

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING  
MONDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2012

CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Samuel Abatta called the regular meeting of December 3, 2012 to order at the Municipal Complex, 1000 Church Hill Road at 7:00 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

**Due to a problem with the recording device, the majority of these minutes are based on secretary's meeting notes.**

TOWNSHIP ENGINEER'S REPORT (Report dated December 3, 2012 is attached)

**POLICE REPORT**

Chief Vietmeier spoke regarding security issues at the shopping areas in Robinson Township. A certain type of vehicle (Ford Taurus) is being targeted by the perpetrators. He encouraged everyone to be alert and safe during the holiday season.

**ADMINISTRATION UPDATE**

Manager Bibro spoke regarding the Toys for Tots Program. There will be a drop-off box located in the Police lobby.

The millage rate for the Township has not been set as yet. An extension has been granted since there has not been a final number from Allegheny County.

The Board of Commissioners conducted an executive session on November 14, 2012 from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. and on December 3, 2012 from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. to discuss legal (Docket #GD 12-011597) and personnel issues. The Board will take official action, if any, from this executive session during this meeting.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Discussion to approve the November, 2012 Treasurer's Report. (Attached)

Discussion to approve the November, 2012 List of Bills (Attached)

Discussion to advertise a Public Hearing for the 2013 Budget to be held on December 27, 2012 at 8:00 a.m.

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Discussion to award the bid from Waste Management for on-call e-waste and household hazardous waste collection service commencing on 1/1/2013. (Bid opening 12/3)

Discussion to adopt the Township of Robinson MS4 Stormwater Management Ordinance No. 9 of 2012 updating and replacing Ordinance No. 6 of 1990

Discussion to adopt the Township of Robinson MS4 Operation and Maintenance Ordinance No. 10 of 2012

Discussion to adopt Ordinance No. 11 of 2012 adopting the 2009 edition of the International Fire Code, regulating and governing the safeguarding from conditions hazardous to life or property in the occupancy of buildings and premises in Robinson Township.

Discussion to advertise Ordinance No. 13 of 2012 accepting the dedication of certain streets known as Walnut Drive from Hickory Circle to McCormick road and the entire length of Hickory Circle within the McCormick Farms Phase I Plan of Lots situated in the Township of Robinson, Allegheny County, PA

Discussion to enter into a settlement agreement between the Township of Robinson, Vigilant Insurance Company, and MJH Development Company which requires the payment of \$90,000.00 by MJH Development or Vigilant Insurance Company to complete the public and private improvements in the Oaks and Oak Ridge Plans of Lots

Discussion to advertise an Ordinance and public hearing for the adoption of Ordinance No.12 of 2012 Amending Chapter 300, Zoning, Article II, Definitions: Word Usage § 300-12, Definitions of the Township of Robinson' Code, to provide for definitions of display lighting and electronic sign panels and clarifying the definition of changeable sign copy and amending and restating Article XXIII, Conditional Uses § 300-2305C Billboards to limit the size and hours of operation of billboards based upon the functional operation of the road to which the billboard is oriented and clarifying various provisions to recognize new technology as recommended by the Planning Commission.

The Board discussed holding the Public Hearing for the Billboard Ordinance on Monday, January 7, 2013 at 6:00 p.m.

Discussion to advertise a Public Hearing for the vacation of a portion of Moon Run Road in accordance with an amended Petition to be submitted by F. C. Aiken LLC as recommended by the Planning Commission.

The Board discussed holding the Public Hearing for the vacation of a portion of Moon Run Road on Monday, January 7, 2012 at 6:30 p.m.

Discussion to approve the Grace Manor Plan No. 2 Amended Lot 10 Subdivision as recommended by the Planning Commission.

**CITIZENS COMMENTS**

No citizens signed in to speak.

**FINANCE UPDATE BY VICE-CHAIRMAN FORQUER**

Vice-Chairman Forquer's Report is Attached

**BUILDING INSPECTOR/ZONING OFFICER REPORT**

A copy of the November, 2013 Report by Mr. Urbano is attached.

**TREASURER'S REPORT**

MOTION Shiwarski, SECOND Forquer to approve the November, 2012 Treasurer's Report.

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

MOTION Cegelski, SECOND Forquer to approve the November, 2012 List of Bills.

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

MOTION Forquer, SECOND Shiwarski to advertise a Public Hearing for the 2013 Budget to be held on December 27, 2012 at 8:00 a.m.

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

MOTION Forquer SECOND Shiwarski to award the bid from Waste Management for on-call e-waste and household hazardous waste collection service commencing on 1/1/2013.

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

MOTION Cegelski, SECOND Mapel to adopt the Township of Robinson MS4 Stormwater Management Ordinance No. 9 of 2012 updating and replacing Ordinance No. 6 of 1990.

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

MOTION Shiwarski, SECOND Forquer to adopt the Township of Robinson MS4 Operation and Maintenance Ordinance No. 10 of 2012.

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

MOTION Mapel, SECOND Forquer to adopt Ordinance 11 of 2012 adopting the 2009 edition of the International Fire Code regulating and governing the safeguarding from conditions hazardous to life or property in the occupancy of buildings and premises in Robinson Township.

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

M/C 5-0

MOTION Forquer, SECOND Shiwarski to advertise Ordinance No. 13 of 2012 accepting the dedication of certain streets known as Walnut Drive from Hickory Circle to McCormick Road and the entire length of Hickory Circle within the McCormick Farms Phase 1 Plan of Lots situated in the Township of Robinson, Allegheny County, PA

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

M/C 5-0

MOTION Forquer, SECOND Shiwarski to enter into a settlement agreement between the Township of Robinson, Vigilant Insurance Company and MJH Development Company which requires the payment of \$90,000.00 by MJH Development or Vigilant Insurance Company to complete the public and private improvements in the Oaks and Oak Ridge Plan of Lots

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

M/C 5-0

MOTION Shiwarski, SECOND Mapel to advertise an Ordinance and Public Hearing for the adoption of Ordinance No. 12 of 2012 Amending Chapter 300, Zoning, Article II, Definitions: Word Usage § 300-12, Definitions of the Township of Robinsons' Code, to provide for definitions of display lighting and electronic sign panels and clarifying the definition of changeable sign copy and amending and restating Article XXIII, Conditional Uses § 300-2305C Billboards to limit the size and hours of operation of billboards based upon the functional operation of the road to which the billboard is oriented and clarifying various provisions to recognize new technology as recommended by the Planning Commission.

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

M/C 5-0

MOTION Forquer, SECOND Forquer to advertise a public hearing for the vacation of a portion of Moon Run Road in accordance with an amended Petition to be submitted by F.C. Aiken LLC as recommended by the Planning Commission.

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

M/C 5-0

MOTION Forquer, SECOND Cegelski to approve the Grace Manor Plan No. 2 Amended Lot 10 Subdivision as recommended by the Planning Commission.

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

M/C 5-0

MOTION Forquer, SECOND Mapel to adopt a resolution approve a 2.5% wage increase for Aaron Bibro, Township Manager for 2013 and entry into a second amendment of the employment agreement with Robinson Township.

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

M/C 5-0

MOTION Shiwarski, SECOND Forquer to adopt a resolution approving a 2.0% wage increase for Gerald Kezmarsky, Township Finance Officer for 2013 and entry into the first amendment of the employment agreement with Robinson Township.

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

M/C 5-0

MOTION Shiwarski, SECOND Forquer to approve a 2.0% wage increase for the Robinson Township Planning Director, Rick Urbano for 2013.

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

M/C 5-0

MOTION Forquer, SECOND Shiwarski to approve a 2.0% wage increase for the Robinson Township Code Enforcement Officer, Greg Cuthbert for 2013.

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

M/C 5-0

MOTION Forquer, SECOND Shiwarski to approve a 50 cent increase to the hourly rate for the Robinson Township part-time accounts payable clerk, Neel Cherukuri for 2013.

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

M/C 5-0

#### NON-AGENDA CITIZENS COMMENTS (3 MINUTES)

No comments

#### COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS

##### **Commissioner Cegelski** (Comments Attached)

**Commissioner Mapel**, there were many changes this year. We had comments and suggestions from people that there was a lot of wasted time. People would come to the microphones and get into political things that had nothing to do with our business. We decided to streamline our meetings and incorporate our caucus meeting with our regularly scheduled meeting. It seems to have gone very efficiently and professionally. I have received a lot of pleasant feedback. People like where our meetings are going. Also, we found it necessary to establish some additional rules of decorum to satisfy some of the disgruntled residents who felt that they were being discriminated against because it took their right to free speech away. We gladly amended that and gave them the benefit of the doubt. In so doing, I believe that the Commissioners felt that we had little problem

thereafter with folks who want to address both agenda and non-agenda items to the public. Needless to say, we have addressed numerous domestic and civil issues among our residents. That is one of the things that unfortunately our court system is supposed to do and not necessarily the Township of Robinson. In most meetings you hear me make a suggestion to be kind to each other. A lot of these disputes that come before us and certainly before our police department, could be very easily remedied if people would just simply sit down and talk about the problems that they have.

We also addressed several safety issues over the course of the year. We painted crosswalks in high traffic areas. We addressed traffic congestion by adjusting light time and sequences after a meeting with our police chief and PennDOT. I think we have had some success on Route 60. We are in the process of implementing tighter law enforcement on some of our residential streets where people are speeding or not stopping for signs.

After 20 years of seeking unsuccessfully, the addition of a canine for our police department, look for that to be implemented in this coming year. We have received an additional \$500.00 through donations at Market District and once again, as we seem to do every month, we are thanking Giant Eagle Market District for their generous contributions.

After three years of arbitration we settled the police contract or at least 99%.of it. Oversight of our building, planning and zoning to ensure the best possible standards under law in compliance with our ordinances and codes, has been one of my priorities. I think as reflected in the report by Mr. Urbano earlier, we are seeing success with that.

I am pleased to say that one year after you have elected me to help look after your affairs, I have not let one thing slip through the cracks if somebody has brought it to my attention, whether it be by phone, mail or in person. I may not have always obtained the results that people like to see, but I have not let anything slip through the cracks. I have even visited some of the folks who came to this microphone and could not get satisfaction. I have not seen them since by the way. I thank this Board for their support and cooperation. I commend their diligence and hard work towards the responsibilities that we all have. With that said, I would like to wish them and all of you a pleasant holiday season and a safe and healthy new year.

**Commissioner Shiwarski**, first of all I just want to say that I am sorry that I missed Santa's visit to Clever Park this past Friday. That is the first time since I have been elected that I missed it, but that Friday happened to be the last day of the month and I had to work. I did give my list to one of the elves, so hopefully he got that to Santa. I heard that it was a great job by all. My comments are going to be very similar to Commissioner Mapel's comments. Since this is the last monthly meeting of 2012 and time goes by so quickly, it makes me reflect a little bit on this past year. Back in January we seated a new Board with the election of Commissioner Mapel and the re-election of Commissioner Abatta. We then selected Sam Abatta as the Chairman of the Board, and may I add by a unanimous, bipartisan vote. We then had the unexpected resignation of Commissioner Triko and the sequential appointment of Commissioner Cegelski. The musical chairs

were not quite over at that point in time. We had to replace the position of Township Treasurer and Assistant Manager, both due to self-imposed resignations. After some necessary, but controversial parliamentary revisions and then tweaks and adjustments to the protocol and procedures used in our meetings, your local government, then led by Commissioner Abatta, settled in and began doing what we were all elected to do, govern and serve the residents of Robinson Township. I am not going to mention all of the actions and accomplishments since January and I am sure that I will neglect to forget something or someone, but let me begin: 1. This Board fixed the chaos associated with the tax office due to the aforementioned resignation and other changes in collectors and a default by our vendor, Centax. This was accomplished while officially maintaining service, with the added bonus of a lower compensational drain to the Township's annual budget with a stronger emphasis on collecting delinquent taxes and friendlier hours and service. 2. Through the efforts of finance chair Jesse Forquer, along with many others, we have not only mentioned to grapple with financial responsibilities during a difficult economy, but we have put the Township on a sound fiscal path with common sense direction being our compass and have answered the resignation of our former Assistant Manager, with a superior capable replacement. Also, through many meetings and lots of homework, comparison and compromise, we were able to come to contract agreements with all three of the Township unions, most through negotiation and others through arbitration but all with fairness at the forefront. Believe me when I tell you, it is tough negotiating with and for friends and neighbors. Next, all of our department heads, but especially Chief Vietmeier of our Police Department and Joe Bonkowski of Public Works. They helped immeasurably in constructing the framework for our 2013 budget workshops. They did not receive everything that they asked for, but without their input the final budget would simply be just arithmetic and not reflective of the needs of our Township. Speaking of the 2013 Budget, we are able to post a budget with all of the normal fiscal uncertainties of a municipal budget, but specific to this year is the added unknown of the county assessment appeal process and how it will uniquely affect revenue in all Township located in Allegheny County. Nevertheless, again we are not requesting a tax millage increase for Robinson residents. As a matter of fact, we have decreased our expenditures while maintaining a fund balance and continuing first class service to all residents and businesses. Robinson Township is again in the bottom corridor of all municipalities in millage assessments, while still being one of the finest examples of a first class community. Some of those examples of this service: Public Safety has never nor will it be compromised. We are protected by our police force in the finest of ways. We have three of the finest volunteer fire departments in the area, all supported equally as mandated by the Township through a share of our tax revenue. We have a road department that is the envy of surrounding communities, as anyone who travels our roads in adverse weather conditions can attest to. We have a progressive, but necessary comprehensive road program to maintain infrastructure and help eliminate significant future budgetary expenditures. We have top-notch parks and recreational facilities, including a township swimming pool, tennis courts and many great ballfields, plus a fabulous and ever expanding yearly Autumn Festival. We have a professional and competent 911 and EMT services and last, but not least, a modern and growing library available to the region and conveniently located in our Township building. May I add, a building that will have fuller occupancy by tenants in the upcoming year, than in past

years. All this and more is included in our 2013 budget without a tax increase. Contrary to what some small, but vocal groups might preach, the sky is not falling and we should not run to the hills or enter a bunker. Please enjoy our Township and what it has to offer. The ability to provide the aforementioned within the framework of a balanced budget, that unlike many of our other communities has no business privilege tax to generate revenue, a very lucrative draw for all of our businesses big and small. Again, with no millage increase over the last several years, this is an accomplishment that I have been most proud of in my two terms on this Board. Believe me, when I see these issues or concerns or the successes, I don't paint them red or blue, only as part of the challenges and rewards of this position. We cannot make everyone happy all of the time. We also attempt to offer a great place to live and raise a family, while giving first class amenities and service without being extravagant with the taxpayers' dollars. Yes, we have some unfinished business, ongoing disputes with the school district, that need the politics taken out and safety and financial sense put in the forefront, revising and editing our ordinances and codes to best accommodate everyone fairly and then follow-up with consistent enforcement, plus managing pension and health care responsibilities that are equally fair not only to the recipients but to the taxpayers as well. I can assure you that we will all work to make Robinson Township a better place in 2013, just as we did in 2012. As with any Township, the solicitor pays an important role. Bob Garvin and all of our counsel always enhance this Boards' effectiveness, but gentlemen, I would like to utilize you far less in 2013. Let's listen, discuss and compromise when possibly before we litigate. Speaking of effective, Carol Merks and the entire Township office staff really stepped up in a pinch due to the personnel matters this year as everybody on this Board can surely attest to. You cannot mention our local government without mentioning Aaron Bibro. You did a great job and we have come to expect that over the last several years. In conclusion, 2012 started a bit bumpy and faced several changes from the start of the year, but as we draw to the finish and look forward to next year, we have steered the Township in a responsible manner with not only the present, but the future in mind. If I have one political New Year's wish, maybe a little less acrimony and a little more blurring of the political colors for the betterment of the whole of Robinson. Lastly, thanks for listening to this tonight and throughout the year. I wish everyone a safe and Merry Christmas and a joyous holiday season and a healthy, happy and prosperous new year.

Vice-Chairman Forquer, the only thing that I would add to what you said is that we have taken on some pretty serious problems and I think it has been very easy to work with every one of the people on this Board. I think there is a cohesion here that has really led to a lot of good things happening. I am involved with finance. I have access to all of our accounts on line. We promoted Aaron from Assistant Manager to Manager because I thought that he had some very great capabilities. He has a degree in economics and he is very good in public speaking and management. I think our financial management has changed. Our audits are done in a timely manner. We have a finance manager now. Things are very different and there are not too many issues that we don't find. We go over all of our bills and tax issues are closely looked at. They are looked at a lot closer than our school district is looking at things right now. That is something that will need to be straightened out.

On November 30<sup>th</sup> we had light up night at Clever Park and it was the largest turnout that I have ever seen and a good time was had by all. Our Parks Committee and Public Works Dept. did a lot of hard work in preparation and presenting that event. I would like to thank every one of our Board members and our Township staff, as well as the residents who attend our meetings. I would like to wish everyone happy holidays.

Chairman Abatta, what more needs to be said here? I just want to say that it has been a pleasure this past year working with this Board. I always look to the positive things that go on in Robinson Township and we sitting as a Board right now, will always work to benefit the taxpayers and residents. As Commissioners Shiwarski, Mapel, Cegelski and Forquer have mentioned, you will always get people who will say that the ship is sinking, but this ship is not sinking. We are doing exactly what we were elected to do and we are very proud of the jobs that we are going to maintain. As a Board, we worked on a budget collaboratively and I am very proud to say that again we held the taxes down to 3.05, which as far as I am concerned is the 4<sup>th</sup> year in a row that we have not raised taxes.

Manager Bibro, I believe that it is 6.

Chairman Abatta, we are going to keep the Township on a steady and positive course for 2013. In regards to the Parks Report, light-up night was a great success. The weather could not have been nicer for our families to come out for the festivities. I would like to thank the Forest Grove Fire Dept., Robinson EMS, Montour High School Choir and Tendercare Learning Center for providing cookies that evening. I particularly want to thank Jane Tallon and the Parks & Recreation Board for planning this fun evening. Special thanks go to Joe Bonkowski and the Public Works Dept. for the beautiful decorations and the fantastic and functional pavilion. Most of all, I want to thank Santa and Mrs. Claus for spending their evening in Robinson and visiting with all of the children. In closing, the Robinson Township Parks Board is working on a new event for our teenage group. They have proposed holding a dance that will be geared to a specific age group at the Moon Run Fire Hall. The first dance will be held in February and another one in March. Additional information regarding these events can be found on our website at [www.townshipofrobinson.com](http://www.townshipofrobinson.com). In closing, I would like to wish every happy holidays.

MOTION Forquer, SECOND Shiwarski to continue the December 3, 2012 meeting to December 27, 2012 at 8:30 a.m.

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

M/C 5-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Merks  
Secretary

