

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING  
MONDAY, JULY 1, 2013

CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Samuel Abatta called the regular meeting of July 1, 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, Craig Alexander, Esq ( Bruce Dice & Associates), Police Chief Vietmeier and Secretary Merks for the purpose of taking minutes.

Chairman Abatta requested a moment of silence to remember John Falvolito who passed away at the age of 90 on June 17<sup>th</sup>. He attended almost every meeting. He was the Fire Chief at Forest Grove from 1980-1988 and was also the Fire Marshal in District 3 from 1989 to 1993. He was a revered veteran of World War II.

**TOWNSHIP ENGINEER'S REPORT**

Township Engineer's Report dated July 1, 2013 is attached.

Remington, Vernick & Beach is currently working on a grant proposal through COG to update the electrical service at Clever Road Park. They are preparing specifications with alternates to upgrade the existing electrical service, add lighting to the entrance drive and upgrade the lighting at the pavilion.

Engineer Meyer, I have met with Joe Bonkowski to finalize some of the specifications. We are looking to see if there is a way that we can re-do that electrical service from out of the pool room where it is a very corrosive condition and to put another enclosure out closer to the pavilion and to the playground area. That may enable us to prolong the use. That is one of the items we are going to look at and try to revise.

Chairman Abatta, one thing I would ask on that, will there be GFI circuits on there also?

Engineer Meyer, yes and in addition to that, one of the big things is the rating of the boxes. The boxes that are rated there are not appropriate for those types of conditions. That also adds to the corrosion. We would like to place another box down by the concession stand that would serve both pavilions, the restroom as well as the Christmas tree lights. We will come back with different cost estimates.

Chairman Abatta, did you also address what we talked about as far as the Park entrance area?

Engineer Meyer, that will be one of the estimates and we will run it off of that front box as well. That is some of the pricing that we are going to have to come up with to determine where it is and how it is going to fit into that \$25,000 grant. Right now I am trying to work on coming up with an estimate based on the loading that we have out there, the loading that we anticipate and if we need to replace all of the boxes down at the pool building.

Chairman Abatta, we are going to do what we can do with this \$25,000 that we have secured through the COG, but our own road department, Mr. Bonkowski and his crew will be doing work there also which will help defray some costs.

Engineer Meyer, that is part of the item also. We are going to try to determine what work they can do because whatever work we do through the COG has to go out to bid.

CDBG Year 39 for the renovation of the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor bathroom to ADA compliance bid opening is scheduled for July 10, 2013.

CDBG Year 40 for the remaining 2<sup>nd</sup> floor bathroom, the pre-application has been submitted.

2013 Road Program contract has been awarded to El Grande as the lower bidder. A pre-construction meeting was held on June 14<sup>th</sup>. Some of the seal-coat and micro-surfacing work should begin in mid to late July. As far as some of the paving work that is scheduled, that will probably be done later in the year. Due to the weather, things are getting behind because of the rain. A firmer update should be available at the next meeting.

Mgr. Silka, the information has been submitted to the web-site and it should be posted shortly.

#### **Developmental Inspection:**

A bonding amount has been prepared for preliminary approval for Stafford Park Phase II. A meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, July 2<sup>nd</sup> with the Township staff and solicitor to discuss if work can be done under the preliminary approval.

In regards to Sir Henry's Haven, the contractor has not started work on the project. A pre-construction meeting was held on June 11 to discuss the project.

#### **Developmental Review:**

Advanced Auto – the plan was reviewed and approved by the Board of Commissioners at the June meeting. The applicant has since then requested waivers for Pipe (HDPE vs RCP) and for relief on the 5 foot bufferyard. Both items have been recommended for approval by the Planning Commission.

Chairman Abatta, I have a question about that. I see Mr. Butya in the audience. I read through the Planning Commission meeting minutes. I can interpret a lot of things that went on, but are you in agreement with everything that was finally decided upon as far as all of the waivers are concerned because I was feeling some dissenting issues going back and forth? I know that it was voted on, but are you satisfied with basically what was discussed as far as all of the waivers are concerned? I know that Rick Urbano was, but I wanted to make sure that the Solicitor was as well. I don't have the minutes with me.

Solicitor Butya, there was some issue whether there was a necessity of filing for an actual variance or not. It was rather gray as to whether this fell into the bufferyard variance section or not.

Mr. Urbano, we did discuss that Mr. Chairman about whether it could be a waiver modification or whether it needed to go to the Zoning Hearing Board and because of the elevation change under our Ordinance, the Planning Commission has a right to make a recommendation to the Board on the buffer.

Solicitor Butya, if this Board believes that a variance is more suitable?

Chairman Abatta, that is what I mean. I was not sure which way the Board would be so inclined to go.

Solicitor Butya, I understand your question now. It is a bit of a gray area. Solicitor Dice is not here tonight so I am not sure if there is any further comment.

Commissioner Mapel, what makes it a gray area Mr. Butya?

Solicitor Butya, the interpretation of the section that the waiver was granted under and whether the waiver is actually permissible under that particular section, whether it is a waiver of distance in other words, from 5 ft. to 1 ft. or whether it is an interpretation as to whether it is a waiver of what is to be planted in that buffer area.

Chairman Abatta, as far as the distance is concerned, I served some years on the Zoning Hearing Board and I was not sure how you measured the distance, whether it is a straight shot from A to B....

Solicitor Butya, this is actually a side yard buffer. I am going from memory.

Commissioner Mapel, the owner would be responsible for the maintenance am I correct?

Solicitor Butya, they would be responsible for the buffer, but I think your question is getting from the 5 ft. buffer to the 1.6 ft.

Mr. Urbano, I did get a letter from the property owner next door. It was just handed to me from Mr. Cindrich saying that the Moon Run Fire Dept. Chief has signed off on the letter. Mr. Butya and I discussed that would be a good idea to get a letter from them seeing if they had a problem. The Moon Run Volunteer Fire Department believes that it would be in the best interest of both properties to have this waiver done.

Solicitor Butya, if the Board has an issue or question about that, I am sure it can be looked at further.

Chairman Abatta, I just wanted to get your legal interpretation.

Engineer Meyer continued:

**Speedway Site Plan** – we are currently reviewing the traffic impact report.

**Hillebrand Holdings** – a preliminary review of the plan was done and revised plans are being prepared. The applicant is also providing a revised traffic study for the project.

**ACTA PCTI Project Park Manor Boulevard**

Mr. Meyer attended a meeting at PennDOT office on June 24 for the ACTA PCTI Project Park Manor Boulevard. At this time PennDOT and ACTA are trying to work through scheduling concerns with IKEA as well as the ordering of American made and manufactured items.

**POLICE REPORT**

The June 2013 Robinson Township Police Department Report was presented by Chief Vietmeier and is attached to and made part of the minutes.

Chief Vietmeier, after three years, we are finally able to send an officer, Christian Short, to school in Harrisburg for truck inspections. He is now certified. He was there during the months of May and June. He is working right now with the Pittsburgh Police and State Police. He has to do a total of 32 inspections before he can go out on his own. We are moving forward with the truck inspector for the Township. We applied three years ago, but there was a delay in getting us into the class.

Commissioner Cegelski, I was at the COG meeting on June 20<sup>th</sup> and the topic of a fashion show came up and everybody there was quite intrigued that the Police Department in Robinson will be doing a fashion show at the mall. Is that correct?

Chief Vietmeier, basically, how it started was my daughter is in business with another person in marketing and advertising and they wanted to do something for law enforcement in Allegheny County. They came to me and I got the ball rolling with the Sheriff's Dept. and Commander Best, who I went to the academy with many years ago. She heads up the law enforcement memorial for Allegheny County. They are a non-profit organization. This fashion show came together and the mall has been terrific. It is going to be at the Mall at Robinson on October 10<sup>th</sup>. We needed 60 to 70 police officers and I think we already have 20 to 30 signed up. All of the stores out there are going to donate all of the clothing. The officer just has to show up for one fitting. There will be 350 tickets sold. There are sponsorships. John Burnett from KDKA is going to be the emcee. We are looking forward to a nice time.

Commissioner Cegelski, will our police dog be attending in full attire as well?

Chief Vietmeier, there are going to be 5 police dogs, including ours. It should be a great time. It will be on Thursday, October 10<sup>th</sup>.

Commissioner Mapel, if we can go back to the Officer Short thing and help us understand a little bit more about what the function is of his training and how that will be reflected in law enforcement.

Chief Vietmeier, the way that I understand it is, we will not have the scales. He will have to utilize the State Police for the scales. He will be certified as a PennDOT safety inspector. He can randomly make any stop of any vehicle in our Township and do an inspection of that vehicle. I know that of the first 17 that he has done so far, 4 have been taken out of service and they were all on the interstate. They total a lot of fines and I am not sure how exactly the fine schedule goes, but the majority of that money does come back to the municipality where the citations are issued. Even if we have it here in Robinson and the State Police or Pittsburgh Police would come here and assist Officer Short and we have a big truck inspection, we are responsible for writing the citations. They will do the inspections and vice-versa. It should be a nice thing and keep the community safe.

Commissioner Mapel, if you happen to be in the trucking industry, you may want to pay attention.

Chief Vietmeier, no I think that most of them are conscientious and want safe vehicles out there. At least, that is the feedback that I have received.

Commissioner Mapel, where do these infractions and fines come from?

Chief Vietmeier, individual truck owners from what he is telling me.

Vice-Chairman Forquer, and once you start this, it should make the truckers more alert to make sure they are not overloaded when they are traveling through our Township.

Chief Vietmeier, that is correct.

#### **ADMINISTRATION UPDATE** (Report Attached)

Mgr. Silka spoke on the following issues:

**Email/Technology Upgrade** – this was approved at the last meeting and should be up and running by the end of July.

**Bank Transition Update** – we are currently split between the two banks. The transition should be completed by the end of July.

**Township Building Roof Issues** – our roof contractor and Mr. Bonkowski took a look at it. We did have another leak since the last meeting. The leak was temporarily sealed. We did get a quote of \$3500.00 to have the roof done to the contractor specifications. We are on schedule to have the entire length of the building re-seamed and sealed up. You will notice that I did take the television out of the lobby in the municipal building simply because one of the leaks was directly above and I did not want to lose it due to a leak. If anyone asks, that is why the television is currently missing.

**Penn Prime Audit** – we did have a workers' compensation audit from Penn Prime on some of their loss control measures. We had some deficiencies and we have done our best to submit all of the updates that we needed to do to Penn Prime so hopefully that will result in us being fully compliant and able to receive credits moving forward on our workers' comp rates.

**Paving for The Oaks** – Commissioner Shiwarski was not able to be present tonight, but did ask the Board to be updated on the paving for The Oaks. We had wanted to have that as the priority and one of the first areas paved, however, until we receive the funding from the bond company, we are going to delay paving that area until we get the money. We do not want to spend Township funds until we have those funds in hand. If anyone in the area wants to know what it is being delayed, that is why. Everything is ready to go, it just will not be one of the first areas paved.

### **Township Solicitors Report**

Craig Alexander, Esq. spoke on behalf of Bruce Dice, Esq. who was not in attendance. The report dated June 26, 2013 is attached to the Minutes.

**The Board of Commissioners conducted an executive session on July 1, 2013 from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. to discuss legal matters. The Board will take official action, if any, from the executive session during this meeting.**

Discussion to approve the June 3, 2013 Board of Commissioners Meeting Minutes

Discussion to approve the June, 2013 Treasurer's Report.

Discussion to approve the Advance Auto request for a waiver from concrete pipe to HDPE, per request letter from Ron Cindrich dated June 12, 2013 and as recommended by the Planning Commission.

Commissioner Cegelski, I would like to refer to Mr. Urbano on this matter since it came up previously. Are you in agreement that it is o.k. to go ahead with this based on the fire department?

Mr. Urbano, yes, they agree with it. That is the discussion that I had with the Planning Commission that we get a letter from the adjoining property to make sure that they don't have a problem with the buffer. We have the letter signed by the Moon Run Fire Dept.

Chairman Abatta, I think she is also questioning you on the pipe?

Mr. Urbano, the pipe is going to be on private property and we have no maintenance involved in that.

Discussion to approve the Advance Auto request of a waiver regarding the five foot buffer on the west side of the subject based upon the request letter of Ron Cindrich dated June 12, 2013 and as recommended by the Planning Commission.

Discussion to approve the revised site plan for Advance Auto which includes the bufferyard waiver request, as recommended by the Planning Commission.

Mr. Urbano, this is because we approved it last month and we decided, Mr. Butya and myself to run it through the system again to re-approve it to make sure that they received the waivers. If they had not received them, it would have to go through the whole system again.

Discussion to adopt Ordinance No. 7 of 2013 approving an Intergovernmental Agreement with the Township of Kennedy for the use and maintenance of certain improvements contained in land of both Kennedy Township and Robinson Township known as Sir Henry's Haven Plan of Lots Land Development.

Discussion to accept the Audited Financial Statements for the year ended December 31, 2012 as presented by Mark C. Turnley, CPA

Discussion to accept the quote from Pyrotecnico of New Castle, PA to provide fireworks for the Autumn Festival for a total of \$3,500.00.

Discussion authorizing the scheduling of the September 2013 Regular Meeting of the Board of Commissioners for Monday, September 9, 2013 at 7:00 p.m.

Discussion authorizing the Township Manager to post the past minutes of the Board of Commissioners meetings on the Township web site.

Discussion to appoint Carol Merks as Township Secretary.

### **CITIZENS COMMENTS**

Ken Kisow, I am the Fire Chief of Robinson Township Fire Department No. 1. I have been Fire Chief for 25 years. I am here to discuss the sprinklers at Ventanna Hills. I did some research on it, but I also have firsthand experience up there. With some of the larger fires, I have been inside. We follow the BOCA Code and the Township bases everything on that Code for inspections, fire and all things related. In looking into it, I found it very unusual because NFPA very rarely works with the BOCA Code, but in NFPA No. 13 and 13-R, they actually accept the plastic pipe for fire sprinklers. It cannot be on a wall, it has to be behind a barrier. Basically, NFPA supports it and there is not much to it, it works. I spoke with the Allegheny County Fire Marshal's office as well and they said under no circumstances on any fires that they have investigated there did the fire sprinkler system not work. It worked every time, except for the last one.

Chairman Abatta, I just wanted to answer a question that was eluded to last month, the heads themselves are not plastic?

Chief Kisow, the heads themselves are not plastic. Basically the pipe starts out as steel at 6 inches in the basement and works its way up to 4 to 3 to 2 and then on the little feeders in the rooms they run plastic, but it is behind the drywall and it is accepted and proven. As I said, when we noticed that the NFPA actually agrees with BOCA, that is pretty rare. Those two typically don't come together on anything. The fire marshal looked and they could not find anything that said there was a fire sprinkler failure in any of the fires. On March 2<sup>nd</sup> there was a hot water tank fire and the sprinklers actually put that out before they got there. I have been in a couple of the larger fires in the units and they practically drown you while you are in there. We have to run to shut them off. The last fire in April was an outside fire, went to the roof and burned down. Sprinklers don't work that way. They don't work when the fire is on the outside wall. They went into the attic. What saved up there is that they have great fire stops. They have the 1 inch fire stops. I don't know if you noticed the building when it burnt, you saw large gray walls. That was all the drywall and fire stops. There are not sprinklers in the attics. That is not mandatory, but it would have helped.

Vice-Chairman Forquer, what started the fire?

Chief Kisow, supposedly there were cigarettes or something on the one porch of the one unit and it caught the vegetation, went up the vinyl, into the ceiling and into the attic two or three stories above and then the fire burned down. It was a very rare fire. The sprinklers never really had a chance in that fire. The ones where the lighting hit and we were in there, the sprinklers actually worked because it was an internal fire within the room. As for the plastic, it is just code. I see a lot of nursing homes being built and they are running plastic on the last runs.

Chairman Abatta, so it is all to code. Nothing was done illegally?

Chief Kisow, as I said, NFPA 13 and NFPA 13R actually conjoin and work with BOCA. They have the same findings.

### **FINANCE UPDATE**

Vice-Chairman Forquer, the balance in the general fund account as of July 1<sup>st</sup> was \$4,696,612.00. The market value of the police pension fund as of the close of business day on Friday, June 28<sup>th</sup> was \$11,368,782. That is down from the May 31<sup>st</sup> report, which was \$11,600,168.00. The police pension fund is funded every year by the Township and the State. A good portion of this is in stocks and bonds funds, so the balance is subject to market volatility. Real estate taxes collected for June were \$2,335,990. This brings the year to date total to \$3,946,565. The process of resolving property tax appeals continues and will likely extend into next year. Earned income tax collected for June was \$139,428 and year to date was \$1,667,451. That is the highest amount that we have seen collected by the end of June going back to 2012, which was \$1,369,000. LST collected in June was \$61,438. The year to date collected was \$707,183. The budget for the year was \$900,000. We are doing quite well. The real estate delinquent taxes collected by Jordan year to date is \$42,288.28. The budget for the year is \$100,000. Real estate transfers for June were \$27,223 and year to date \$220,073. The budgeted transfers for the year are \$190,000. That concludes my report.

### **BUILDING INSPECTOR/ZONING OFFICER REPORT**

The June, 2013 Building Inspection Report is attached.

MOTION Cegelski, SECOND Forquer to approve the June 3, 2013 Board of Commission Meeting Minutes

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

MOTION Forquer, SECOND Mapel to approve the June, 2013 Treasurer's Report.

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

MOTION Forquer, SECOND Cegelski to approve the June, 2013 List of Bills.

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

MOTION Mapel, SECOND Forquer to approve the Advance Auto request for a waiver from concrete pipe to HDPE, per request letter from Ron Cindrich dated June 12, 2013 and as recommended by the Planning Commission.

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

MOTION Forquer, SECOND Mapel to approve the Advance Auto request of a waiver regarding the five foot buffer on the west side of the subject based upon the request letter of Ron Cindrich dated June 12, 2013 and as recommended by the Planning Commission

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

M/C 4-0.

MOTION Mapel, SECOND Forquer to approve the revised site plan for Advance Auto which includes the bufferyard waiver request as recommended by the Planning Commission.

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

M/C 4-0.

MOTION Mapel, SECOND Forquer to adopt Ordinance No. 7 of 2013 approving an Intergovernmental Agreement with the Township of Kennedy for the use and maintenance of certain improvements contained in land of both Kennedy Township and Robinson Township known as Sir Henry's Haven Plan of Lots Land Development contingent upon Kennedy Township adopting a similar Township Ordinance and delivering an executed agreement to Robinson Township.

Commissioner Mapel, I would just like to make the distinction here that this Motion is a separate issue from the use variance appeal, which is still pending.

Chairman Abatta, is everyone aware of that? This is for the agreement.

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

M/C 4-0.

MOTION Cegelski SECOND Forquer to approve Resolution No. 9 of 2013 authorizing the entry into a first amendment to the Lease Agreement with the Robinson Township Board of Library Directors for a portion of the Township Municipal Building.

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

M/C 4-0.

MOTION Forquer, SECOND Cegelski to accept the Audited financial Statements for the year ended December 31, 2012 as presented by Mark C. Turnley, CPA

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

M/C 4-0.

MOTION Forquer, SECOND Cegelski to accept the quote from Pyrotecnico of New Castle, PA to provide fireworks for the Autumn Festival for a total of \$3,500.00.

Commissioner Mapel, I am going to comment on this subject in my Commissioners comments for clarification of a comment that I made several months back when we approved funding for the 4<sup>th</sup> of July.

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

MOTION Forquer, SECOND Cegelski to authorize the scheduling of the September 2013 Regular Meeting of the Board of Commissioners for September 9, 2013 at 7:00 p.m.

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

MOTION Cegelski, SECOND Forquer to authorize the Township Manager to post the past minutes of the Board of Commissioners' meetings on the Township website.

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

MOTION Forquer SECOND Cegelski to appoint Carol Merks as Township Secretary

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

MOTION Forquer, SECOND Mapel to remove Anthony Giglio, Esq. of Andrews & Price as the special attorney for Tax Increment financing litigation and Stafford Park litigation. The firm of Bruce Dice & Associates will attend to further litigation concerning these matters.

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

### **COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS**

**Commissioner Cegelski**, this evening I would just like the residents of Robinson Township to know a little bit more about the Char-West Council of Governments that Robinson belongs to. We are one of 18 municipalities and there are many benefits that we derive from this particular group. I attended the June 20<sup>th</sup> meeting and I would like to say that I was very proud to be from Robinson because there were things that we were given a lot of credit for that night. I would like to bring that to your attention. First of all, Mr. Meyer, you can certainly give us any additional information that you would like. In regards to the community development grant program which Mr. Meyer had talked about previously, that is a development block grant program. It is a federally funded program by HUD and the program is in its 39<sup>th</sup> year. For Robinson right now, the grant that we received for the year, the application that we made and received was for the ADA restrooms in the municipal building. Because of our cooperation with the Char-West Group, \$24,060 is coming to us in a grant to be able to do that work. Because of our membership there, we do get many benefits.

Also, we have put in a pre-application for the ADA restrooms at the municipal building Phase II, which is \$12,030. Those grants really do help us out as far as things we need to do in the Township.

The other thing that I would like to compliment Mr. Meyer on, your name came up that evening for the assistance that you are giving with the Airport property and you were named as being very pivotal in making sure that it happens with the training facility there. Thank you for working on that and it was nice to hear your name mentioned.

Engineer Meyer responded, that is for the police training and Chief Vietmeier was involved in it as well. This allows them to have a building that they can go in and do a training exercise. We had volunteered our design services and some other people were looking to volunteer some of the material. It is a win-win for everyone.

Commissioner Cegelski, also Chief Vietmeier, in addition to the fashion show getting a lot of attention, Sgt. Hamilton was recognized from Robinson Township as being part of the training program. He was recognized as being very fundamental in the training. If you could please tell him that his name was mentioned as well and that we appreciate his efforts for the training that he provides.

The other important thing that occurred that evening, at the meeting there was a motion to formally recognize the Char-West Fire Chief's Association. It was considered by 18 municipalities and it passed with a vote of 18-0. It was unanimous. One of the things that needed to be done is that the Solicitors had to do a memorandum of understanding and it was very clear that the motion would recognize the chiefs and that they will be separate and apart from the COG. A second motion was entertained and also passed unanimously and that was to have a bank account formed for the fire chiefs. This is very similar to what goes on with the police department. The monies that will go in there will be used for any type of training that they can use and also any kind of purchasing power that will give them as a group. I wanted the residents to also know that currently the Moon Run Fire Department is the department listed as being part of that particular group, however it is open and they will entertain others to come on board as time permits.

All in all, I have to tell you that I really think that our participation in the COG does help. As far as salt per ton, it is \$57.52 because of our membership there. For those on the Board here, if you did not already know, George Scarborough is retiring his services. He has done a remarkable job. Janet Snak will be stepping in. He was honored that evening as well.

I hope that everyone has a safe and enjoyable 4<sup>th</sup> of July.

**Commissioner Mapel**, I just have a few short thoughts this evening. I wanted to go back and reiterate comments that I made when I voted to allocate funds for fireworks for our July 4<sup>th</sup> celebration and the word that I used was “regretfully”. I don’t want people to get the wrong impression. I am not a person that would impose a hardship or discourage somebody from having an enjoyable safe time. One of the things that I am concerned about always as public safety Commissioner, is the safety of our residents. One of the things that we tend to forget, and in the next couple of days you are going to hear an awful lot of fireworks going off that have nothing to do with sanctioned, permitted, lawful use. You will hear them coming from yards, streets, etc. There are a lot of hazards that I think people just simply forget. If you have ever seen a person injured with fireworks, you have an understanding. There are ways to make this lawful. You can secure a permit. I think there are certain criteria that you have to provide. We certainly would not send our children out in the woods without a hunter safety course and you don’t want to put explosives in the hands of people who do not know what they are doing, yet people do it. We find lots of ways that people can injure themselves and adjacent pieces of property. In the process, one of the things that we forget about is that fireworks can cause fires. We have had a lot of rain here lately so therefore the likelihood of that happening is probably less than it would normally be, but it is better to let that be in the hands of professionals. It is unfortunate for us that we have to spend thousands of dollars to provide that type of entertainment in a safe environment, and people will go out and do more of what they should not do and hurt themselves on other people’s property. For clarification purposes, I just wanted everybody to know what I was referring to. With that said, there is one thing that I would like to say here this evening about our Planning Director. He is celebrating his birthday with us tonight. I know that Mr. Urbano and my brother graduated from high school together in 1961, so you can do the math. At 70 years of age, Mr. Urbano has spent almost half of his life in public service to this Township. I think often times we forget as we pay tribute to those people who pass, that there are still those with us who contribute a great deal to our community and our Township. I thank you very much. I have had a delightful experience working with you over these past couple of years and I appreciate all your work. Happy birthday to you.

Mr. Urbano, thank you and I appreciate working for all of our Township residents. I am in my 33<sup>rd</sup> year on the Planning Commission and I have been the Chairman going on 20 years. I have had a good experience and learned a lot and hopefully I was able to help the developers and the residents of the Township. I enjoy doing it and I thank you for the opportunity.

Commissioner Mapel, with public service and dedication in mind, I think we would be remiss not to remember the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Gettysburg, which we celebrate over the next few days. Sometimes we forget that over 50,000 human lives were lost about 3 hours east of here. I never had the experience until about 3 or 4 years ago when I took my girls out to see the Gettysburg battlefield and it was quite an experience. If you have not all had that experience, I would encourage you to do so. It puts things in perspective for people who have been willing to make the ultimate sacrifice. What that said, I would hope that everyone is able to enjoy a happy and safe July 4<sup>th</sup>. If you want to go see fireworks and do it safely, we should have that for you. Please be considerate of other peoples property, your own health and the health of others.

**kVice-Chairman Forquer**, the last four days my brother-in-law and his wife stayed and visited with us. He is from Alabama. He was a colonel in the United States Air Force and used to fly B-52's and various other planes. He flew a lot of bomb runs in Vietnam. What I found out is, when you are riding around in a car with an Air Force pilot, he is always giving you directions. I did not get a lot of sleep so I have a very short report tonight. I just want to wish everyone a great Independence Day holiday. Good evening everyone and God Bless America.

Chairman Abatta, I also am going to be very short. I would cordially invite everyone to our fireworks display at Burkett Park on Thursday. Fireworks begin at dusk. Please follow us on our website for any other activities that will be happening from the Parks & Recreation Board.

MOTION Forquer, SECOND Cegelski to adjourn the meeting.

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

M/C 4-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Merks  
Township Secretary

