Albert Lee Plan of Lots Simple Subdivision as recommended by the Planning Commission.

Cegelski-Y, Mapel-Y, Shiwarski-Y, Forquer-A, Abatta-Y
M/C 5-0.

MOTION Cegelski, SECOND Mapel to schedule a public hearing on June 15, 2012 at 8:30 a.m. for the FC Aiken LLC (Lot & Block #153-E-101) rezoning request changing the current C-4 zoning for the property to R-3 zoning.

Cegelski-Y, Mapel-Y, Shiwarski-Y, Forquer-A, Abatta-Y
M/C 5-0.

MOTION to advertise an Ordinance amending the Robinson Township Zoning Map with respect to Lot and Block #153-E-101 changing the same from a C-4 zoning district to a R-3 zoning district.

Cegelski-Y, Mapel-Y, Shiwarski-Y, Forquer-A, Abatta-Y
M/C 5-0.

MOTION Cegelski, SECOND Shiwarski to schedule a public hearing at 9:00 a.m. on June 15, 2012 for the L&S Partners (Lot and Block #264-B-220) rezoning request changing the current C-4 zoning for the property to C-3 zone.

Cegelski-Y, Mapel-Y, Shiwarski-Y, Forquer-A, Abatta-Y
M/C 5-0.

MOTION Shiwarski, SECOND Cegelski to advertise an ordinance amending the Robinson Township zoning map with respect to Lot and Block #264-B-220 changing the same from the C-4 zoning district to a C-3 zoning district.

Cegelski-Y, Mapel-Y, Shiwarski-Y, Forquer-A, Abatta-Y
M/C 5-0.

MOTION Cegelski, SECOND Mapel to schedule a public hearing on June 15, 2012 at 9:00 a.m. for the Roy F. Johns, Jr./Earle W. Kazis (Lot and Block #334-L-32) rezoning request changing the current C-5 zoning for the property to C-3 zone.

Cegelski-Y, Mapel-Y, Shiwarski-Y, Forquer-A, Abatta-Y
M/C 5-0.

MOTION Shiwarski, SECOND Mapel to advertise an ordinance amending the Robinson Township zoning map with respect to Lot and Block #334-L-32 changing the same from a C-5 zoning district to a C-3 zoning district.

Cegelski-Y, Mapel-Y, Shiwarski-Y, Forquer-A, Abatta-Y
M/C 5-0.

MOTION Mapel, SECOND Shiwarski to adopt Resolution No. 14 of 2012 adopting the amended and restated rules and regulations for the Robinson Township Civil Service Commission.

Commissioner Cegelski, who selects the alternates for the Civil Service Commission?

Chairman Abatta, that would be the governing body.

Commissioner Cegelski, if we approve this, we need to give them names for two alternatives according to the change.

Chairman Abatta, that was my interpretation.

Solicitor Garvin, that is correct.

Cegelski-Y, Mapel-Y, Shiwarski-Y, Forquer-A, Abatta-Y
M/C 5-0.

MOTION to approve bond reduction #3 for Stafford Park submitted by Victor-Wetzel Associates in the amount of \$167,767.00 which will reduce the bond amount to \$725,208.30 as recommended by the Township Engineer.

Motion died for lack of action.

MOTION Mapel, SECOND Shiwarski to deny bond reduction #3 for Stafford Park submitted by Victor-Wetzel Associates in the amount of \$167,767.00 which will reduce the bond amount to \$725,209.30 as recommended by the Township Engineer.

Solicitor Garvin, you must give the reason for denial.

Commissioner Mapel, I have some serious issues with this bond reduction, even in spite of the recommendation from our engineer, based on the fact that there was previously a request for a waiver for plastic pipe that was used on this project and it was denied. Therefore, I cannot in good conscience feel that we can reduce the bond based on material that was never approved. Even though it was a deemed approved project and plan, it does not meet the ordinance requirements of Robinson Township. Therefore, I don't feel that I can support that.

Commissioner Shiwarski, I just feel that we need to be consistent on what we have done throughout the process here. If we denied the waiver, how can we approve this?

Chairman Abatta, I think the ordinances have to be followed.

Engineer Meyer, I would agree that as far as the ordinance, I would say that there was RCP that was in the plan. The plastic pipe was part of the deemed approved plan. However, I would agree that it does not follow the ordinance.

Commissioner Mapel, I might also mention that in speaking to Mr. Meyer's statement, that was never a plan that this Township approved.

Engineer Meyer, I agree 100%. It was part of the deemed approved plan.

Commissioner Cegelski, I just want to be clear, if I am going to vote no, then I would come forward now with my reason or is it at the time of my vote? I will be voting to deny. I understand what Mr. Meyer is saying, however, if there are conflicts with the ordinances that are set forth, then I will be voting to deny the request as well.

ROLL CALL: Cegelski-Y, Mapel-Y, Shiwarski-Y, Forquer-Y, Abatta-Y.
M/C 5-0.

MOTION Forquer, SECOND Cegelski to hire Mark Turnley, CPA to perform a fraud audit on the Tax Increment Financing Districts in Robinson Township in accordance with his proposal dated April 18, 2012.

ROLL CALL: Cegelski-Y, Mapel-Y, Shiwarski-Y, Forquer-Y, Abatta-Y.
M/C 5-0.

COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS

Commissioner Cegelski, due to the length of the meeting tonight, I will keep my comments brief. Because of our broadcast being without sound last time, I did want to extend thanks to Dr. Charles Blocksidge and the Board members of the Municipal Authority of the Township of Robinson. I see that Mr. Bianco has left. They were very welcoming to Commissioner Mapel and myself. They did invite us to go on a tour of their facilities. I hope to do that this summer and I invite any other Commissioners that

want to tour along with me, to please do so. Also, the library did a wonderful job of welcoming me at their Board meeting. I want to reiterate that I would encourage any of the residents to please visit at the library, especially during the week of May 14th. They have a nice celebration planned out. It would be very nice for anybody who has not been there to learn what the library has to offer our Township. I joined my fellow Commissioners, Abatta, Forquer and Mapel at the annual Council of Governments Dinner Meeting where Allegheny County Executive Rich Fitzgerald was the guest speaker. I look forward to serving on the COG, along with Commissioner Abatta. For those that don't know what the COG is, it is a nice meeting forum for all of the municipalities to get together and share common issues. To continue forward on a topic that was brought forward at the last COG meeting regarding property assessments, at that meeting information was disseminated on how to file an appeal. Michael Finnerty was there and he told us how to go about doing that. I know that our Township office offered assistance for our residents that did want to file an appeal. Right now I am sure the topic of assessments is still looming out there for people. Many residents are still expressing sincere concern on rising property taxes and their ability to pay. The Honorable Senator Wayne Fontana of the 46th Senatorial District, which includes Robinson Township, returned a phone call that I had made, as well as an email. I wanted to have the most up to date information to report out this evening. There are a number of bills in both the House and Senate related to property assessments, be they a moratorium or a referendum. The common denominator is there all waiting until a statewide system can be developed. We are not sure if and when that ever going to happen. In the meantime, Senator Fontana is looking for sponsor a bill that would eliminate property taxes for counties of the second class, such as Allegheny County. He really is encouraging residents to get in touch with him. He wants people's opinions on how they feel about the property taxes. He is the sponsor of Senate Bill 1400, also known as House Bill 1776. This is titled, The Property Tax Independence Act and it seeks to eliminate the use of property taxes to pay for school districts and replace those funds with additional state revenues. As I see our school board members here from Montour, I would suggest that you take time and really pay attention to this House Bill since it does apply to how school districts would be funded. Not everybody is going to be in agreement with this because what does this mean for us? It is a shift to another type of tax, however it would be such as a state sales tax or on non-prescriptive drugs, food items, etc. The WIC program would be excluded, but there are things that would be taxed that we might not currently be taxed on. Again, I encourage you to contact our Senators and Representatives. They need to hear from the citizens how they feel about the property assessments. On our website you can find all of the names and phone numbers, how to get in touch with them. I am sure that Aaron would assist if you made a call to the office on how you can contact any of our legislators or senators. I would be remiss if I did not wish everyone a Happy Mother's Day this weekend.

Commissioner Mapel, I have a few things for this evening. I would like to express my appreciation for being able to do both what I love and what I know a little bit about. I asked for Public Safety early on and I was fortunate enough to be able to do that. When Commissioner Triko resigned, I agreed to take on Building and Planning as well. I do

have a little bit of experience in that area. With respect to those two departments within this Township, there is a common denomination that involves our health, safety, protection and welfare. We have a lot of issues that we are laboring over currently with respect to ongoing discussions, and again with some of our school board members here in attendance this evening. There are going to be ongoing discussions as to what is fair and equitable and how this is all going to shape out with respect to the building permit issues, both on the previous project and the one that is ongoing as we speak. We have done a great deal of research with respect to where our fee schedules lie with respect to our neighboring communities. We are comfortable that the things that we have done with respect to the fee schedules, have been consistent with what we have done without any complaint for many decades. We have gone to great lengths to get information so that these numbers can be accurate. If they are not accurate, we will get to the bottom of it and find out why. Remembering that these fee schedules are based on information that we get from the applicant, therefore, we are not saying we are in error and we are not saying that the school board is in error, we are just saying that with the information that we will get over a period of time, this will become very clear.

There are other issues concerning building permits. We voted on one this evening. Stafford Park has been an ongoing issue in this Township for almost five years now. We don't want anyone to think or draw the conclusion that we are anti-development or that we are persecuting someone for minor issues that are not important. Our ordinances are in place for reasons of personal and public safety, health, welfare and to preserve your tax dollars. Those policies are in place for a reason and we have to be fair and equitable across the board about how we enforce those ordinances. With that said, moving on to a different subject, I was also present at the annual COG dinner, where Mr. Fitzgerald spoke very eloquently about our progress county wide and how well this Township and Allegheny County at large is moving forward with growth and development in very positive ways. The one thing that he did not mention however, and I don't blame him for not mentioning it is, what we are struggling with in regards to our tax assessment issues. Speaking to Commissioner Cegelski's encouragement for people to act on this by calling your state senator, etc. and making your feelings known, how this is going to pan out here over the next several months, one never knows. One thing that I am confident about, when there is such inequity associated with how some taxes have gone up drastically and some have gone down drastically, there does not seem to be much of a rhyme or reason as to how this was done in a scientific manner. I know I have a piece of property that went up 152% and yet we have a mall in this Township that went down \$30 million. A decade worth of frozen taxes should not be made up for in one calendar year.

I would also at this time to express my sincere condolences to the family of Mr. & Mrs. Dominic Napoli. They were both killed in an automobile accident on Route 60 on April 17th. Very rarely do we have double fatalities, both of which were residents of this Township. Our heartfelt condolences go out to the family.

With respect to health, safety and welfare, I have addressed some issues with Chief Vietmeier regarding some ongoing and growing concerns about traffic congestion at the intersection of Route 60 and Beaver Grade Rd. We know that a lot of this has developed gradually over time. It subsided somewhat when the connector was installed, but it has come back as a problem. We are fairly certain in part, that it is manifesting itself by people using Beaver Grade Rd. and Montour Run Rd. as a shortcut from the Parkway to get to Route 60 business to take them down over the hill to Crafton and other parts east. I have requested a meeting with PennDOT, Chief Vietmeier and Lt. Krall for us to discuss some thoughts as to how we can correct or at least reduce some of this traffic congestion which is becoming gridlock. I will keep everyone posted as that develops.

Commissioner Mapel congratulated Sgt. Postava on his many years of service and a wonderful career.

Commissioner Shiwarski, thank you to the 20% who recently voted in the primary election and to the other 75%, please exercise your rights. I would like to try to address some of the undercurrents that may have been caused by some recent events. With change there is always a period of angst or feeling uncomfortable, but without change even the best process or features become stale and outdated. Just as this Board has recently changed its make-up, we also are trying to change some of the processes and dynamics, with the goal of achieving better end results. That is more efficient government that will produce results that are positive and forward moving at the end of the day. Whether it is implementing 911 service, restructuring a tax office, talking about labor contracts with our unions, questioning the effectiveness of a past ordinance or developmental agreements, altering some long running parliamentary procedures, the viability and feasibility of REMS, finding new ways to increase service for residents while holding to budget constraints or even hiring summer employees. These, plus many other examples, change will always be necessary and will continue to arrive. Making change does not mean that the past is wrong or people were at fault. It only means that we are trying to improve. This Board nor any other body, will be 100% correct all the time, but the reason that I embrace well thought out change is for the desire of a better tomorrow. These changes come with defined processes put in place to benchmark and they are put to the test of every day use. We can, we will and we must revisit the effectiveness of any decision of these changes. Just as citizens' comments tonight about a predetermined time. To me, that is a smart idea. I believe that the actions that I vote on as a Robinson Township Commissioner echo the sentiments of the majority of the residents, no matter what political party they are in. That alone dictates my decision and my directions to guide me as we move this Township forward. I ask, let's be open-minded. Let the results be the measuring sticks before we start criticizing as we continue to work for Robinson so that it can be the best that it can, by using the revenue that is available to us within the budgetary constraints that we live off. If we all look without agenda or pre-conceived prejudice or old standing grudges and bias' we can all see improvement in our government. I also plan to do the same when it comes to voicing my commitment to fulfilling my duties. Mr. Brouker said that he thought different of me, but one of the main reasons that I ran in was because I was actually embarrassed by some of

the actions that were going on, on the Board and I wanted to make a better perception of what Robinson Township is about. I guess what I am saying is, we are going to make change, but that change is for the hope for a better tomorrow. That is what we are doing up here. At least that is what I am doing.

Commissioner Shiwarski wished a Happy Mother's Day to all.

Vice-Chairman Forquer, please bear with me. I am happy to see all of these school board members here at our meeting tonight. At the last meeting I did a very comprehensive report on the problems that we have encountered concerning the two TIF contracts that we have in Robinson Twp. The sound was not working that night and nobody got to hear my report. I am going to attempt to do a short version of that and I will try to keep it as brief as possible. We have been having problems trying to resolve with the two Tax Increment Financing Contracts in Robinson Township. The two contracts are the mall and JCP Associates Contract, which encompasses many of the main properties of the mall and the Peripheral Contract, which is made up of properties in the surrounding areas of the mall. There are troubling issues that we have seen that we feel involve breaches of the Robinson Mall/JCP TIF Bond Contract. On that contract, appeals were filed by the developers that should have been blocked by the County Assessors Office per the terms in the contract. Because of our investigation, we have been told that the Assessors Office has informed the Assessors of the TIF Contractual Agreements in all of the districts in Allegheny County and this error should not be repeated again. Concerning the Peripheral bonds, we have discovered that the contract was severely underfunded and would never be completed. In addition, the interest rates on the bonds in the Peripheral Districts are 9% for the A Bond, 12% for the B Bond and 16% for the C Bond. Since the inception of that contract, there have not been enough property taxes collected on the properties to even pay down the principal and interest on the A Bond. There has been 0 dollars directed to pay down the B and C bonds from the beginning of the contract in 2001. As you know, I also reported that we stopped paying into bonds for the moment. All of the troubling issues that we have found concerning the TIF bonds and the Mall/JCP Associates contract and the Peripheral District are a direct result of the lack of financial oversight by the Redevelopment Authority of Allegheny County. Currently the Redevelopment Authority of Allegheny is talking to the developers involved in the Peripheral contract about possible solutions to this dilemma. My solution to the problem is very simple. Because of all of the red flags that we have seen concerning both TIF contracts, at my recommendation our Board approved tonight of hiring the firm of Mark Turnley, CPA to perform a fraud audit of both TIF contracts. Mr. Turnley's firm has done an excellent job as our auditor and has fraud audit experience. Considering the history of the TIF bond mismanagement by the Redevelopment Authority of Allegheny County, moving forward we need to establish controls, thoroughly understand the constraints of the contracts and make sure that we are receiving meaningful reports to track the disbursement of the tax dollars directed to the trustees to insure the minimum payments are being made by the developers per the terms of the contract and to assure that the properties are being assigned to the appropriate TIF contract districts.

Tonight you saw a presentation put on to commemorate the library and I would like to add my congratulations to our library board as well. They spend a lot of their free time and we also have a very professional staff there that does a great job and I would like to congratulate them.

One other thing that I should have gone over on the TIF contracts, actually it is true that because we decided to file a court motion that a deal was lost, but currently we have a 4 year deal on the table that is even better, so I don't think we have lost a lot. I am a trained negotiator and I do not negotiate from a position of strength. I think our strength is to try to get both of these contracts resolved now. The one with the Peripheral District there are a lot of questionable things there that I think we can leverage to get that done.

Robinson Clean-up Day was sponsored by Giant Eagle and was another great event with a great turnout. Many of our area roads look a lot cleaner as a result. Many thanks to Giant Eagle and Joan Mapel for all of her help with the event and all of the Township employees who helped with that event.

I also offer my condolences to the Napoli family. That was one of the most tragic accidents that we have had in our Township.

Chairman Abatta, this past Saturday, myself and Mr. Forquer attended an informational dinner sponsored by Bayer Technology Services at their Baywood facility. We understand that Bayer is one of our many anchor businesses that supports Robinson Township for every particular item that we have. The dinner was held for them to express their gratitude for the entire governing body of Robinson Township, all of our first responders, especially to the fire departments, police and EMS services. It was a very informative dinner/meeting.

On May 2nd, Commissioner Forquer and myself also attended a presentation to discuss the Ohio River Trails and Greenway Project in McKees Rocks. The purpose of the project is to develop riverfront and community trails for the City of Pittsburgh, through McKees Rocks, Stowe, Kennedy, Robinson, Neville and Coraopolis. I will keep you posted as to how this will benefit us.

I have been selected to serve on the Allegheny County Intergovernmental Council. We are working on issues that are relevant to Robinson Township and I will keep you updated on those particular entities.

Robinson Flea Market will be held on Saturday, May 19th. The cost is \$15.00 for a small space. The deadline is May 17th. Items that are not sold may be donated to Holy Trinity School for their white elephant sale in August.

Pools passes will be sold on Saturdays in May from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Robinson Twp. residents only may purchase passes on May 5th and May 12th.

Summer Camp will run from June 18th thru June 29th. The time is from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon. You must be a Robinson Twp. resident to participate.

The Township newsletter should be in the resident mailboxes sometime in mid-May.

In closing, my condolences go out to the Napoli family for their tragic incident.

The Board expressed their congratulations to Township Manager Aaron Bibro and his wife on the birth of their son.

MOTION Forquer, SECOND Shiwarski to adjourn the May 7, 2012 Board of Commissioners Meeting.

ROLL CALL: Cegelski-Y, Mapel-Y, Shiwarski-Y, Forquer-Y, Abatta-Y.

M/C 5-0

NON-AGENDA PUBLIC COMMENT

Linda Jakubec, 539 Meade Dr.,

Ms. Jakubec spoke about her concerns with how the Commissioners filled the vacant Board of Commissioners seat at the March 5, 2012 meeting.

Stephen Taylor, 108 Scottdale Dr.

Mr. Taylor spoke about his concerns regarding the cost of the Montour School District building permits.

Ed Miller, 37 Fawnvue Dr.

Mr. Miller spoke about his concerns regarding the cost of the Montour School District building permits.

Respectfully submitted,



Carol Merks
Secretary