

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2013

CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Samuel Abatta called the regular meeting of September 9, 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-Present, 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.

TOWNSHIP ENGINEER'S REPORT

Township Engineer's Report dated September 9, 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 awaiting a cost estimate from Duquesne Light and this should be received within the week.

Chairman Abatta requested that upon receipt of the figures that they be given to Mgr. Silka so that he may forward them to the Board.

CDBG Year 39 for the renovation of the 2nd floor bathroom to ADA compliance, this item is on the agenda this evening. There is a motion for the award of a bid to KJ Johnson in the amount of \$9,363.00. This is for the replacement of the bathroom and is a COG CDBG grant.

CDBG Year 40, the final application for the remaining 2nd floor bathroom has been submitted and they are waiting on direction from the COG.

2013 Road Program, the contractor has done work on the projects. All of the micro-surfacing work has been completed. They will be doing the paving and reconstruction work sometime later this month. Public Works is also doing some of the work with this so they are getting ahead of it so that they can use the base repair, which allows the contractor to come in and just do the top paving at a much lower cost.

Developmental Inspection:

Sir Henry's Haven - the contractor has not started work on the project.

Advance Auto - the developer has started work on the project.

Stafford Park Phase I - the developer has requested a bond reduction on September 4th. A recommendation will be made for the October 7th meeting.

Grace Manor - we are recommending that the bond be reduced from its current amount of \$187,206.25 to \$101,234.10. Included in that is the waiver of some of the bufferyard that was discussed at last month's meeting.

Developmental Review:

Hampton Inn at Settlers – the review has been completed. The Planning Commission has recommended approval contingent upon the Developer's Agreement being finalized.
Grace Manor Plan No. 2 Amended Lot 2 – the review has been completed for the lot line adjustment. The Planning Commission has recommended approval.
Zombeck Consolidation Plan – the review has been completed for the lot consolidation. The Planning Commission has recommended approval.

ACTA PCTI Project Park Manor Boulevard – Lynn Manion (ACTA) has been trying to schedule a meeting with PennDOT. Right now it is tentatively scheduled for Thursday or Friday.

PARKS REPORT

Jane Tallon, Parks & Recreation Chairperson updated the Board and residents of the various activities scheduled for the Autumn Festival on Saturday. She thanked the vendors, staff, public works department and volunteers for all of their support. Ms. Tallon also thanked the community, who supports the festival each year and those who have made donations, such as Jim Dinardo (Suburban Gazette). The Suburban Gazette teamed up with Jim Crivelli Chevrolet and they are providing the festival with a full page advertisement, which will run this Wednesday. The Allegheny West Magazine and Robinson Life also provided advertisements as well. A special thanks to the Parkway West Rotary Club, who have been sponsoring golf outings every year to raise money to buy a second stage for the Township. There are a lot of financial contributors as well.

Chairman Abatta, we would like to recognize the contributors for the 2013 Festival. They are as follows: Advertisement: Suburban Gazette, Jim Crivelli Chevrolet, Allegheny West Magazine and the Robinson Life Magazine. Special thanks to the Parkway West Rotary Club for raising money to buy us a second stage. The gold level sponsorships for our Autumn Festival this year for \$1,000 and up are as follows: Plans Examiners, Inc., NIRA Consulting Engineers, The Mall at Robinson, James L. Smith Insurance and Remington Vernick & Beach. The silver level sponsors who contributed an amount of \$500 and up are: The Sampson Morris Group, The Meritage Group, First National Bank, PNC Bank, and Waste Management. Bronze Level sponsors this year of \$100.00 and up: Congressman Mike Doyle, M.A. Dunn Construction, Vista Business Park, Parkway West Business Park, Samdoz, Traffic Systems, Inc., Piper Jaffrey, Comcast and Lamar. A special thanks goes to Embroidery Pittsburgh as well.

Chairman Abatta, as I have said before, Ms. Tallon and the Parks Board, do a fantastic job for us year after year. I am excited to see what is going to happen on Saturday. I am sure that we will have beautiful weather and I hope that everyone attends.

POLICE REPORT

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

Commissioner Mapel, is there any reason for us to believe that there could be a connection between these last issues (bomb scares) at the mall? Am I correct that we have had two now in the last year?

Chief Vietmeier, in the last six months, we have had two at the mall. There is no reason to believe in any connection. The latest one on Sunday was a little different from the other ones. This one had a specific time that it was going to go off, etc. When we had the last one, it went through eight sets of hands before it was turned over to us. Nobody touched this one, so it is actually going to the crime lab tomorrow. Hopefully we can get a match off of it. The one at the Cinemark, an arrest was already made on that one.

Vice-Chairman Forquer, how long was the mall closed for that?

Chief Vietmeier, it was only 1/2 hour to 45 minutes. The parking lot was not cleared, but they moved people back a distance. It is very frustrating to mall officials and us as well.

ADMINISTRATION UPDATE (Report Attached)

Mgr. Silka spoke on the following issues:

Keiners Lane Update – I am happy to say that the pipe has been laid and all of the major work is done. We just have some field dressing to do up in that area. The water is now being diverted from the yards into a drainage channel.

Email/Technology Upgrade – I am happy to report that it is in all essence completed. We are now operating on the Microsoft 365 server. I will share this with the Board, whenever you try to retro-fit an old building or systems, you find nooks and crannies of things that need to be addressed. We found out that we have three old computers that are still running XP and versions of Windows 2004, which cannot be upgraded without significant cost. We purchased one new computer system because it is actually cheaper to buy a computer than it is to buy the licenses to upgrade the older products. There was one mission critical in the Planning Department that we had to upgrade. The tax office and the accounts payable system will be addressed as well in the 2014 budget. Our email and server are both up and currently we are running pretty well and it should be beneficial going forward.

Township Facebook Page – in communication, Facebook is probably one of the main areas of communication that is out there. It used to be newsletters and now we are looking at Facebook and instantaneous messaging. What I would like to do is create a Township Facebook page. I found out how beneficial they are when I was on the eastern coast when superstorm Sandy came in. You were not getting your information from the news. It was on the handhelds and getting information from both the government sites and some of the businesses. I really feel that to bring the Township forward in the current information age, a Facebook page would be very beneficial for us to have. I spoke with Jane Tallon about that and she is quite happy because she can do live updates. The administration, parks board, police department would all have rights.

Proposed 2014 Budget Schedule – the planning process for the 2014 budget will begin. I will be holding meetings with our finance officer and the department heads to start formulating the internal numbers for the proposed 2014 budget and work with the Board of Commissioners so we can have the proposed budget on the table for the November meeting at the latest.

Elevator Inspection – we have a three year safety inspection of our elevator that will be coming up. We need to bring an elevator maintenance technician, an independent inspector and someone from the Township to test the hydraulics of the elevator. If don't do this inspection, our elevator will be sealed by the Department of Labor and Industry until we do it. That is non-negotiable.

Winter Maintenance Agreements – we will be sending out the letters to our private roads that we do maintenance agreements with as we go off of PennDOT's per mile fee. The fee will be \$1,567.13 per mile for this year, which is PennDOT's revised fee for 2014.

Chairman Abatta, I am going to ask Mgr. Silka to give the Solicitor's Report as well.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

The Solicitor Report dated September 9, 2013 is attached to the Minutes.

Lamar –there was an Evidentiary Hearing on August 17, 2013 before Judge James. At that time, a possible settlement offer and negotiations were discussed. That is awaiting finalization in the near future.

Lang Conditional Use Approval – this was consolidated into the Lamar case, so they are now one case.

Duckstein – Use Variance Appeal – all appeals have been withdrawn.

Real Estate Tax Appeals - on August 8, 2013, a Conciliation Conference took place on the tax assessment appeals for both JC Penney and Ikea. Attorney Bert Goodman appeared for the property owners. The appeals as they relate to the TIF District, and the need for the input of the Redevelopment Authority were discussed. The Conciliation was continued.

Marie Jurena – the Solicitor’s office has been working with Code Enforcement Officer Greg Cuthbert and Mgr. Silka on this matter. A hearing is scheduled before the District Magistrate on various code violations for October 7, 2013. A lien against her property is being prepared for the balance of her account with Waste Management.

Stafford Park, Phase II – there have been a number of meetings to iron out issues on the deemed preliminary approval and the installation of public improvements. We have received a list of “material changes” from the Township Engineer regarding the preliminary plan and what has been termed a final plan by the developer. The Developer’s Agreement has been redrafted and subsequently revised and is ready for signature from the Developer.

TIF Issues – we have participated in meetings regarding resolution of outstanding TIF issues, including setting an end date. We are waiting from a potential settlement agreement, which hopefully will resolve all outstanding issues.

THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS CONDUCTED AN EXECUTIVE SESSION ON SEPTEMBER 9, 2013 FROM 6:00 P.M. TO 7:10 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 August 5, 2013 Board of Commissioner Meeting Minutes.

Discussion to approve the August 5, 2013 Treasurer’s Report.

Discussion to approve the August, 2013 List of Bills.

NEW BUSINESS

Discussion to approve the Zombeck Consolidation Plan contingent upon compliance with the Township Engineer review letter dated August 12, 2013 as recommended by the Planning Commission.

Discussion to approve the Grace Manor Plan #2 – Amended Lot 2 as recommended by the Planning Commission.

Discussion to approve the amended Site Plan for the Hampton Inn – Settler’s Ridge as recommended by the Planning Commission.

Discussion to approve the Development Agreement with Coventry Park, LLC for Stafford Park, Phase 2.

Discussion to approve the bid received at the Char-West COG for CD Year 29 7.5 ADA Restroom Renovations at the Robinson Township municipal building by the low bidder, K.J. Johnson, Ltd., in the amount of \$9,363.00.

Discussion to approve Resolution No. 10 of 2013 establishing the 2014 Minimum Obligation for the Non-Uniformed Employees Pension Plan in the amount of \$251,056.00.

Discussion to approve Resolution No. 11 of 2013 establishing the 2014 Municipal Obligation for the Police Pension Plan in the amount of \$642,177.

Discussion to approve Resolution No. 12 of 2013 adopting a revision to the official sewage facilities plan and submitting to the Department of Environmental Protection for its approval for the upgrade of the Petrie Road pump station.

Discussion to approve Resolution No. 13 of 2013 recognizing the Forest Grove Sportsmen Association as a civic and/or service association under the local options small games of chance act, as amended.

Discussion to appoint the Township Manager as the Recycling Coordinator for Robinson Township.

Discussion to authorize the Township Manager to submit a letter to the Department of Environmental Protection requesting the renewal of the Household Hazardous Waste Collection Program for a one year term from January 1, 2014 to December 31, 2014 under the same conditions.

Discussion to reduce bond #82061250 for the Grace Manor Plan of Lots from \$187,206.25 to \$101,234.10 as recommended by the Township Engineer.

CITIZENS COMMENTS

No comments.

FINANCE UPDATE

Vice-Chairman Forquer, the balance in the general fund accounts of this morning was \$4,383,331.00. The market value of the police pension fund as of this morning, September 9th was \$11,527,297. That is down from the August 2nd report which was \$11,743,543. With the deposit of \$642,177.00, the market value will increase to \$12,169,474 when the transfer is made into the account. The police pension fund is funded every year by the Township, the State and the police. A good portion of this is in stocks and bonds funds, so the balance is subject to market volatility. Real estate taxes collected for August were \$57,039. 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. Earned income tax collected for July was \$516,878 and year to date was \$2,297,285. This is the highest amount that we have seen collected by the end of August, going back to 2012. The total then was \$1,989,000. LST collected in July was \$189,241. The year to date collected was \$673,359 and the budget for the year is \$900,000. Real estate

delinquent taxes collected by Jordan to date is \$57,873 and the budget for the year is \$100,000. Real estate transfers for July were \$27,379.00 and year to date were \$274,318.00. The budgeted transfers for the year are \$190,000 so we are doing very well here. That concludes my report.

BUILDING INSPECTOR/ZONING OFFICER REPORT

The August, 2013 Building Inspection Report is attached.

MEETING MOTIONS

MOTION Forquer, SECOND Shiwarski to approve the August 5, 2013 Board of Commissioners Meeting Minutes.

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

MOTION Forquer, SECOND Shiwarski to approve the August, 2013 Treasurer's Report

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

MOTION Forquer, SECOND Shiwarski to approve the August 2013 List of Bills.

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

MOTION Shiwarski, SECOND Forquer to approve the Zombeck Consolidation Plan contingent upon compliance with the Township Engineer review letter dated August 12, 2013 as recommended by the Planning Commission.

MOTION Shiwarski, SECOND Forquer to approve the Grace Manor Plan #2 – Amended Lot 2 as recommended by the Planning Commission.

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

MOTION Forquer, SECOND Shiwarski to approve the amended site plan for the Hampton Inn – Settler's Ridge as recommended by the Planning Commission.

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

MOTION Abatta, SECOND Shiwarski to approve the Development Agreement with Coventry Park, LLC for Stafford Park, Phase 2.

Engineer Meyer, I do have one question. In the Developer's Agreement it states that the plans were prepared by Eco Lands Solutions dated June 17, 2013 that have been judiciously approved. Those plans that were approved were the November 14, 2007 plans that were prepared by Robert Stevens.

Chairman Abatta, is that a mistake on the date? How does it alter the plans in of itself?

Engineer Meyer, those are the plans that are approved. The plans that are noted there have not been approved.

Mr. Urbano, that is correct. We do not even have an application for the Phase II .

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

MOTION Cegelski, SECOND Shiwarski to approve the bid received at the Char-West COG for CD Year 39 7.5 ADA Restroom Renovations at the Robinson Township municipal building by the low bidder, K.J. Johnson, Ltd., in the amount of \$9,363.00
ROLL CALL: Cegelski-Y, Mapel-Y, Shiwarski-Y, Forquer-Y, Abatta-Y

MOTION Forquer, SECOND Shiwarski to approve Resolution No. 10 of 2013 establishing the 2014 Minimum Municipal Obligation for the Non-Uniformed Employees Pension Plan in the amount of \$251,056.00.
ROLL CALL: Cegelski-Y, Mapel-Y, Shiwarski-Y, Forquer-Y, Abatta-Y

MOTION Forquer, SECOND Cegelski to approve Resolution No. 11 of 2013 establishing the 2014 Municipal Obligation for the Police Pension Plan in the amount of \$642,177.00.
ROLL CALL: Cegelski-Y, Mapel-Y, Shiwarski-Y, Forquer-Y, Abatta-Y

MOTION Shiwarski, SECOND Forquer to approve Resolution No. 12 of 2013 adopting a revision to the official sewage facilities plan and submitting to the Department of Environmental Protection for its approval for the upgrade of the Petrie Road pump station.
ROLL CALL: Cegelski-Y, Mapel-Y, Shiwarski-Y, Forquer-Y, Abatta-Y

MOTION Shiwarski, SECOND Forquer to approve Resolution No. 13 of 2013 recognizing the Forest Grove Sportsmen Association as a civic and/or service association under the local options small games of chance act, as amended.
ROLL CALL: Cegelski-Y, Mapel-Y, Shiwarski-Y, Forquer-Y, Abatta-Y

MOTION Cegelski, SECOND Forquer to appoint the Township Manager as the Recycling Coordinator for Robinson Township.
ROLL CALL: Cegelski-Y, Mapel-Y, Shiwarski-Y, Forquer-Y, Abatta-Y

MOTION Shiwarski, SECOND Forquer to authorize the Township Manager to submit a letter to the Department of Environmental Protection requesting the renewal of the Household Hazardous Waste Collection Program for a one year term from January 1, 2014 to December 31, 2014 under the same conditions.
ROLL CALL: Cegelski-Y, Mapel-Y, Shiwarski-Y, Forquer-Y, Abatta-Y

Chairman Abatta, I have two additions to the agenda. I will read them in.

MOTION Forquer, SECOND Shiwarski to accept the resignation of Bruce Dice & Associates Law effective immediately.

Commissioner Mapel, since we did not talk about this in the earlier section of our meeting, after weeks of interviews, painful interviews to move forward with the selection of a solicitor, I think this is not only premature but it is irresponsible. I did not learn about this decision until about one hour ago. Apparently, the majority of this Board knew about this before this evening. I do not think this is a decision that we should take lightly, and certainly not without some background on the issues of this significance. I do not even have a confirmation on whom the replacement is going to be on the interim basis, except thru hearsay. I am just very disappointed that we are rushing into a decision like this without even giving it the due diligence that it deserves.

Commissioner Cegelski, I have a comment also Mr. Abatta. I am going to also go on record saying that I had no idea as well so that you that when my vote comes, it is because I had to make a decision in executive session based on the information that I received, which I think is certainly less than professional for this Township and what it deserves. I will vote, because they resigned and I will accept their resignation with regret, but I too knew nothing about it prior to the meeting tonight.

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

MOTION Forquer, SECOND Shiwarski to retain the services of Mr. John Butya as legal counsel on an interim basis.
ROLL CALL: Cegelski-Y, Mapel-Y, Shiwarski-Y, Forquer-Y, Abatta-Y
M/C 5-0

MOTION Forquer, SECOND Shiwarski to reduce bond #82061250 for the Grace Manor Plan of Lots from \$187,206.25 to \$101,234.10 as recommended by the Township Engineer.
ROLL CALL: Cegelski-Y, Mapel-Y, Shiwarski-Y, Forquer-Y, Abatta-Y

COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS

Commissioner Cegelski, I am happy to report to the residents that the planned renovations to the upstairs programming space in our Robinson Library are proceeding as follows: They are replacing the ceiling tiles, a temporary wall is having drywall installation, they are installing a door, walls are being painted and there is also new carpeting. Due to the renovations there is a limited amount of programming that normally occurs in the space upstairs that is being offered in the space downstairs. Upon completion of the work, they are planning to have a nice open house for the

Commissioners and the public to attend. That is great news for the residents. They will have a nice space to enjoy. They do terrific programming for us in the Township. Also, if you go on their website, they will outline the September program schedule for children and adults.

I look forward to seeing everyone at the Township's Autumn Festival on Saturday. I know that a great deal of work goes into that and I am certainly appreciable of everybody that has participated. Hopefully the weather will be nice for us.

Commissioner Maple, I had a couple of things this evening and I will be brief. If anybody has been driving on Clever Road recently, you will see not one but two excavation sites that are underway. The one that I am referring to now is the site near the Montour High School. I am grateful to be able to say that some of the things that we were told would probably not happen, certainly during my term, are underway. I am referring to the access road that we so critically need there. It is in fact moving forward and I think we can be very pleased that Montour School District has decided to cooperate with us and do the right thing. I also want to thank Chief Vietmeier. I have had a number of complaints over the last several weeks. If you noticed down at the location near the YMCA on Montour Run Road, we have had what appears to be a growing used car lot there. I have been taking a number of phone calls from people who are not only complaining about it, but they have been concerned about the fact that it is deterring people's attention away from driving and creating a safety issue there. Along with the road department, Chief Vietmeier was on top of it and put some no parking signs up. I guess it was Joe Bonkowski who took the initiative to take care of that and very quickly the cars disappeared. That is also a problematic intersection from a safety perspective. I believe there is a light planned for that area at some point in the future. Is that correct Mr. Urbano?

Mr. Urbano, it has been proposed for the past three years for that area. It is a very serious intersection.

Commissioner Mapel, it also "junks" up the neighborhood for the lack of a better word. I don't think it is something that we should be allowing to go on. I appreciate the fact that people have paid attention to that and we were able to get something done.

The last thing that I would like to mention, and I wanted to wait until after the tennis season was over because I didn't want anybody to think that because my daughter plays on Montour's tennis team, that I had a personal interest in this, although I do. I think it is important that I address something that has been on my mind since last year. It is a shame that as we are expending tax dollars on a new campus for Montour, we are going to be upwards of \$100 million investment. Along with this money spent to facilitate new gymnasiums, new high renovation projects and new stadiums, we don't even have a tennis court for our tennis team. I had an interesting discussion with a mother who had driven here to watch her daughter play. She made it here for the last three points because she could not find it since she was looking at the high school of all places. We don't have tennis courts at the high school. We have to play at Clever Park. As I was watching the other day, I could not understand why the ball was doing what it was doing until I saw the crack on the surface of the tennis courts. Another time I could have sworn there

was a point, but no, the ball went through the net because there was a big tear in the net. I was thinking to myself, not only do we not have tennis courts for our tennis team, but they have to play on a court that is in such disrepair. I do believe that we have some funds available for the necessary repairs and I may want to defer to my colleague, Mr. Shiwarski here. Do we have funds available in our public works budget to make those repairs?

Commissioner Shiwarski, we would have to look at it. You have caught me off-guard a little bit here.

Commissioner Mapel, is that something that we can look into?

Commissioner Shiwarski, I am sure. I echo your sentiments. My daughters played on the tennis team also and that has been a problem for a number of years. The quantity of the courts is so much lower than the other schools. If you are picking up your child, you have to stay much longer. That is something that I am familiar with. I am sure we can look into our Parks & Recreation, as well as public works as a facility, not only for the school but for any resident who wants to play.

Commissioner Mapel, certainly as a short term solution, we don't know if there are going to be any plans implemented moving forward at the high school to accommodate the tennis team, as we have with the basketball, swimming, baseball and football programs. I would like to think that if we are going to sanction organized sports programs that we should adequately fund and staff them with facilities that are at least commiserative of the community that we live in and pay taxes to. With that said, maybe we have an idea of something that we can pursue on a short term basis and then possibly appeal to the school district to see if they have any plans to include that for the future. I hope that everyone had a good summer and is back to work mode.

Commissioner Shiwarski, I really do not have any comments today, but I just want to mention something. Through work a few weeks ago, I had an opportunity to go down to Atlanta for a convention. George Bush II was supposed to be the speaker. I was looking forward to that and it was right when he had the stent issue with his heart. A last minute fill-in in for a town hall setting was Secretary Rice. I just have to say "wow". I just wanted to go on record and say, "what an intelligent, smart, articulate, person that was".

Vice-Chairman Forquer, many of you know that I am a volunteer with the Montour Trail and I volunteer for events and serve as the Director of Security. The Montour Trail is actually a linear park and if you have calculated the actual total of acreage of the right of ways and properties, it is one of the largest parks in Allegheny County and Washington County. The trail is a greenway and is reserved for wildlife. It provides our children with a place to get up close and personal with nature, while winding through the suburban areas. It provides a country atmosphere within minutes of our suburban areas. Every time that I am on the trail it reminds me of when I was a young man and I spent my summers on my grandfather's farm. I had my chores to do, but still had time to bike seven miles from the farm to a tree lined dirt road along the Shenango River to go fishing. In many ways, my rides on the Montour Trail remind me of those rides when I

was a young man. I hope that the legacy of the Montour Trail will be that young people who are enjoying their time on the trail now, will have the same fond memories and do the same thing when they get older and they will have their children and grandchildren to bring them down to the trail as well. The legacy of the trail will be passed on.

On Saturday, September 7th, the UMPC Montour Trail half marathon and 5K run and walk was held. It started at the mall and wound down onto the Trail. My thanks to the Robinson Township Police Department and REMS for their help. I would also like to thank Moon Township, North Fayette Twp. and Findlay for their assistance with traffic control. We also had Valley and Northwest EMS providing services. Mike Nemecek from REMS was our coordinator for EMS. The road crew also helped us by providing barricades. The Montour Trail is an all volunteer organization and the event provides funds for the maintenance of the trail. If some people are watching our broadcast and attended the event, I thank them for their support. I also want to personally thank Chief Vietmeier and his officers. Generally they help out for about 30 minutes until we get the race started and once the runners get on the trail it is pretty much Moon, North Fayette and Findlay that take over there.

Finally, after the last meeting I was informed by my wife that I forgot to say "God Bless America" after my Commissioner comments. Interestingly she received an email concerning the history of how the song came to be. It was 1940 and our citizens were depressed because of an economic turndown and the possibility of an impending war. A singer named Kate Smith, who was popular at that time on the radio, asked Irving Berlin to write a patriotic song to cheer up the population. The song was originally performed by Kate Smith on her radio show in 1938 and became very popular. Irving Berlin then set up the God Bless America Foundation that collects the proceeds from the song, which are then donated to the Boy Scouts and Girls Scouts of America. It is what we are about.

Another thing is, I think probably by the end of my term, the only one who is going to be talking to me is my wife. I have not been popular in some quarters here, but I am going to tell you one thing. I do what I think is right for this Township. I have been battling this TIF thing for a long time and I think we are in negotiations on this Peripheral Contract right now to try to resolve issues. I cannot jump tall buildings in a single bound, but I will do whatever I can and give it my best to make sure that before the end of my term, that contract is resolved.

Don't forget the Fall Festival on September 14th. Good evening and God Bless America.

Chairman Abatta, Ms. Tallon did speak about the Autumn Festival and I will just mention it again at the end of my comments.

If you have ever been to a Philadelphia Flyers game, Kate Smith sings before every game and the crowds adore it. The fans love it. It brings chills to you.

I just have a couple of passing comments that I would like to make. I was notified in August of the passing of a very dear friend and a very loyal servant from Robinson Twp. The gentleman's name was Elmer Hoff. His daughter Nancy notified the Township

about his passing. If any of you knew Elmer, he was a great guy. He was staunch in his beliefs and he worked as hard as he possibly could. When I first came on to the Zoning Hearing Board, I had the good fortune of working with Elmer and some other individuals. Before his passing, he was the longest living member of the Pitt band. He always talked about that. He had an engineering degree. He was very well liked in the Township and the community and he always had something to say. He was buried at the Bethel Cemetery with full military honors. I have been on this Board for quite some time. I actually started on the Zoning Hearing and my years of service to the Township right now is in the double digits. The point that I am trying to make is that some of our founding fathers, the Hoffs, the Blumlings, the Postufka's, the Vietmeier's, Marks', Esposito, Kisow, Winning, Tallons, just to name a few, are the people that I try to model myself after. When Robinson Twp. was a farm community, these people had the where with all to institute specific laws and ordinances and look for the advancement of Robinson Twp. Some of the decisions that they made may be a little bit out of date and we as a Board, are trying to follow through on all of the good decisions that all of these former Commissioners, Zoning Hearing Board members and Planning Commission members made to take us into the next century. As Jess said, I am up here to serve the residents and taxpayers of Robinson Township. If there are every any issues that I can basically help you with, you know that you can always get in touch with me, as so many people do all the time.

Lastly, as Ms. Tallon has mentioned, please come and support us on Saturday, September 14th at the Daniel P. Tallon Memorial Field for the Autumn Festival. I can guarantee that it will be a lovely day. I hope to see each and every one of you and your families there for quite a day and evening.

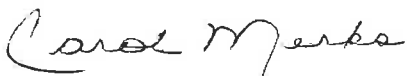
MOTION Forquer, SECOND Shiwarski to adjourn the meeting.

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

M/C 5-0.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Carol Merks
Secretary