

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS REGULAR MEETING
MONDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2014
7:00 P.M.

CALL TO ORDER: Vice-Chairman Ronald Shiwarski called the meeting of October 6, 2014 to order at the Municipal Complex, 1000 Church Hill Road at 7:00 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL: Mapel-Present, Barefoot-Present, Kisow-Present, Shiwarski-Present, Abatta-Absent. Also in attendance were Solicitor Jack Cambest, Mgr. Silka, Treasurer Kezmarsky, Planning Director Urbano and Mrs. Merks for the purpose of recording minutes.

PRESENTATION OF "MILLIE'S WAY"

Mildred Stinner was present to receive a Proclamation of Appreciation for her lifetime service to the Township Historical Society. A roadway into the Township Municipal Complex will now bear the name "Millie's Way."

Mrs. Stinner thanked everyone and expressed her appreciation. She requested that Len Rider, Robinson Township Historical Society President, read a short statement on her behalf:

"I would like to thank all of you for this honor. Twenty-five years ago, we had about twelve volunteers who were instrumental in starting the Society. I want to personally thank those people, all of the volunteers that came afterwards, for their efforts. I would also like to thank the Board of Commissioners, Len Rider and the current society members for this honor. It is greatly appreciated. Thank you."

TOWNSHIP ENGINEER'S REPORT (Report dated October 6, 2014)

CAPITAL PROJECTS

Engineer Meyers reported as follows:

CDBG YEAR 40 – This is Item #25 on the agenda. It is being recommended to award this project to Swede Construction in the amount of \$28,050. This is the ADA women's restroom on the second floor by the library. One of the things that is being added because of the clientele who use the library, is a baby changing station.

CDBG Year 41 – a pre-application has been submitted for the grant. This is to provide ADA compliant signage throughout the municipal building.

2014 Road Program – is ongoing. The contractor has completed some of the streets and depending on weather, may be finished by the end of this week.

Fawnvue Dr. Storm Sewer and Montour Run Swale – currently waiting for soil testing results.

YEAR 41 – we are looking to provide ADA compliant signage throughout the municipal

DEVELOPMENTAL INSPECTION

ISC – Developer is continuing to work on site.

DON'S APPLIANCE – Contractor is continuing work on the site.

PENN CENTER WEST BLDG. #1 PARKING LOTS – work is completed. A final inspection will be scheduled for bond reduction.

MONTOUR ELEMENTARY SCHOOL – The contractor has completed clearing and grubbing work at the site. Compaction of existing loose fill material at the site is continuing along with the storm work.

HILTON GARDEN INN – Contractor is mainly working on sanitary work at the site. Stormwater management work has been completed.

WEST PERIPHERAL HOTELS – Contractor has completed storm work on the site. There are also two items on the agenda. These are to deny waivers requests for the elimination of off-street screening and also for the bufferyard.

GET GO ROBINSON CROSSROADS – The contractor is continuing storm work on the site. When they looked at tying in some of the storm piping, they discovered that some of it had been crushed so they are going to be looking at replacing those.

PLEASANT VIEW CONDOMINIUMS – A road bond estimate has been provided for the repaving of Wingate Drive.

DEVELOPMENTAL REVIEWS

TWO MARQUIS PLAZA – can now move into Development Inspection as the pre-construction meeting was held last week. They are adding a parking structure.

ARBOR TRIL SUBDIVISION – no new working is ongoing.

BRANDYMILL WOODS SITE PLAN – plans are currently in review. There was a Public Hearing held for a portion of the property to be rezoned earlier today.

THE RIDGE AT ROBINSON SITE PLAN – is on the agenda this evening. Currently, the proposed development was recommended for a tentative PRD approval by the Planning Commission on October 2nd.

DUCKSTEIN REZONING – has reviewed the application and provided comments.

One item that I did not put in here was the King/Sambolt Subdivision which had been recommended for approval by the Planning Commission. That is on the agenda this evening.

POLICE REPORT

Chief Vietmeier submitted a copy of the September Report, which is attached to the minutes.

Chief Vietmeier, I would like to take an opportunity to thank Mrs. Stinner and her family. I have known the family for 45+ years. Mr. Stinner taught me in baseball when I was a young lad. I grew up with his children. They are a wonderful family and it seems like just yesterday when Mrs. Stinner started the Society.

I would also like to comment on the drug take-back which was last Saturday at the Mall at Robinson. It was extremely well attended by people in the community and surrounding communities dropping off medications for disposal.

Also, Halloween is October 31st. It is on a Friday night. We will be out in full force with all emergency personnel. I hope all of the kids have a very safe Halloween.

Commissioner Mapel, Chief if you are going to be staying through the conclusion of the meeting tonight, I am going to have a question or two for you.

PARKS REPORT

Jane Tallon, I just want to give a recap on the Autumn Festival. It was fabulous. It was well attended and everyone had a great time. Many of the Commissioners were there. I want to thank everyone for all of their help and support, which includes all of the employees of the Township, the Public Works Dept., etc. I really don't want to get into each individual name because I do not want to leave someone out. There are so many people that help us with the Autumn Festival, including our contributors.

Two weeks following that, we had a car cruise. It was the first ever and it was fabulous. I want to thank a few people who inspired me, including Rick Urbano, Gerry Kezmarsky and our Tax Collector, Doug Perkey. They gave me a lot of encouragement. We had about 400 cars. Commissioner Mapel was there and he saw for himself how much people enjoyed it. I want to thank the Zamagias family, Teresa and Marcus for hosting the event. I would also like to thank Car Sense and Total Image for financial help. I would like to thank the Parks Board and Public Works Dept. for all of their hard work at the cruise. I would also like to thank our advertising contributors because without them nobody would show up. Jim Vlasach from Lamar Advertising and Jim DiNardo with Suburban Gazette always helps us out.

I would also like to thank David Semich. His company is called Media Attractions. He did something different for us. He put an ad together and it is on the big screen televisions at various locations and different restaurants. That ran for an entire month. I would really like to thank him for coming out and supporting the Township with some advertisement.

Halloween Parade in the Park will be on October 25th from noon until 2:00 p.m. All the ghosts and goblins will parade from the upper parking lot in the Clever Rd. Park down to the Rotary Shelter. The parade will be led by the Forest Grove Fire Dept. and the Montour Marching Band. Light refreshments will be served. Halloween throughout the Township is October 31st as Chief Vietmeier had mentioned. That is from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. If you must be out on the road, please drive with caution and parents please be sure to dress your children in reflective clothing. Robinson Township Police Dept. and Volunteer Fire Departments will be out patrolling the streets for the safety of our children.

Save the date for December 5th. We will have Christmas light-up. For any of these activities, you can visit our Township website at www.townshipofrobinson.com.

Vice-Chairman Shiwarski, as in the past we always want to thank and acknowledge our contributors for the fall festival and give them the recognition that they richly deserve. Our gold sponsors for this year were: PNC Bank (Stephen Shapiro), First National Bank of PA (Teresa Opalanko), Dodaro, Matta & Cambest (Jack Cambest), The Meritage Group and Vista Business Park (James Rumbaugh), Duckstein Contracting (Henry Duckstein), Robinson Self-Storage-Sampson Morris Group (Michael Murphy). Our Silver Sponsors: Plans Examiners (John Barnett), NIRA Consulting Engineers (Ray Antonelli), Remington, Vernick & Beach Engineers (Edward Vernick), James L. Smith Insurance Agency (Daniel Smith), First Niagara Bank (David Hammer), The Mall at Robinson (Beth Edwards). Our Bronze Sponsors are: Congressman Mike Doyle, State Representative Nick Kotik, Congressman Tim Murphy, State Senator Matt Smith, Exceptional Ventures (Robinson Business), Car Sense (Tim Wright), Piper Jaffrey (Joseph Weisner), Parkway West Business Park (Dominic Dozzi), Sewickley Bank (Keith Henderson), Lamar Advertising (Jim Vlasach), M. A. Dunn (Michael Dunn), Traffic Systems, Inc. (John Carney), Giant Eagle Market District (Abby Virgin). Also, a special thanks to Allegheny West Magazine, Suburban Gazette and Lamar Advertising.

ADMINISTRATION UPDATE

Manager Silka, a couple of items to update the Board of Commissioners on. One is the comprehensive plan/zoning ordinance update. We have been stalled waiting for a final decision from DCED on our grant. On a good note, I did have extended discussions with Denny Puko who is the grant manager for this project. They are reviewing a batch of grant applications in the next two weeks, and we should have an answer by the end of this month. We did have an extended conversation to update our information and clarify things to try and position our grant so that it looks favorably from the committee knowing that it is tough for us to justify need. We have to justify that the end project is the most important part and not the financial need of the grant. We want to fund the process in a very comprehensive manner. Hopefully we will be rolling with a grant notice at the end of the month and we will start interviewing our consultants to help us through this process. It will be about a 12 month process once we start.

The trash and recycling bids, we will be going out to bid for our curbside trash and recycling for 2015. I should have the RFP to the Solicitor by the end of the week for review. We will probably advertise that for a November or December award.

As October progresses, we will be doing our bottom-up budgeting process. Department heads will have their budget numbers and history by the end of the week and they will begin putting the budgets together. We will meet in combination with a meeting with the finance commissioner to put together the draft budget that will be presented to the Board of Commissioners at the November meeting. At that point we will begin our budget workshops and work onward toward adoption. One issue that is going to affect the budget among others is the salt bid for this year. As you have probably been reading in the news, salt bids are considerably higher this year than in years past. We are members of the SHACOG Purchasing Alliance. We moved to go with them for one more year. Last year our salt bid per ton was \$57.52 and this year we only received one bid and it is actually considered low considering some of the regional bids, of \$79.29 per ton. Our minimum purchase on the contract is 6500 tons. We are looking at an additional \$141,500. for salt purchases. In a normal winter that will be more than a little dent in the budget. We did mitigate some of the risk if we do have a bad winter. At the end of the contract which goes until June, we were able to buy all of the salt they would give us at \$57.92 knowing that there is going to be a major price increase. We did fill our salt sheds with all of the salt they would sell us at the end of the season. We are still looking at a significant budget number for salt going through.

At the last meeting the James L. Smith Agency was appointed our brokers for both property and commercial and health. We are working with them for the health renewals. We did get some numbers from our current provider which shows that our health insurance actually trended 3% lower than last year for the premium. We are hoping that the worst that we do is a 3% decrease. That is all that I have this evening.

TOWNSHIP SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Solicitor Cambest had no report.

FINANCE REPORT

Finance Officer Kezmarsky gave the September 2014 Treasurer's Report.

THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS CONDUCTED AN EXECUTIVE SESSION ON OCTOBER 6, 2014 FROM 5:00 P.M. TO 6:00 P.M. TO DISCUSS LEGAL AND PERSONNEL MATTERS. THE BOARD WILL TAKE OFFICIAL ACTION, IF ANY, FROM THIS EXECUTIVE SESSION DURING THIS MEETING.

OLD BUSINESS

Discussion to approve the September 8, 2014 Board of Commissioner's Meeting Minutes.

Discussion to approve the September, 2014 Treasurer's Report.

Discussion to approve the September, 2014 List of Bills.

NEW BUSINESS

Discussion to approve advertising for a Public Hearing for the Cedars Development Co. Parkside Land Development Plan, Lot and Block #264-B-290 on November 3, at 5:45 p.m. as recommended by the Planning Commission. The applicant wishes to rezone the property from C-4 Planned Office/Ltd. Industrial to C-3 Planned Commercial/Office/Multiple Family District.

Discussion to approve advertising for a Public Hearing for the Duckstein Property Lot and Block #152-A-79 and 152-A-180 on November 3, 2014 at 6:00 p.m. as recommended by the Planning Commission. The applicant wishes to rezone the property from C-2 Community Commercial District to R-3 Medium Density District.

Discussion to approve the King-Sambolt Subdivision Plan, subject to minor changes in the plan. The applicants are proposing to convey an unspecified area from Lot 210-E-62 to Lot 210-E-80 as recommended by the Planning Commission.

Mr. Urbano, the updates have been made.

Discussion to approve a ninety (90) day extension to Penn Center West, Building 9 Site Plan as recommended by the Planning Commission.

Discussion to deny a waiver request for a buffer yard for the West Peripheral Hotels located at the cul-de-sac of Sutherland Drive, Section 300-130 as recommended by the Planning Commission.

Discussion to deny a waiver request to eliminate screening of off-street parking lot for West Peripheral Hotels, Section 300-137.B.9 as recommended by the Planning Commission.

Discussion to approve a waiver request for HDPE storm pipe for Hampton Inn – Settlers Ridge as recommended by the Planning Commission.

Discussion to grant tentative approval of the Ridge at Robinson Subdivision Plan as recommended by the Planning Commission.

Discussion to grant tentative approval of the Ridge at Robinson Site Plan as recommended by the Planning Commission.

Discussion to schedule a Public Hearing November 3, 2014 at 6:15 p.m. for PRD on the Ridge @ Robinson PRD Plan as recommended by the Planning Commission.

Discussion to approve a ninety (90) day extension from October 1, 2014 to December 30, 2014 to render a decision on the preliminary/final subdivision, land development and planned residential development for the Ridge @ Robinson.

Discussion to adopt Resolution No. 8 of 2014 designating an official to perform the required duties between the Township of Robinson and the Department of Economic Development for the Community Development Block Grant Year 41 for ADA signage in the Township Municipal Building.

Discussion to approve a bid by Swede Construction in the amount of \$28,050 for CD 40 7.5 Restroom Renovations (2nd floor) of Township of Robinson Municipal Building.

Discussion to authorize the advertisement of and scheduling of a Public Hearing on November 3, 2014 at 6:30 p.m. for an Ordinance of the Township of Robinson, Allegheny County, Pennsylvania, amending Chapter 300, Zoning, Article II, Definitions: Word Usage §300-12, Definitions, of the Code of the Township of Robinson to provide for definitions of display lighting and electronic sign panel and clarifying the definition of changeable copy sign and amending and restating Article XXIII, Conditional Uses and Special Exceptions §300-154.A (3) Billboards to limit the size and hours of operation of billboards based upon the functional classification of the road to which the billboard is oriented and clarifying various provisions to recognize new technology and to direct the Planning Director to submit this proposed amendment to the Robinson Township

Planning Commission and the Allegheny County Planning Commission for review and comment.

Discussion to approve the release of \$60,000 Traffic Signal escrow for Ventana Hills on the recommendation of the Township Staff.

Discussion to approve the Tax Appeal Settlement in regard to BV-13-6922 concerning Parcel 35-P-202 owned by Parkway Center West Association for tax year 2013 and \$5,687.00 for tax year 2014.

Discussion to advertise for bids on the following Public Works equipment: 1969 – 1900 Trojan Loader, 1972 Mack Fire Truck, 1990 Elgin (Ford) Sweeper, 2001-2500 4 x 4 Dodge Cab and Chassis, 1997 F350 4 x 2 Ford, Ransomes 36" Walk ehind Mower, Toto 36" Walk Behind Mower, 2003 John Deere 6 x 4 Gator Utility, 1978 Douglas 8000 lb. Trailer, Caterpillar General Purpose Bucket for IT24 Loader, Balderson Grab and Grip Bucket for IT24 Loader, Coates 40-40SA Tire Changer, Coates 1001 Tire Balancer and two (2) 36" General Purpose Buckets for Case 580 Backhoe.

Mgr. Silka, this is all surplus equipment that we will be selling "as is."

Discussion to authorize the Township Manager to dispose of the 2007 Black and White Crown Victoria as scrap.

Engineer Meyer, if I could, I noted that under Items 17 and Items 18, there are two motions for denials for the waivers. There should also be a third as per the Planning Commission recommendations. I wanted to bring that to your attention if it would be possible to entertain this motion.

Discussion to deny the sidewalk waiver for West Peripheral Hotel.

MOTION Barefoot, SECOND Kisow to amend the agenda.

ROLL CALL: Mapel-Y, Barefoot-Y, Kisow-Y, Shiwarski-Y.

M/C 4-0.

Mgr. Silka, we have one more motion that can be added at this time.

Discussion to promote Michael Smarsh to operator at the current rate of the Public Works Bargaining Agreement as of November 1, 2014.

CITIZEN'S COMMENTS

Charles Simm (34 Eichelberger Dr.), I come here tonight unrepresented by legal counsel. The reason that I am non-represented is, the State of Pennsylvania chose to set it up this way so that I have no legal counsel when I come into this building, yet all of the Commissioners have legal counsel sitting there every minute of the time. I want that noted due to the fact that the only way I can get a legal answer without paying to go to a lawyer, is by asking the legal counsel of the Township who is actually against me. My question tonight is, when the Township had the problem with the hill behind my house, the Township did not notify the Environmental Protection Agency that there was a raw sewage spill in the Township. This was back in the year 2004 to 2006. It was never notified to them that there had been a spill so it was never properly cleaned up. Somebody is responsible in the Township of Robinson to handle this. What I want to know tonight legally, is who is responsible? Is it the legal department, the engineering department or who is responsible to report to the Environmental Protection Agency the fact that there was a raw sewage spill? It was never done, which means as far as the Robinson Township people are concerned, that spill never happened, but all the violation was a fact that it was not reported. Who is responsible? Can you answer that question for me?

Solicitor Cambest, this is only public comment. You say this happened in 2004 – 2006? I will be glad to consult with the Township Manager. We can take a look if we have any records going back that far.

Mr. Simm, it should be on the record of the Township meetings which in my estimation are held for 10 to 20 years.

Solicitor Cambest, there is a municipal records retention act and I am not sure off the top of my head.

Mr. Simm, it is the video. These questions have been asked before. You are new in this game. I have been playing this game since 2001. I have learned that I have to ask specific questions to find out a specific answer because of the fact that the Township did not report that to the environmental protection agency and by not doing that, it never was fixed. In turn, they could run the statute of limitation on me and my neighbor as to the fact that they wanted to just let it run out. I feel this is totally wrong and is invalid due to the fact that it was never reported to the agency and the Township waited until they received the second notice from the Environmental Protection Agency after I went and had them come twice to my property to see what damage was being done. They sent a letter to the Township. It was a thirty (30) day notice and then a letter was sent by the Township Engineer to the Environmental Protection Agency and they extended the Township the courtesy of an extension of time which let it run all the way to the end of the statute of limitations. I never received the money that I felt I should have got for the claim that I had and Mrs. Kraft had. I need an answer as to who is going to accept responsibility. The next question is why wasn't it done?

Vice-Chairman Shiwarski, your 4 minutes is up. Thank you.

BUILDING INSPECTOR/ZONING OFFICER REPORT

A copy of the September, 2014 Report by Mr. Urbano is attached.

AGENDA

MOTION Barefoot, SECOND Kisow to approve the September 8, 2014 Board of Commissioners Meeting Minutes.

ROLL CALL: Mapel_Y, Barefoot_Y, Kisow Y, Shiwarski-Y
M/C 5-0

MOTION Barefoot, SECOND Mapel to approve the September 2014 Treasurer's Report.

ROLL CALL: Mapel_Y, Barefoot_Y, Kisow Y, Shiwarski-Y
M/C 4-0

MOTION Barefoot, SECOND Mapel to approve the September, 2014 List of Bills.

ROLL CALL: Mapel_Y, Barefoot_Y, Kisow Y, Shiwarski-Y
M/C 4-0

MOTION Barefoot, SECOND Mapel to approve advertising for a Public Hearing for the Cedars Development Co. Parkside Land Development Plan, Lot and Block #264-B-290 on November 3, at 5:45 p.m. as recommended by the Planning Commission. The applicant wishes to rezone the property from C-4 Planned Office/Ltd. Industrial to C-3 Planned Commercial/Office/Multiple Family District.

ROLL CALL: Mapel_Y, Barefoot_Y, Kisow Y, Shiwarski-Y
M/C 4-0

MOTION Barefoot, SECOND Kisow to approve advertising for a Public Hearing for the Duckstein Property Lot and Block #152-A-79 and 152-A-180 on November 3, 2014 at 6:00 p.m. as recommended by the Planning Commission. The applicant wishes to rezone the property from C-2 Community Commercial District to R-3 Medium Density District.

ROLL CALL: Mapel_Y, Barefoot_Y, Kisow Y, Shiwarski-Y
M/C 4-0

MOTION Barefoot, SECOND Mapel to approve the King-Sambolt Subdivision Plan, subject to minor changes in the plan. The applicants are proposing to convey an unspecified area from Lot 210-E-62 to Lot 210-E-80 as recommended by the Planning Commission.

ROLL CALL: Mapel_Y, Barefoot_Y, Kisow Y, Shiwarski-Y
M/C 4-0

MOTION Kisow, SECOND Barefoot to approve a ninety (90) day extension to Penn Center West, Building 9 Site Plan as recommended by the Planning Commission.

ROLL CALL: Mapel_Y, Barefoot_Y, Kisow Y, Shiwarski-Y

M/C 4-0

MOTION Barefoot, SECOND Kisow to deny a waiver request for a buffer yard for the West Peripheral Hotels located at the cul-de-sac of Sutherland Drive, Section 300-130 as recommended by the Planning Commission.

ROLL CALL: Mapel_Y, Barefoot_Y, Kisow Y, Shiwarski-Y

M/C 4-0

MOTION Barefoot, SECOND Mapel to deny a waiver request to eliminate screening of off-street parking lot for West Peripheral Hotels, Section 300-137.B.9 as recommended by the Planning Commission.

ROLL CALL: Mapel_Y, Barefoot_Y, Kisow Y, Shiwarski-Y

M/C 4-0

MOTION Kisow, SECOND Barefoot to deny a sidewalk waiver request for West Peripheral Hotels, Section 250.41 as recommended by the Planning Commission.

ROLL CALL: Mapel_Y, Barefoot_Y, Kisow Y, Shiwarski-Y

M/C 4-0

MOTION Mapel, SECOND Barefoot to approve a waiver request for HDPE storm pipe for Hampton Inn – Settlers Ridge as recommended by the Planning Commission.

ROLL CALL: Mapel_Y, Barefoot_Y, Kisow Y, Shiwarski-Y

M/C 4-0

MOTION Barefoot, SECOND Mapel to grant tentative approval of the Ridge at Robinson Subdivision Plan as recommended by the Planning Commission.

ROLL CALL: Mapel_Y, Barefoot_Y, Kisow Y, Shiwarski-Y

M/C 4-0

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ROLL CALL: Mapel_Y, Barefoot_Y, Kisow Y, Shiwarski-Y

M/C 4-0

MOTION Barefoot, SECOND Kisow to adopt Resolution No. 8 of 2014 designating an official to perform the required duties between the Township of Robinson and the Department of Economic Development for the Community Development Block Grant Year 41 for ADA signage in the Township Municipal Building.

ROLL CALL: Mapel_Y, Barefoot_Y, Kisow Y, Shiwarski-Y

M/C 4-0

MOTION Mapel, SECOND Barefoot to approve a bid by Swede Construction in the amount of \$28,050 for CD 40 7.5 Restroom Renovations (2nd floor) of Township of Robinson Municipal Building.

ROLL CALL: Mapel_Y, Barefoot_Y, Kisow Y, Shiwarski-Y

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MOTION Barefoot, SECOND Mapel to authorize the advertisement of and scheduling of a Public Hearing on November 3, 2014 at 6:30 p.m. for an Ordinance of the township of Robinson, Allegheny County, Pennsylvania, amending Chapter 300, Zoning, Article II, Definitions: Word Usage §300-12, Definitions, of the Code of the Township of Robinson to provide for definitions of display lighting and electronic sign panel and clarifying the definition of changeable copy sign and amending and restating Article XXIII, Conditional Uses and Special Exceptions §300-154.A (3) Billboards to limit the size and hours of operation of billboards based upon the functional classification of the road to which the billboard is oriented and clarifying various provisions to recognize new technology and to direct the Planning Director to submit this proposed amendment to the Robinson Township Planning Commission and the Allegheny County Planning Commission for review and comment.

ROLL CALL: Mapel_Y, Barefoot_Y, Kisow Y, Shiwarski-Y

M/C 4-0

MOTION Mapel, SECOND Barefoot to approve the release of \$60,000 Traffic Signal escrow for Ventana Hills on the recommendation of the Township Staff.

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MOTION Kisow, SECOND Barefoot to approve the Tax Appeal Settlement in regard to BV-13-6922 concerning Parcel 35-P-202 owned by Parkway Center West Association for tax year 2013 and \$5,687.000 for tax year 2014.

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ROLL CALL: Mapel_Y, Barefoot_Y, Kisow Y, Shiwarski-Y

M/C 4-0

MOTION Barefoot, SECOND Mapel to authorize the Township Manager to dispose of the 2007 Black and White Crown Victoria as scrap.

ROLL CALL: Mapel_Y, Barefoot_Y, Kisow Y, Shiwarski-Y

M/C 4-0

MOTION Barefoot, SECOND Kisow to promote Michael Smarsh to operator at the current rate in the Bargaining Agreement as of November 1, 2014.

ROLL CALL: Mapel_Y, Barefoot_Y, Kisow Y, Shiwarski-Y

M/C 4-0

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Commissioner Mapel, every once in a while I have a very unenviable task that is imposed upon me from time to time by our residents. As uncomfortable as I am to bring this up or mention it even at all, I am duty bound I think to reflect or at least ask questions of some things that are of concern to our residents. One of the things that has come to my attention on several different occasions and I have never addressed it previously, but I am going to address it tonight because I said that I would. First of all I will start by telling you a quick little story. Driving with one of my daughters recently, I was going past the area where Costco is located and on up to the intersection where PNC Bank is. On that little island was a young man with a border collie and a sign describing his homelessness and his begging for help. I got to thinking about this when I looked over and I saw my daughter crying. Some of you that know us as a family, we have a couple of border collies, so needless to say, it drew my attention to the situation which I had seen many times before. Different locations seem to be growing in the Township where people who have fallen on hard times are trying to get some help. I have never been homeless, and thank God that is the case. I cannot even imagine what it is like to be homeless. I think that the people who have concerns and the questions that they have is public safety. Distracting people from their driving habits, not to mention the fact that this person, among others because I have actually seen a guy there with his wife, it happens all the time. I think the concern that the resident had

was the public safety aspect, meaning that person's safety, along with the safety of pedestrians and drivers of cars in the area. I really did not know what to tell this person about the legalities of it. That is one of the reasons why I wanted to get a thought from our Chief, because it is not really soliciting when you are just asking for something with nothing in return. I am not sure if we have any legal ground. There is an old saying that if a person is in need, you can do one of two things. You can throw him a fish or you can teach him how to fish. What is the better solution? I am not altogether sure that I am qualified to answer that, but I am still grasping for an answer that I don't really have. Chief Vietmeier, would you like to comment on this please?

Chief Vietmeier, Commissioner Mapel basically this is new information that is coming to me tonight. I think we get several complaints a week about different people soliciting or begging for monies at different intersections. There are a lot of homeless people out there and I know that the police officers are also human beings and feel sorry for people at times. Your answer is yes, it is soliciting without a permit. Can they be cited? Yes, they can be cited. Most of the time we try to give people the benefit of the doubt and warn them and send them on their way. The problem that we have is that if they cause problems in another community, maybe they drive them to a different location so they are out of their hair. We tend not to do that, out of respect for our community and other communities. I think it could be easy for an officer to put somebody in a police car and drive them to the City of Pittsburgh and say "here, you go." That is something that we do not do. Have we cited people? Yes, we have cited people in the past. The problem that we have is that the majority of these people are from out of state and part of the process would be that they have to be arraigned for a summary violation in front of a Pittsburgh Magistrate. To be quite honest, they do not have the money to post a bond. Sometimes you get down there and they feel sorry for them and they just release them and it also ties up manpower. It takes us away from our duties in the Township. I don't have a proper answer other than, yes it is soliciting. I think we try to be morally correct and have human decency to try to give these people a little bit of benefit of the doubt. I know in the past we have had so called "tents" where they slept. We destroyed and removed them with the public works department. We thought that we had them all eliminated, but it just seems like Robinson Twp. is a hot spot. I am in the middle of it right now again. I just came in tonight and starting with Penn State University and the cancer canning project. Every single year the answer is "no." It is against the law to stand at an intersection and we enforce that. We do not want them to do that and private property owners do not want them there either. They are out for a good cause to raise money for cancer, but yet we are not allowing them to be at the intersections because it does distract drivers and cause accidents and as you know, we have plenty of them. I can only give you my estimation over my career. You feel sorry for people and try to give them the benefit of the doubt. You give them that one break and if they don't listen to that warning, then shame on you the second time. That is pretty much the approach that we try to take with these folks.

Commissioner Mapel, I think that is as much of an answer as anyone can expect at this point. We have addressed it and I don't know if there is any legal or moral answer to that that goes beyond what we have already spoken to. Even though it is not our practice to pray in a public meeting, at least in Robinson Township, I would certainly encourage all of us to be proactive in offering up our prayers to people like that because it could be any one of us.

Commissioner Barefoot, I have no comments this evening.

Commissioner Kisow, this is the start of fire prevention week, so your children will be most likely seeing the firemen in their classrooms this week. Also, Moon Run is having a safety fair on Saturday, October 11th from 12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. It is October, so check the batteries in your smoke detectors.

Vice-Chairman Shiwarski, Robinson Township will be beginning leaf pickup once again this month.

Mgr. Silka, it will be on the television, website and facebook.

Vice-Chairman Shiwarski, the Township is collecting leaves this fall at curbside. The day before your pickup is scheduled, please rake leaves to the curb. Do not bag or place in containers of any kind. Only residents that are on streets that are underlined for that day, must collect their leaves in biodegradable bags and place at the curb. Please note that each resident will have three dates for leaf pickup this fall. The first day will be October 13th, so please check the schedule for your date.

MOTION Barefoot, SECOND Mapel to adjourn the meeting.

ROLL CALL: Mapel_Y, Barefoot_Y, Kisow Y, Shiwarski-Y
M/C 4-0

Meeting was adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Carol Merks
Township Secretary