BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING
MONDAY, OCTOBER 7, 2013

CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Samuel Abatta called the regular meeting of October 7, 2013 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-Absent, Forquer-Present, Abatta-Present. Also in attendance were Manager Silka, Engineer Meyer, Planning Director Urbano, Chief Vietmeier and Secretary Merks for the purpose of taking minutes.

Presentation by Lynn Manion (Airport Corridor Transportation Authority –ACTA)

Ms. Manion distributed a power point presentation to the Board.

Ms. Manion, the project has been in the planning stages for five or six years. Approximately two years ago, funding was received for the project and they have most recently been working on the final engineering and to get the project implemented.

Originally the project, which is funded by PennDOT was slated to begin in July. An RFP was put out for a contractor, they had the bid opening and the schedule was to start the project in July and to finish it by December 31st. Because of a lot of different reasons, one of the main ones being that when they were going to start the project, it became back to school shopping season. We wanted to be considerate of the retailers so we had delayed the project thru the month of August and then when we looked at starting it in September, there were other issues that came up. The primary one is that the asphalt plants close at the end of October or sometime in November. It was going to be difficult to finish the project in the fall and if the contractor accelerated the project, that would add an additional $110,000 to the project. A decision was made to delay the project until March. Our new start is March lst and we expect completion of the project by July 31st of next year. The reason I am here this evening, I would like to request that the Township permit us to do construction during the daylight hours, which will save us some money from the original schedule of doing the project at night. If we were to keep the project at night, there would be a $4,000 material acceleration charge by the contractor, which they will waive if they are permitted to work during the day. Our project budget is very tight. We are a non-profit. We don't really have money to put into this project for cost overruns such as this. We have done a traffic analysis and that is the page that I wanted to direct you too. What it shows is that on Park Manor Blvd., where all of the work will be done, even though there will be one lane closed in each direction in the area around IKEA basically between PNC Bank and up to the traffic signal where the Steak N Shake is, you can see by this analysis that the traffic delayed will not be any greater than it is right now. Park Manor Blvd. will basically stay the same. That is the request that I am asking for. Again, there would be no impact on the traffic on Park Manor Blvd. in terms of further delays. If they begin the project and it does seem like a lot more congestion, they would change the project to doing it at night. What we would like to do is try it during the day and if there is some big problem, we always have the option of going back to the contractor and saying that it has to be changed to night work.

I would also like to remind you of the money that is being put into this project and who the contributors are as well as the benefits to Robinson Township. I would like to introduce the store manager at IKEA.

Chairman Abatta, when you say that you would be working during the day, you are not speaking of weekends?

Ms. Manion, no, just during the week.

Commissioner Cegelski, what is the length of the project as far as time?

Ms. Manion, from March 1st and the latest would be July 3lst. That is what the contractor is telling us.

Vice-Chairman Forquer, I had understood that this was being held-up somewhat because you had to find enclosures that were made in the USA?

Ms. Manion, that was also part of it. There is a "Buy American policy", so all of the steel had to be American made steel. We had unusual street furniture that had to be purchased, as the bus shelter is not going to be just a shelter for people to get on the bus, there will also be picnic tables there, a bike work station and some other street furniture.

Vice-Chairman Forquer, I think it is certainly worth pointing out here that IKEA has contributed $200,000 to this project. That is very commendable.

Terry Noble,(IKEA Store Manager), I have been in Pittsburgh for six years. I was lucky one day as I was sitting in my office looking at Park Manor Blvd. that I received a phone call from Ms. Manion. I was pondering why traffic was so terrible and what I could do about it. One of the things that we do at IKEA, we have a lot of surveys done through our customers as to what are the barriers to shopping in Robinson or at IKEA and what I have been told time and time again, is that it is very difficult to get into the IKEA lot. Not only that, in the spring we have a lot of construction going on with bridges and tunnels and different things like that to get to IKEA. We have seen a decrease in our foot traffic in the store in the past year and a half and it really concerns me. I have been working on this project on and off with Lynn (Manion) and I have been trying to be a good advocate for doing the right thing in the neighborhood to try and also provide some leadership to get more retailers involved to do the right thing. This is for our pedestrians, our co-workers, those who are riding bikes and other forms of transportation in and around the corridor. It is a very vibrant corridor and we want to make it better. We retailers are very excited about this work going on. We are so close that we just hope that we don't face any kinds of problems going forward to finally get it under way. As a retailer, I will say that we know that we are going to be affected, but the cost for this short term is worth the long term benefits that we will get. I think that we will see that with a return of customers.

Chairman Abatta, could we have Chief Vietmeier speak on some of these issues? With this group given permission to operate during the day, are we going to be able to monitor that a little bit better or should we send people out there to help with traffic flow and reduce congestion?

Chief Vietmeier, I think we will have to evaluate it to see what happens. If the study says that there is not going to be a problem with traffic flow, then I sort of wonder why we have two lanes. It doesn't make sense, but I guess we will try it. It is the spring time and probably the least traveled time. If it is a problem, we can always resort back to the night-time work. Is this a permanent closure for the whole three months or a daily closure?

Engineer Meyer, from what I had heard, it was only a daily closure as it was being done and as work was taking place on the actual lane. It was not a complete shutdown of the entire road. That is how I recall it from the meetings.

Chief Vietmeier, are they going to open both lanes up at 4:00 p.m. and let it flow for the night?

Engineer Meyer, that was one of the biggest things and it was built into the contract saying that you have to restore it so that everything is ready to go at 4:00 p.m. We had even talked to them about not having construction past a certain time.

Commissioner Cegelski, would it be appropriate to have a motion at the next meeting, pending information on this particular item. We would have to make a motion to approve the daylight work. I don't know if we are ready to do that this evening. It might be prudent to wait until our next meeting to do that and get the information that we need.

Chairman Abatta, I want to get some information from our Solicitor on that.

Chairman Urbano, when we resurfaced the road previously, it caused a lot of traffic jams.

Chief Vietmeier, and it was all done at night. There is just a lot of traffic out there.

Chairman Abatta, that is the elephant in the room there. Where is the most traffic? Forget the weekends. During the weekends it is polluted out there. Is there more traffic in the evening after work when people are doing shopping or is there more traffic during the daylight hours? We need to explore this a little further. It is a great project and it is going to alleviate a lot of problems in that area, but let's get the mechanics worked out first. I don't think another month is going to slow things down at all. I think we need to really look into this as far as the traffic.

Chief Vietmeier, I don't know what the contractor's schedule will be, but at 7:00 a.m. it is pretty quiet all the way thru 8:30 a.m. I think it increases late in the afternoon, so if the construction ends at 4:00 p.m., and those lanes are back open, I don't see it being a problem to be honest with you.

Vice-Chairman Forquer, I think that IKEA is a major stakeholder here and if they see that is going to bother their business, then it will be an issue. The other thing is that there are actually three things that are going on here, not just this project but we had the other adjustments to all of the traffic signals to improve the flow and then at the bottom of the hill there is another project to make the crossing safer for the Montour Trail. That has been held up because this project is held up, so I am glad to hear that this is in the works.

Chief Vietmeier, I have known Lynn (Manion) for a good while and we work well together and we will do whatever we can to accommodate it. If it gets out of control, then we will have to make some adjustments.

Chairman Abatta, I think we will have some type of answer for you next month.

TOWNSHIP ENGINEER'S REPORT

The Township Engineer's Report is attached.

The cost estimate for Clever Road Park electrical work has been completed and will be discussed with the Township officials to go over the different items to find out what can be done with the amount of money available.

Chairman Abatta, why don't we set up a meeting in the very near future because I want to see exactly what the scope of work is going to be and the costs attached.

The CDBG Year 30 approved submittals have been approved and contractor is ordering equipment. The work should be starting shortly. There is a deadline of November 15th. There is HUD money involved in the project and it was finally released through Allegheny County, however the same deadline for construction was kept.

CDBG Year 40 there are no updates.

2013 Road Program – the contractor has started some milling and preparation work. Paving operations should begin on Wednesday. If it begins on Wednesday, it will probably be a three day project of paving.

Chairman Abatta, are we talking about August Drive?

Engineer Meyer, that is correct. That would be one of the ones that will be completed.

Chairman Abatta, once a project like that starts, how long does it typically take?

Engineer Meyer, with the paving that we have to do, I would say 3 to 4 days of construction. The vast majority of the prep work has been completed. The contractor is finalizing some of that today and tomorrow.

Burkett Park Road Extension – we are working on a plan, and Mr. Urbano and Mr. Silka have been involved in this as well as Mr. Bonkowski, of looking at a way of using some of the excess fill on the ISC Development and also the Speedway. Mr. Urbano had attended a meeting at PennDOT where they were discussing a traffic light. His suggestion was to make that a four way traffic light and see if we could connect the back parking lot on Burkett straight up so that we would have a four way traffic light, as opposed to that dangerous left turn that people have to take out of there right by the school. We are going to have a surveyor look at it, draw up some plans and then determine how much fill is going to be needed. The fill is going to be donated and placed by the contractor from ISC. I met with Mr. Bonkowski to discuss how he is going to do the piping. We know there is a ditch that runs through. Public Works is going to be able to put that piping in and then we will connect it with the road. If Speedway goes, then they would have that four way light and it would make it a much safer intersection. I really want to commend Township staff on this. They did a great job to get a lot of this together at relatively no cost to the Township yet making it a much safer intersection.

Chairman Abatta, do you have anything to add to that Mr. Urbano?

Mr. Urbano, the only additional thing would be that I have a request in to Speedway for a contribution to the additional roadway for the paving, etc. and they are going to see what they can come up with to help pay for that. Hopefully it will be at no cost to the Township and it will improve that intersection because the way that it was laid out and when I went to PennDOT, there is no way that you can put a traffic light 200 ft. from our park road and expect us to move traffic in and out of there. It just was not going to work. Myself and Mike Meyer went down there and we discussed it and Speedway agreed that if the light was not there, they were not going to build. It has worked out fairly well so far.

Development Inspections

Sir Henry's Haven – no work has started as yet.

Advanced Auto – Developer continuing to work on project. Majority of storm drainage work has been completed.

Stafford Park Phase I – Developer is requesting a bond reduction. Engineer is recommending that the bond be reduced from its current amount by $34,163.80 to a new amount of $235,337.30.

Stafford Park Phase II – Developer continues to perform construction under the approved preliminary plan. The engineer is notifying the developer on a daily basis that all of that work that he is doing is being done at his own risk until they receive final approval. We are sending those letters out, plus our inspector is notifying their superintendent daily and having their superintendent sign our inspection reports which state the same. We are notifying them that any changes that are made if preliminary approval is granted, anything is subject to change and the developer would have to replace what has been placed.

ISC – Developer has started work on the site.

Developmental Reviews

West Peripheral Hotels – there are two hotels which are going to be located near the IHOP restaurant. The majority of both hotels will be in Robinson Township, with a portion located in North Fayette.

Penn Center West Building #9 – they are adding another building onto Penn Center. That is another review that is ongoing.

Commissioner Mapel, just for the edification of everybody that is viewing, let's back up to the Speedway project. Can you tell us exactly where the location is and what is there currently?

Engineer Meyer, currently the Speedway project, and they have not submitted plans as yet and I want to be clear on that, it will be right at the corner of Moon Run at the Butya's Drive-In. The plans that we have seen are preliminary in nature because they have not submitted them. It would be an improvement of Moon Run Road in that area and a traffic light would also be installed at that area.

Commissioner Mapel, am I to understand that John Butya is the current owner of the property that will become the Speedway?

Engineer Meyer, yes.

Commissioner Mapel, would it be appropriate at the correct time to assign this to separate counsel since there will be a clear conflict of interest here?

Mr. Urbano, I think that is already going to be put in place. Mr. Butya did say to me at numerous times that he does not want to be acting on any legal issues there, but we have not had anybody appointed.

Chairman Abatta, let's allow Mr. Butya to speak to that so we get some clarification.

Commissioner Mapel, it is premature at this point.

Engineer Meyer, that is correct. We have not received an application.

Commissioner Mapel, we have had some issues like this in the past and I want to make sure that we don't go down that road again.

Mgr. Silka, I did speak with Mr. Butya on Friday and we are going to pursue special counsel. He is not going to touch any legal issues along with his staff.

POLICE REPORT

Chief Vietmeier, just prior to the Police Report, Lynn Manion just came back and advised me that she has just spoken with the contractor and they will complete work at 3:00 p.m. each weekday. I don't know if that makes it any simpler or not, but it certainly does with the traffic, especially in the evenings. It is something to take into consideration.

The September 2013 Robinson Township Police Department Report is attached to and made part of the minutes.

Chief Vietmeier stated that for the month of September the Police Department answered 779 complaints for a year to date total of 6747. There were 91 traffic citations issues, 10 non-traffics, 62 alarms and 54 criminal arrests. I know that your report said 38, but there were 16 at a DUI checkpoint that we held the last night of the month. Those reports were not all completed by the time the report was compiled. There were 5 juvenile arrests, 47 accidents for a year to date total of 439.

I would like to comment on a couple of things. Just today I was notified that one of my officers was nominated for a Top Gun Award in Pennsylvania from the PA DUI Association. It is based on the number of arrests that a person has in the Commonwealth of PA. I was just notified today that Officer Michael Gastgeb is one of the top ten in the state of Pennsylvania Municipal Police Officers with 50 DUI arrests in 2012. He is the second one in my Department in the last four years. Officer Brad Mermon received it as well. We stilll have these high numbers of accidents, but our midnight accidents have really toned down and the severity as well. I want to say that these guys out there on the midnight shift are doing a great job of enforcing this and I am very proud of them. He will be getting an award at their conference at Seven Springs in November. I just wanted to pass that on. I know people think that it a lot of DUI arrests, but it is making our streets safer and I am very proud of the officers.

Halloween is October 31st and we will be out in full force for that as well.

The Police Fashion Show is this Thursday night. Six officers, including myself, from my department will be there. There are 75 altogether from the County. It will be a very nice evening at the Mall at Robinson starting at 6:00 p.m.

Vice-Chairman Forquer, you may have noticed this as well, but we seem to be losing a lot of the LED's in our signals in the Township. They don't all blow out at once. Does it seem like it is starting to be a nuisance to you? How do you feel about that?

Chief Vietmeier, that is a tough subject because we have 32 traffic lights at the moment. I don't know how many exactly, but I know that not all of them are LED and this started way back when with Richard Charnovich and we were going to try to get grants to have them switched over. It is a cost savings and cost effective. A lot of them are very hard to see because they are not LED. They do last a lot longer and they are a lot brighter.

Vice-Chairman Forquer, what seems to happen is that they seem to blow out in patterns. I noticed that on Park Manor Blvd. It has to be a nuisance.

ADMINISTRATION UPDATE (Report Attached)

Mgr. Silka spoke on the following issues:

Township Facebook Page is live. It is advertised on our website. I would encourage anyone on Facebook to go and "like" the page. We are going to start using that throughout the upcoming months to get out pertinent information, real live updates to get our information out on there and utilize the social media.

Proposed 2014 Budget Schedule, I did chat with the Finance Chairman today. We are going to work on the staff budgets through early October and meet with Commissioner Forquer towards the end of the month to formalize the final budget to be submitted in November. We are working diligently with staff right now to get the 2014 budget put together.

Realignment of Road at Burkett Park and Rt. 60, I do have a conceptual rendering attached to my report.

Trotwood Acres Homeowners Association Request for Road Dedication, I received a letter from the Homeowners Association requesting road dedication. I will bring it up to the Board and then we will do an internal staff review on whether we should look into accepting those roads for dedication.

Engineer Meyer, I will have to look, but I thought they were private roads.

Mr. Urbano, they are private roads, but they were put into Township specs in the event they wanted to dedicate them in the future.

Commissioner Mapel, wasn't there an issue with Hickman Road originally? Wasn't that one of the reasons that it was not dedicated in the beginning?

Mr. Urbano, they had to contribute money to Hickman Rd. to upgrade that so that we could put the development in since it was so narrow.

Commissioner Mapel, and that was done to the specs?

Mr. Urbano, yes.

Commissioner Mapel, so there is no reason why we couldn't take dedication?

Mr. Urbano, all they would have to do is request it.

Engineer Meyer, when they are made private to begin with, there are usually some reasons for it and I would have to go back and look and find out if there is anything.

Mr. Urbano, the front yard setbacks were adjusted, but the cartway is still 26 ft.

Chairman Abatta, once dedication is complete then the school buses could go in there.

Mr. Urbano, don't hold me to all this because it was a while ago that we approved this, but I know they were put into Township standards.

Mgr. Silka, we will do our due diligence to come back next month with a recommendation.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

No report.

THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS CONDUCTED AN EXECUTIVE SESSION ON OCTOBER 7, 2013 FROM 6:00 P.M. TO 7:00 P.M.. TO DISCUSS LEGAL MATTERS. THE BOARD WILL TAKE OFFICIAL ACTION, IF ANY, FROM THIS EXECUTIVE SESSION DURING THIS MEETING.

Discussion to approve the September 9, 2013 Board of Commissioners Meeting Minutes

Discussion to discuss the September, 2013 Treasurer's Report

Discussion to discuss the September, 2013 List of Bills.

NEW BUSINESS

Chairman Abatta, Item No. 11 has been removed from the agenda.

Discussion to reduce Bond #SB-003439 for the Stafford Park Plan of Lots from $295,024.60 to $235,337.30. This is performance bond reduction request No. 8 and is recommended by the Township Engineer.

Discussion to approve Resolution No. 14 of 2013 adopting a revision to the official sewage facilities plan and submitting to the Department of Environmental Protection for Hillebrand Holdings, LLC for parcel identified as "Don's Appliance".

Discussion to accept the resignation of Dorothy Pfeiffer from the Planning Commission effective immediately.

Chairman Abatta, I have an addendum here that I am going to call 14 (A). Discussion to change the Township Commissioner's meeting date to Thursday, November 7th at 7:00 p.m.

CITIZENS COMMENTS

Chairman Abatta, we have five people who have signed in this evening to speak. Please keep your comments to 4 minutes.

Patrick O'Leary, you will likely see my name on some orange and black signs over the next month. I wanted to talk about the role of the Solicitor and raise some concerns regarding the revolving door that appears to be occurring. By way of background, I graduated from the College of William and Mary. I have a legal background. I served as an attorney with the firm of Tucker Arnsberg and I actually did a little bit of municipal law back in the day and then went in house with a company called Fisher Scientific. I served as general counsel for three different divisions there before I accepted the role of leading their largest commercial division. I now run the pharmaceutical segment for Fisher Scientific. Once a lawyer, always a lawyer. I cannot seem to unlearn all of the jokes about lawyers, which by the way are true. I do want to applaud the Board for making a very hard decision back in January to sever a relationship with a long-standing solicitor. That was a difficult decision and I know that it has worn on a lot of you personally for standing up and making the right decisions. I want to applaud at least the majority of the Board for making that difficult decision.

Since January though, it does raise some concerns as it has been a revolving door. We put Mr. Butya in and the Board elected to end that relationship because of perceived overcharges so we put in Mr. Dice and right as he is beginning to get some traction and making some positive moves and resolving some of the old issues, the Board elects last month to remove Mr. Dice for overcharging and replace him with Mr. Butya who the Board removed for overcharging. I am highly confused. There are a number of factors that go into what is a good value for a Solicitor. It is everything from the amount of time they charge to the seniority to the impact that they make on the Township. It is not just an hourly rate and sometimes there are a lot of factors like cleaning up messes from the past that take additional time. It feels like there is a knee jerk reaction going on. My challenge to the Board today is, I hope that you have a solid plan to go through a formal RFP process where you can figure out what is the right value for the Township in terms of our legal representation. It is incredibly important. Secondly, I hope that given the challenges that we have with conflicts of interest in the past, that we will seriously consider that. My concern, and I believe that I echo the concern of many residents, is having a local attorney who owns one of the largest pieces of land in the Township and we talked about his conflict already today with the Speedway, serving as your solicitor and your lawyer. As a final comment on that, with all due respect to Mr. Chairman. It is not Mr. Butya's decision as to what he is going to do. He is ethically bound under the rules of professional conduct in the state of Pennsylvania to retract himself for anything where he has a direct ownership interest. Secondly, the Board needs to be very careful about who you pick as the special counsel because he should have absolutely no say, no recommendation, no play at all in who serves as the special counsel.

My final remark I will direct to Chief Vietmeier. Congratulations for the impact that you have made locally with DUI. It is incredibly important to keep our streets safe.

Chairman Abatta, thank you Mr. O'Leary. I would like to clarify a couple things on my comments here. Mr. Butya will be given the chance, and he has said that he would basically recluse himself. My comment was "let's get it from the horse's mouth." That is where we are on that aspect

Joel Slessinger, thank you Mr. Chairman. I will be brief also. Holding elected office is an honor and fundamental part of our democratic way of life, an element of personal responsibility is present for any actions taken by each one of you, our Board of Commissioners. Over the past several months, I have had the pleasure of talking with many residents throughout our community about issues confronting our municipality, consisting of democrats, republicans, independents and a few libertarians. During these discussions, one word kept coming up "accountability." The definition of accountability as per Merriam Webster is "an obligation or willingness to accept responsibility or to account for one's actions." Residents, including myself, are now asking "who are you accountable to, the community, yourself or some other entity?" "Are we the taxpayers getting a fair shake and are we being treated fairly?" One homeowner stressed to me that the next Board needs to start improving infrastructure in our community. I am sure that he was not talking about the paving and maintaining of private roads in our Township, or was he? Another question was brought up regarding Clever Park. It was nice tonight that something was mentioned at Clever Park, but at last month's Commissioners Meeting there was an issue brought up about the tennis courts. There is a large crack in the playing surface. No real answer was given. Does somebody have to get hurt before it becomes an issue or concern? Is there a maintenance schedule in place? What monies are available to address issues like this? Our parks are one of our greatest resources, although since the decision has been made to deny an organization like the YMCA to utilize our tennis courts to provide tennis programs for children, this must not be an important issue. How is our money truly being spent? The children's playground at Clever Park is a mess, but near the entrance to the Park a new gazebo type of structure is getting plenty of attention. I could go on with other examples, but let me make this clear. The Robinson Township Public Works personnel are not at fault. It all starts at the top and it all starts here in this room. You are accountable. Robinson Township residents deserve the best representation that their tax dollars can provide.

Michael Malinsky (535 Meade Dr.), last year the Commissioners voted to restrict or eliminate the ability of residents to come up here to speak at a public meeting. This violation of the First Amendment, Freedom of Speech issue is also a violation of state law. The ACLU got involved in this and you reversed your decision. The Township is again attempting to restrict residents' rights. Last month, the Republican Committee of Robinson Township received a letter from the Township Manager referencing an ordinance regarding political signs and saying that the ordinance would be enforced if any sign was found to be illegal. It would be removed by the Code Enforcement Officer.

I find it odd that in the ten years that I have been paying attention to local politics, I think this is the first time that I have ever heard of a letter being issued saying the ordinance is going to be enforced, an ordinance that I don't believe was ever enforced in the ten years that I have been paying attention. Again, this is a violation of the First Amendment of the Constitution guaranteeing free speech. Over the years the Commissioners have tried various maneuvers to silence the residents of Robinson Township, but fortunately our constitutional rights and state law prevent you from doing it, no matter how hard you try. Again, the ACLU has been contacted regarding this matter and they are looking into it. Whatever attorney comes through the revolving door of solicitors that we have had in the past nine months, I think they need to advise you on what the proper action is regarding this ordinance and citizens rights. Moving on, most people don't get excited about accounting, but it is what I do and I get excited about it. I will try not to get into details, but earlier Mr. O'Leary discussed the issues regarding the Township Solicitor. I think these moves are politically motivated and I think it costs the taxpayers money needlessly. Obviously new Solicitors need to get caught up and there is a learning curve. Mr. Slessinger alluded to some private roads being maintained by the Township, again costing the Township taxpayers money and something that I believe, has political motivation behind it. The majority of the Commissioners must think that it is o.k. to spend our tax dollars for politically motivated reasons but cannot find the money to repair the tennis courts or upgrade the play area at Clever Park. If it is being done now, why is it all of a sudden being done now and why wasn't it done years ago? You managed to find money to put a gazebo in front of Clever Park that is being meticulously maintained. I see people there frequently picking weeds out of the flowers. One resident mentioned to me a retention wall at Burkett Park. He said there needed to be some repairs made and thought it might be a safety issue. This individual was told that the Township did not have money to repair it, yet the Township cites safety issues as the reason for maintaining private roads. There is a disconnect there somewhere. What about August Drive? You guys read my mind. I was knocking up there a couple of weeks ago, again, political motivation. I want to know where the financial priorities and accountability and management are in this Township? In 2012, revenues were 69% higher than they were in 2000 and expenditures were 89% higher. That is a problem. I think it is due to mismanagement of funds, poor decision making, politically motivated decision making. In closing, Mr. Shiwarski quoted President Teddy Roosevelt a while ago. The quote begins by stating" it is not the critic who counts, not the man who points out how strong the man stumbles, basically pointing his finger at me and people like Mr. Slessinger and Mr. O'Leary for coming up here and making comments criticizing the Board. I would like to share another quote from President Roosevelt, although it makes reference to the President of the United States, I think it could be applied here also, "to announce that there must be no criticism of the President, or that what we are to stand by the President, right or wrong, is not only unpatriotic and servile, it is morally treasonable to the American public." This is why I am here. I am not here to blindly follow what the majority of the Commissioners say. That is why people like myself, Patrick O'Leary and Joel Slessinger are running for Commissioner. We believe that we are the right choice for Robinson.

Chairman Abatta, you are approaching your limit here. You have actually exceeded it. Please bear in mind that this is not a political forum to expound your views or your candidates.

Bernie Neuwirth (845 Falck Rd.), good evening. I was here a couple of months ago about Stafford Park and connecting Falck Rd. to Stafford Park. Some of the discussion earlier tonight calmed some of my fears. I live right at the end of Falck Rd. and all of the work that is being done in Phase II, the roads are being cut in right now, all the grade stakes are in place, the slag has been dropped on the roadways and it appears as though Falck Rd. will be connected to Stafford Park. However, I was not aware that you are daily making the developer aware that he is in violation of something. Two months ago you said there was no Phase II plan approved and then Mr. Urbano said that there was one approved, so I am looking at the roads being cut in and I don't know what is approved and what is not. I really have no way of knowing. I want to thank you for your help in all of this. I really appreciate it, as do all of the residents on Falck Rd. I guess based on what I heard earlier this evening, you do have things in hand regardless of what I physically see. I have to acquiesce to your capable hands and hope that we get an outcome that the people on Falck Rd. have been looking for during the last five or six years.

One other problem, I returned home from vacation almost two weeks ago and the Township road was cut off at my driveway I guess to prepare Falck Rd. for a connection to Stafford Park. There is probably 15 or 20 ft. of Township road that is no longer there, that extended beyond. Someone on the construction site told me they would have that fixed within a week or so and he did offer to backfill something if we wanted it. I didn't see a need for them to spend additional money for a week, but it is now approaching two weeks and based on what I heard, this could again be another protracted discussion with the people from Stafford Park. If we could do something, I cannot turn around. I back out of my driveway and there is no road. That is a problem for me and for anyone that comes to visit us. Thank you for your help. I don't want to see anybody spend money that they don't have to spend. If this is going to be an extended time period, we really need to do something. Thank you for your help.

Chairman Abatta, I have reached out to you in emails and we are on top of this project. I think you are well aware of a lot of the things going on here.

Mr. Urbano, I think we should get the engineer over there because we definitely need to have a temporary cul-de-sac in place for emergency vehicles if they took the one that was in out. We need to have that there.

Chairman Abatta, when you send your inspector over Mike (Meyer), make sure that you mention to him that there is a correct procedure that must be followed and they have to understand that we have the last words on the final decision. Mr. Urbano is bringing up a valid point here. Please have your inspector remind the developer of his responsibility. They have to understand that we have the last word. Make sure you tell your inspectors to remind the developer of his responsibility.

Engineer Meyer, absolutely.

FINANCE UPDATE

Vice-Chairman Forquer, the balance in the general fund account of this morning was $3,815,994. That is the bank account. That is not the Township account. The market value of the police pension fund as of this morning, October 7, 2013 was $12,430,494. That is up from the September 9th report, which was $11,527,297. The deposit of $642,177, which was the State and Township's payments to the police pension fund accounted for most of that increase. The police pension fund is funded every year by the Township, the state and our police. Because a good portion of the account is in stock and bond funds, the account balance is subject to market volatility. Real estate taxes collected for September were $57,039.00. That brings the year to date total to $4,186,460. The process of resolving property tax appeals continues and will likely extend into next year. We continue to issue refunds because the 2013 reassessments are being rolled back on large commercial properties through the appeals process. By the time the process ends, contrary to what people are saying, we should be within a couple of percent in the total taxes collected based on the aggregate assessed valuation of the total of all taxable properties in the Township.

To me, this proves that we did our best to estimate the outcome of the final property evaluations and lowered our taxing rate accordingly. It is interesting that the PA House Resolutions being considered to develop other sources of taxes to fund school districts in lieu of property taxes. I think this is underway for two reasons, the first being that some districts are in very bad financial straits and their property taxes are out of sight. The second reason is that there has been talk that the state is going to cutback funding to the teachers' pension plans and they are going to need other sources of money. Although they are talking about lowering property taxes if they do find other sources. That remains to be seen. Our income tax is going to be considered for an alternate source of taxes for school districts. Earned income tax collected for September was $84,600 and year to date was $2,381,885. That is the highest amount that we have seen collected by the end of September going back to 2012 and that was $2,146,000. LST collected in September was $44,156. The year to date collected is $717,515 and the budget for the year is $900,000. Real estate delinquent taxes collected by Jordan Tax Service year to date is $60,032. For the month it is $2,459. The budget for the year is $100,000. We are slightly under there, but I think by the end of the year we are going to be o.k. Real estate transfers were $31,634 and year to date $305,952. Budgeted transfers for the year are $190,000 and we are over that in collection by $115,000. That concludes my report.

BUILDING INSPECTOR/ZONING OFFICER REPORT

The September, 2013 Building Inspection Report is attached.

MEETING MOTIONS

MOTION Forquer, SECOND Cegelski to approve the September 9, 2013 Board of Commissioner Meeting Minutes.
ROLL CALL: Cegelski-Y, Mapel-Y, Forquer-Y, Abatta-Y
M/C 4-0.

MOTION Cegelski, SECOND Forquer to approve the September, 2013 List of Bills
ROLL CALL: Cegelski-Y, Mapel-Y, Forquer-Y, Abatta-Y
M/C 4-0.

NEW BUSINESS

MOTION Mapel, SECOND Forquer to reduce Bond #SB-003439 for the Stafford Park Plan of Lots from $295,024.60 to $235,337.30. This is Performance Bond Reduction Request No. 8 and is recommended by the Township Engineer.

Mr. Urbano, I think you may want to add that this is the bond put in place for Phase I.

ROLL CALL: Cegelski-Y, Mapel-Y, Forquer-Y, Abatta-Y.
M/C 4-0.

MOTION Forquer, SECOND Cegelski to approve Resolution No. 14 of 2013 adopting a revision to the official sewage facilities plan and submitting to the Department of Environmental Protection for Hillebrand Holdings, LLC for parcel identified as "Don's Applicance".
ROLL CALL: Cegelski-Y, Mapel-Y, Forquer-Y, Abatta-Y.
M/C 4-0.

MOTION Mapel, SECOND Forquer to accept the resignation of Dorothy Pfeiffer from the Planning Commission effective immediately.
ROLL CALL: Cegelski (with regret), Mapel-Y, Forquer-Y, Abatta-Y.

Chairman Abatta, I apparently missed No. 19.

MOTION Forquer, SECOND Cegelski to approve the September, 2013 Treasurer's Report.
ROLL CALL: Cegelski-Y, Mapel-Y, Forquer-Y, Abatta-Y.
M/C 4-0.

MOTION Forquer, SECOND Mapel to change the Board of Commissioners meeting date to Thursday, November 7, 2013 at 7:00 p.m.
ROLL CALL: Cegelski-Y, Mapel-Y, Forquer-Y, Abatta-Y.
M/C 4-0.

COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS

Commissioner Cegelski (Report attached)

Commission Cegelski reported that she attended the Char-West Council of Governments meeting on September 19th hosted by the Borough of Thornburg.

Road salt has increased to $57.51 per ton but since Robinson Township is a member of the Council of Governments, we do get a group rate.

Storm water and flood issues were discussed.

Vincent Gastgeb, Director of Corporate and Community Affairs of the Allegheny County Airport Authority provided information regarding the airport and service route additions that are being added for 2013.

A government update was provided. They are considering doing archery hunting because of the deer population.

The Marcellus shale drilling and the affect on the budget and gate fees, community engagement, the Tuskegee Airman Airport exhibit and the autonomous driving car are all things that were discussed.

Of importantance to seniors, there will be a senior expo sponsored by Representatives Mark Mustio and Senator Matt Smith on Thursday, October 17th from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the Sheraton Pittsburgh Airport Hotel on Thorn Run Road.

If anyone is of need of meals on wheels, the senior expo information should be on our website or facebook page. I requested Mgr. Silka to do that. If there are any housebound seniors or disabled adults who need well balanced meals delivered to your home on a regular basis, they are available to adults of any age or income. A meal will be delivered to your door every Monday thru Friday. The Crafton kitchen is the one that serves this area. The name of the contact person will be on the website. They are also looking for gardeners who have extra vegetables. Those items can always be donated to Meals on Wheels.

One percent (l%) of our sales tax goes to our Regional Asset District. Between September 21st and November 10th, they have what they call "Radical Days", which is a nice array of things that you can go to for free. They will take you through all of the different places that we have in Pittsburgh and a lot of them have already passed since the date started back in September, but there are still some that you can attend that are pretty spectacular and the admissions are free. They range from the Pittsburgh Center for the Arts, The Cultural Trust, the Allegheny Parks, the Pittsburgh Zoo, etc. It is a nice way to get out there and enjoy something for free.

Commissioner Maple, I am going to be very brief this evening and just touch on a couple of topics. Among those that I have spoken to in the past and became involved in, is the high school access road. I am sure that we are all aware that it is progressing very well and also the issues that we have discussed here in the past regarding some conflicts and some discrepancies in the building permit fees that were assessed to the Montour School District for the renovations to the high school project. Clearly the work is progressing on the access road, something that really should have been done during the renovation project, but it is being done now and is progressing very well. Obviously if you can see, what we can see, there was a need for the project to be done correctly for ingress and egress to the campus. With that said, I am pleased to be able to report to you that it is moving along very nicely and should come to fruition soon. When do you supposed that project will be completed Mr. Meyer?

Engineer Meyer, I have not been involved in that at all.

Commissioner Maple, indirectly you were involved prior to it. Do you think before the snow flies or do you think a spring completion?

Engineer Meyer, just from what I have seen out there, it would be hard to say. I don't even know if they have cut the road in yet.

Mr. Urbano, the situation with that is that they are probably going to miss the paving season. I think they are shooting for the spring to finalize the project. As we all know, they have plans for the new high school and they are going to use that entrance for the haul road so they don't destroy the brand new road. It is working out very well for them, but it is unlikely they can get that paved before winter. They are actually putting a road with storm water management, outlets, paved, street lighting and it will probably come out to be a benefit to them by them doing it this way because if they do build a new school they are going to need a secondary access to get out from that school.

Commissioner Maple, as Commissioner Cegelski said earlier, even the best laid plans work out better when you improvise and use what you have available to you. In this case, they can move the fill materials from one part of the site to the other. I am pleased with the progress. Also, what could have conceivably cost this Township a great deal of money to resolve the issue with the building permit, we have spoken tonight and put together a delegation of Mr. Abatta, myself, Mr. Silka, Mr. Urbano and some of the school board members and superintendent to see if we can sit down and resolve these issues that have existed since there was disparaging information that came from the project prior to the work that is being done now and the renovations at the high school. I am optimistic that we can work these issues out and get them resolved and do it so that it benefits both the Montour School District and our Township as well.

Finally, I would like to comment on one thing that one of our residents spoke to this evening regarding political signs. I am a little concerned. Back in the spring, I asked Mr. Urbano and Mr. Cuthbert to relax the ordinance for the month during the campaign season because in the past we have had a quagmire of complaints and haggling and wasted time for our code enforcement officer. We thought we would try something novice, like let people do whatever they want to do and it is going to be over in a month. Signs are not going to vote as long as somebody does not put these signs on private property. It is not hurting anybody. Let's see what happens. We did not get one single complaint. Am I correct about that Mr.Urbano?

Mr. Urbano, that is correct.

Commissioner Mapel, so I am not really sure what is promoting all of a sudden the need to enforce an ordinance that I am not altogether sure is truly enforceable or is even constitutional. It would not be the first time that our former Solicitor crafted either a contract or an ordinance that did not have any teeth in it. I think it is important that even though we do have an ordinance here, Mr. Abatta gave us all a copy so we have it, does not necessarily mean that it is constitutional or enforceable, just because we have that. I am not saying that it is and I am not saying that it isn't. When there is benefit of the doubt to be given, I think it is prudent sometimes just to move things along and let us get this behind us. One thing is safe to say is that come January, no matter what happens in November, this Board is going to look very different. I think that sometimes we just have to let people do what they are going to do. Signs are not going to vote, but people will however. Once that is said and done, we may have a different approach and this may be premature. You hear me say month after month, be kind to one another. It does not hurt you to just be nice. It takes more energy to be not nice than to simply be nice. During the primary I really believed that one of my colleagues up here was somebody who could make a very good Commissioner and already is and could continue to be so. I walked around with Bobbi Cegelski and visited people and listened to what people had to say about her. We walked into one of her colleagues house one day and she said "Mr. Mapel, I have to show you something here" It was an endorsement card that said, "Dear Jan, Earl Mapel is a nut." I am still not sure exactly what that meant, but it was not nice. All I am here to tell you is and I am going to say it again like I say every month, it is not important that you are so passionate about whatever it is that you believe or feel the need to act upon, just do it nicely and it will turn out the way it is going to turn out. With that said, I hope that you have a wonderful month. Please come out and vote next month for the election. It is your civic duty and to make this Board function as best we can.

Vice-Chairman Forquer, I will try to keep it brief. I think that if I look back over four years when I first came here, audits were not done on time, financial information was not accurate, postings were bad in the Prosoft system and we were trying to put budgets together and it was tough to try and get all of those things straightened out. Somehow, some of the things straightened out themselves with changes of personnel and so on and so forth, but I think we have always done our best to try to keep the cost of government down. We have cut back on the 911 operators. We did some research and found out that we should have only been paying the treasurer $10,000 a year and we were putting out

almost $100,000 per year. There were some savings there. The ones that should have been paying for that were the school district and not the Township. There are other things that we have done. We have purchased energy more efficiently and we are saving money there. There were several other things that were done, but basically we do a much better job of managing and keeping track of our money. Our treasurer puts out a report which by the time we got to this meeting, he puts out a report that is valid until the end of September. I came up with some different numbers which were account balances that were in there this morning. There may still be some bills out there, but a lot of the checks that were issued in that time period are pretty much taken care of. I think that we also managed our money very tightly. I don't think we will have a huge balance forward this year. It may not be as big as some prior years, but there is always room for improvement. If people think they can do a better job here, then that is fine. What I am going to tell you is, I am not going to be here as a Commissioner, but I am going to be at that microphone watching. I am going to make sure that they do everything that they say they can and I will tell you what, I find it hard to believe that this government overspent. We had expenditures that were 69% over budget. That is not true. There is no way that is true. The other thing that I want to touch on is this, there are several house bills out there right now, three of them and they are going to come up for vote. House Bill 1685 would allow school districts to increase their earned income tax rate in order to provide for dollar property tax relief. The bill would allow school districts to do this without seeking voter approval through a referendum, but they could only use those dollars to reduce or eliminate property taxes. That is one of them. There are three other ones that are out there right now. The only thing that scares me is that anytime you add a new tax, I defy somebody to show me where the old one has been totally eliminated. I have deep concerns about that. That is about all that I have to say this evening. I would like to wish everyone a good evening and God Bless America.

Chairman Abatta, I am also going to be very brief on my comments this evening. I would just like to let the individual people in the audience realize and know that it is election time and you can tell the smell is in the air, the opinions, the things that supposedly are wrong, it is come to the microphone and edited and said. Bear that in mind. Understand that this sitting Board has done everything in its power to best serve the residents of Robinson Township. If you are pleased with what has happened here with the sitting Commissioners, make sure that you come out in November and vote for your specific candidates. Briefly I want to touch on the sign ordinance. I want to clarify a couple of things because some people here have some type of selective memory. As long as I have been on this Board, and I have been on this Board for quite some time now, we have been enforcing the political sign ordinance. You cannot pick and choose as to which ordinance you would like to enforce and which ordinance you cannot enforce. It is in black and white. Political signs are not allowed in right of ways. I am paraphrasing and there is a lot more to this than prior said. Basically, some other Commissioners may not have received any calls, but I received a ton of calls and complaints about political signs being stuck on hillsides, in right of ways, almost in drive-ways and all places where they do not belong. Our ordinances have to be enforced. Like we have said before, signs don't vote, but the ordinances should be upheld and they should be basically followed to the letter. I am not asking for an exception. If it is written, it is to be followed and that is the responsibility of the governing body.

I have a quick Parks Report. Robinson Township would like to recognize our sponsors of the 11th Annual Autumn Festival. A special thanks to the Parkway West Rotary Club for holding golf outings to raise money to acquire a new stage for Robinson's festival and other uses. Our gold level sponsors this year of $1000.00 and up are: Plans Examiners, INC Incorporated, NIRA Consulting Engineers, James L. Smith Insurance, Remington, Vernick & Beach and the Mall at Robinson. Silver Level Sponsors of $500.00 and up consisted of: Sampson Morris Group, The Meritage Group, The First National Bank, PNC Bank, Waste Management. The Bronze Level Sponsors this year that contributed $100.00 and up were: M. A. Dunn Construction, Vista Business Park, Parkway West Business Park, Traffic Systems, Inc., Piper Gaffrey, Comcast, Massaro Properties, Congressman Mike Doyle, Bruce Dice & Associates and finally the advertisement donations that helped us out this year were: Allegheny West Magazine, Suburban Gazette, and a special thanks to Embroidery Pittsburgh. I am sure that everyone that attended the Autumn Festival has a fantastic time. Our Parks Board just keeps going overboard year after year and really doing a fantastic job. Our next event that we will be sponsoring will be Halloween in the Park on Saturday, October 26th at Clever Park from 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. Forest Grove Fire Dept. and the Montour Marching Band will lead the parade through the park to kickoff all of the festivities. Please meet in the upper parking lot fifteen minutes prior.

Halloween through the Township this year will be October 31st from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. Robinson Police Departments and Fire Departments will be patrolling the community to keep our Trick or Treaters safe. Please drive with caution and remember to dress your children with reflective clothing.

MOTION Forquer, SECOND Cegelski to adjourn the meeting.
ROLL CALL: Cegelski-Y, Mapel-Y, Forquer-Y, Abatta-Y.
M/C 4-0.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Merks

Carol Merks
Township Secretary