

**TOWNSHIP OF NORTH HUNTINGDON, BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING, WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2009, 7:00 P.M.
11279 Center Highway, North Huntingdon. PA 15642
Presiding Officer – David E. Herold, President, Board of Commissioners**

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Herold called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M.

ROLL CALL

Commissioner Furlin	Absent
Commissioner Patter	Present
Commissioner Gray	Present
Commissioner Martino	Present
Commissioner Moffatt	Present
Commissioner Austin	Present
Commissioner Herold	Present

Also Present:
John M. Shepherd
Craig Alexander
Michael M. Turley
Chief Henaghan
Richard G. Albert
Andy Blenko
Dan Miller

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

OPENING PRAYER

Pastor Claude Sisler of the Norwin Nazarene Church gave the opening prayer.

CITIZENS' INPUT

Terri Dahlstrom, P.O. Box 161, Larimer: She has great respect for the Volunteer Fire Departments and they do a good job. During the last election, the Fire Department was passing out letters from one of the candidates using the fire trucks and taxpayer funds to campaign for a candidate which is now allowed.

John Bales, 12987 Wilderness Drive: He is there to call attention to the public and the Board that the Regional Recreation Committee will be having a public meeting to report on the results on the public survey sent out. The meeting will be on November 23 at the Town House. They need public input on the survey.

RESPONSE TO CITIZENS' INPUT

Terri Dahlstrom

Mr. Martino said that is not appropriate. He is the president of the Circleville Fire Department and he said he would talk to Mr. Sieber about it.

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Mr. Patter said Mr. Shepherd should also send a letter to reinforce that position.

Mr. Shepherd said that can be put in writing that it is a Township policy not to use Township vehicles except for official business.

Mr. Gray said they need a commitment from the Board that it is unacceptable to use Township assets in a political manner.

Motion: Mr. Gray I'll make a motion to send them a letter.
Second: Mr. Moffatt

Remarks

Mr. Austin said it is ironic an issue is being made now when six years ago a previous Fifth Ward Commissioner ran for an election and was supported by a Fire Department. They parked a Fire Truck in the Penns Woods area where they campaigned for him and no issue was made about then.

Mr. Gray said it was wrong then and why didn't he raise the issue then.

Motion Carried 6 – 0 – 0

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion: Mr. Moffatt I'll make a motion to approve. (Regular Meeting – 8/19/09)
Second: Mr. Martino

Motion Carried 6 – 0 – 0

Motion: Mr. Moffatt I'll make a motion to approve. (Special Meeting – 9/10/09)
Second: Mr. Martino

Motion Carried 6 – 0 – 0

Motion: Mr. Moffatt I'll make a motion to approve. (Public Hearing – 9/16/09)
Second: Mr. Austin

Motion Carried 6 – 0 – 0

Motion: Mr. Moffatt I'll make a motion to approve. (Regular Meeting – 9/16/09)
Second: Mr. Austin

Motion Carried 6 – 0 – 0

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TREASURER'S REPORT

Motion: Mr. Moffatt I'll make a motion to approve the October 2009 Treasurer's
Second: Mr. Patter Report.

Motion Carried 6 – 0 – 0

PAYMENT OF BILLS

Motion: Mr. Martino I'll make a motion we pay Voucher No. 58766 through Voucher
Second: Mr. Moffatt No. 58864.

Motion Carried 6 – 0 – 0

PUBLIC WORKS REPORT

Mr. Moffatt asked if any crack sealing was being done and if they get a list of the roads that are done.

Mr. Albert said they are doing the sealing now. He has put a list out in the past but many of the projects they are doing this year is catch up and the season is running short. The paving program is complete and he was very satisfied with the work this year. There are just a few items that they are coming back to complete and there should be final payment next month. They did very well with the budget this year.

Mr. Herold thanked the Public Works for all their hard work. He also thanked Mr. Albert, Lori Sinchar, Don Katic and all those who had anything to do with the Sgt. Weiger Memorial.

PARKS AND RECREATION REPORT

There were no Board comments.

POLICE REPORT

There were no Board comments.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT REPORT

There were no Board comments.

FIRE OFFICIAL'S REPORT

There were no Board comments.

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SUBDIVISION & LAND DEVELOPMENT APPLICATION REPORT

- 1) Action to adopt Resolution No. 147 of 2009, which approves S-14-2009, Harrison Boundary Line Revision, 12450 Route 30, C-1 Zoning.

Motion: Mr. Gray Motion to approve.
Second: Mr. Martino

Motion Carried 6 – 0 – 0

- 2) Action to deny Resolution No. 148 of 2009, SP-5-2009, Harrison Auto Sales Site Plan, 12450 Route 30, C-1 Zoning.

Mr. Blenko stated the reasons for denial are as follows: 1) Lack of storm water management for impervious areas that were added to the site per Ordinance No. 2011. 2) Sight lighting that does not conform to the Zoning Ordinance No. 765. 3) Lack of required screen for parking lot per Zoning Ordinance No. 765.

Motion: Mr. Gray Motion to approve denial.
Second: Mr. Moffatt

Motion Carried 5 – 1 – 0 (Mr. Herold)

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

- 1) Action to adopt Proposed Ordinance No. 7 of 2009, establishing 25-MPH Speed Limit on Schade Hill Road between Bickerstaff Road and Frog Road. If adopted, this would be Ordinance No. 2135.

Motion: Mr. Austin So move.
Second: Mr. Moffatt

Motion Carried 6 – 0 – 0

- 2) Action to adopt Proposed Ordinance No. 8 of 2009, designating 5-Ton Weight Limit on the entire length of School Street, School Hill Road, Shannon Drive and Shannon Drive Alley. If adopted, this would be Ordinance No. 2136.

Motion: Mr. Gray So move.
Second: Mr. Moffatt

Motion Carried 6 – 0 – 0

TOWNSHIP MANAGER'S REPORT

- 1) Action to approve the October check register.

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Motion: Mr. Moffatt I'll make a motion to approve.
Second: Mr. Austin

Motion Carried 6 – 0 – 0

2) Budget Report – October 2009.

There were no Board comments.

3) Hoffman's Boarding Kennels – contract renewal.

Mr. Shepherd said this is an annual contract with them and the Chief is satisfied with using Hoffman's. They have been using that firm for about six years.

Chief Daugherty said they had used a vendor out of Pittsburgh before but they couldn't provide the service that was necessary. Hoffman is good and takes care of the problems.

Mr. Gray said when an animal is picked up, does he scan for a microchip.

Chief Daugherty said Hoffman is running a system where he doesn't terminate the animals. He does work with an Animal Rights Group but in most cases the animal owners come forward.

Mr. Gray asked if he was able to scan the animals as he picked them up.

Chief Daugherty said he doesn't know but will find out if he does that service.

Mr. Herold asked for a motion to renew the contract with Hoffman's.

Motion: Mr. Gray So move.
Second: Mr. Austin

Motion Carried 6 – 0 – 0

4) Action to accept the resignation of Lori Sinchar from the Recreation Board.

Motion: Mr. Gray Motion to approve.
Second: Mr. Martino

Motion Carried 6 – 0 – 0

5) Action to accept the resignation of Lori Sinchar from the Norwin Area Regional Recreation Committee.

Motion: Mr. Martino I'll make that motion.
Second: Mr. Austin

Motion Carried 6 – 0 – 0

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Mr. Shepherd said the Board might want to consider an appointment for the Regional Recreation Committee.

Mr. Gray said they should talk with Roy Lenhart for suggestions.

Mr. Moffatt said the Committee did send an e-mail for Emily Angelczyk who is interested in that committee. She has come to many meetings and attended the bus trip to look at other recreation sites. He feels that is who John Bales would recommend.

Mr. Gray asked if there was reason not to fill the position tonight.

Motion: Mr. Gray I'll make a motion we appoint Emily Angelczyk to the Regional
Second: Mr. Moffatt Recreation Committee.

CITIZENS' INPUT

There was no Citizens' Input.

Motion Carried 6 – 0 – 0

- 6) Request of Hartley King related to the Sonic Drive-In restaurant.

Mr. Shepherd said he forwarded the letter to the Board from Mr. King requesting the Township move forward with the Highway Occupancy Permit from PennDOT for Billot Avenue. Mr. King couldn't make the meeting tonight to talk about his request. He hasn't committed to the site yet.

Mr. Blenko said the site Mr. King is considering is on the corner of Billot Avenue and Route 30. The proposed site would have a driveway on Route 30 and also on Billot Avenue. PennDOT feels there would be more traffic from that business that would turn left onto Billot Avenue from Route 30. The only conditions they will grant the Highway Occupancy Permit is either if Sonic will widen Route 30 to put in a dedicated turn lane or if the Township would make Billot Avenue right turn in and out only. The Planning Commission feels it is a dangerous intersection anyways and the Police have said there are many rear end accidents on Route 30 waiting to make the left turn onto Billot Avenue. The Board asked a letter be sent to PennDOT requesting the H.O.P. if the Township made Billot Avenue right turn only onto Route 30. PennDOT said they would do it with that modification to Billot Avenue. Mr. King said that as part of his project, his consultant would do that work. The agreement is that the Township would sign the permit if his consultant would have drawings in with it. Mr. King is saying in his letter that he would like the Township to make the modification to Billot and he would come back.

Mr. Patter asked if he was committed to the site.

Mr. Shepherd said he wants the Township to apply for the Highway Occupancy Permit which would be \$3,000 to \$4,000 in engineering costs and then construct the barrier which is about \$15,000. This item was not budgeted for.

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Mr. Moffatt thought Mr. King was going to pay for the upgrades to the intersection.

Mr. Blenko said in Mr. King's letter of October 15, he stated the Township should initiate the request for the Highway Occupancy Permit because is still interested in North Huntingdon. If the permit is granted, they would work out the costs of the half pork chop with the landlord. His consultant had a design back in June and they can ask to use the drawings to submit the application.

Mr. Moffatt said if they submit the application and get approval and he doesn't have the money to do, they can just drop it.

Mr. Alexander said the permit will expire then. The motion should be to move forward to apply for a Highway Occupancy Permit consistent with the letter of June 24, 2009.

Mr. Moffatt said it should be stated that all costs associated with it will be taken on by Sonic, not the Township.

Mr. Alexander said the motion should be with the understanding that if the Highway Occupancy Permit is granted, the costs associated with constructing the pork chop would be assumed by H.C.H. Hospitality, LLC and not the Township.

Mr. Gray asked what the costs were for the application.

Mr. Blenko said it is from scratch, it would be \$3,000 to \$4,000. If already designed, it would be about \$1,000 to \$1,500.

Mr. Gray said before they act on it, they should get feedback from the company.

Mr. Blenko said he could ask them if there would be any costs to use their drawings. The Planning Commission felt it was a good idea with or without Sonic. If another business goes in there, PennDOT may make the same restrictions.

Mr. Moffatt said they would have to get the same commitment from other businesses.

Mr. Alexander said they should get the commitment from Tans Associates first before they act on it.

Mr. Blenko said he would get an opinion if they can use their drawings.

7) Request to post Township property as "No Hunting".

Mr. Shepherd said this is a request from a resident on Turner Valley area about property near his home. He asked it to be posted No Hunting because Braddock's Trail Park is posted that way. The Township owns various properties that are vacant pieces of land and how would the Board want to handle that land to regulate it or not. An Ordinance can be adopted and enforced through the Police.

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Mr. Martino said he spoke to Mr. Komondor saying he would like a letter from all Fire Chiefs agreeing to use that money for the repeater system.

Mr. Moffatt asked if the proposal for the laptops and cell phones for the Board was out of the budget. He also asked if they could use the grant from that for the radio repeater system.

Mr. Shepherd said the proposal is out of the budget. It is possible to use that grant if they can get any.

Mr. Patter said under General Administration, there is 100% increase in engineering fees and \$60,000 for consulting services that wasn't there before and he asked what the purpose for that was.

Mr. Shepherd said the engineering was \$30,000 and additional funds were added based on looking at areas that have flooding. If they do that, they will need outside engineering assistance with that. The consulting services are for a variety of things to include updating the Web Page, getting assistance in grant writing and updating the Code Book.

Mr. Patter asked if the flooding problem was something they needed assistance with and couldn't be handled in-house.

Mr. Blenko said he gets behind everyday as there are so many problems and complaints that his department can't get to everything they would like to.

Mr. Moffatt asked where they stood on the part-time position for Emergency Management. He is more in favor of it being a position for a consultant and possibly they could try it for a year.

Mr. Shepherd said if there is funding included for Emergency Management, the Board can make the decision at a later date.

Mr. Moffatt said they can put it on the agenda as either a part-time position or a consultant. He also asked where they stood with summer help.

Mr. Shepherd said the rate of pay right now is \$8.50/hr. The budget can be adjusted to whatever the Board decides. At the end of the year, they do a Resolution with all the wages in.

Mr. Moffatt said he prefers either \$7.50 or \$8.00/hr.

Mr. Patter feels they can keep it at \$8.00/hr. the same as last year.

Mr. Moffatt said the minimum wage is \$7.25 and he feels \$7.50 is good and \$8.00 is tremendous. \$8.50/hr. is a waste of taxpayers' money.

Mr. Shepherd said the budget can be modified to \$8.00/hr and it will reduce the budget by a few thousand dollars.

Mr. Gray said he would like the costs for insurance broken out before the budget is advertised

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Motion: Mr. Moffatt
Second: Mr. Patter

I make a motion to advertise the 2010 Budget with the following changes to the budget: \$8.00 per hour for summer interns and each department will be assessed the appropriate costs for fringe benefits.

Remarks

Mr. Gray asked if the costs broken out by departments would lead to more discussion.

Mr. Moffatt said Mr. Shepherd would take the number of employees in each department and divide it by the total fringe benefits.

Mr. Alexander said it is an election year and they can re-open the budget in January.

Mr. Shepherd said it should be adopted by the end of the year and there should be a Special Meeting to advertise it.

ROLL CALL VOTE

Commissioner Patter	Yes
Commissioner Gray	No
Commissioner Martino	Yes
Commissioner Moffatt	No
Commissioner Austin	Yes
Commissioner Herold	Yes

Motion Carried 4 – 2 – 0

- 10) Action to approve the winter maintenance agreement for DeBartolo Development for the 2009/2010 winter season for the Barnes Lake Road detour.

Mr. Shepherd said he provided a sample contract to be used which was forwarded to DeBartolo, but they have not responded yet. They have provided a \$10,000 escrow to start.

Mr. Moffatt asked how long the \$10,000 would last.

Mr. Albert said the road to be maintained is close to a mile long and he based the cost on what a ton of salt would be for a mile. He has to consider road widths, the type of maintenance being done, just salting or plowing and salting, and the wages and benefits.

Mr. Moffatt asked why the escrow was set at \$10,000 as opposed to \$50,000.

Mr. Albert felt that was a reasonable amount to start with and if the escrow gets low, they will inform them to replenish it.

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Mr. Moffatt asked how many incidences that would be because he feels the \$10,000 is low. If they get down to \$2,500 and they say they don't have the money to put, he doesn't want the Township to look bad because there is a contract. He would like the whole year covered in the contract.

Mr. Herold said it depends on what the winter will be whether they have ice storms or snow storms.

Mr. Moffatt said he wants to know what it cost last year with the 40 incidents at \$500.00 a mile, which would be \$20,000. He wants to know how he came up with that amount.

Mr. Albert feels the \$10,000 would take him through most of the winter.

Mr. Moffatt said he thought the escrow would be much higher and he didn't want the Township to get stuck.

Mr. Shepherd said if Mr. Moffatt is not comfortable with that amount, they can get another number. If there are men out on overtime, they will be charged for that, for plowing and salting, it will be more.

Mr. Moffatt said he just wanted to know long it would take them to use the \$10,000.

Mr. Herold asked if the roads there were all right to plow.

Mr. Albert said they are all right, but there are some obstacles and should be able to do it.

Motion: Mr. Moffatt I'll make a motion to approve.
Second: Mr. Martino

Motion Carried 6 – 0 – 0

- 11) Action to adopt Resolution No. 146 of 2009, approving payment in lieu of taxes ("PILOT") agreement between Redstone Presbyterian Senior Care and the Township of North Huntingdon.

Motion: Mr. Martino I'll make that motion.
Second: Mr. Moffatt

Motion Carried 6 – 0 – 0

- 12) Action to approve the Township Auditor for audit years 2009, 2010 and 2011.

Motion: Mr. Moffatt I'll make a motion we use the auditing services of Mark C.
Second: Mr. Patter Turnley, the lowest bidder, for all three years.

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Mr. Shepherd said this is a professional service which doesn't need bid. It has in the past been done for three years, but they can go with a different term.

Motion Carried 6 – 0 – 0

- 13) Action to appoint Kari Bauer to the position of Sergeant in the Police Department effective January 1, 2010.

Motion: Mr. Gray So move.
Second: Mr. Martino

Motion Carried 6 – 0 – 0

- 14) Action to accept the resignation of Steve Cross from the Planning Commission.

Motion: Mr. Moffatt So move.
Second: Mr. Gray

Motion Carried 6 – 0 – 0

FURTHER BOARD COMMENTS

Mr. Gray asked about the street light request on Coulterville Road.

Mr. Shepherd said the road was mapped and they spoke to the resident about the location of the light and to confirm that they only wanted one light. They have to confirm with Allegheny Power where the light will go and when that is done they can move forward with the assessment of the property and the Ordinance.

Mr. Moffatt said residents close to the street light get assessed, but who pays for the light itself.

Mr. Shepherd said it is installed without a charge and then we get a monthly bill.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- 1) The last Fall Yard Waste Collection is scheduled for curbside pick-up by Waste Management on the regular day of trash service during the week of December 8, 2009. Leaves and yard waste must be placed in special **Biodegradable Paper Bags** that are available at most retail stores such as Home Depot and Lowe's. Paper bags are preferred as they decompose quicker. Please have bags out at the curb by 6:00 A.M. during the week.

- 2) North Huntingdon Department of Parks and Recreation is sponsoring "A Night with Santa and Friends" on Friday, December 18, 2009 from 6:00 P.M. to 8:00 P.M. at the Norwin Middle School. The event will include activities such as balloon artists, face painters, coloring crafts, take-home treats, holiday movies and pictures with Santa. Register at the Town House in person or by calling 724-863-3806.

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- 3) The Norwin Area Regional Recreation Committee will be holding a public meeting at the Town House at 6:00 P.M. on November 23, 2009 to discuss the findings of the Regional Recreation Feasibility Study. The public is welcome and encouraged to attend.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion: Mr. Gray So move.
Second: Mr. Austin

Motion Carried 6 – 0 – 0

- Regular Meeting Minutes of November 18, 2009 were approved by the Board of Commissioners on _____.

David E. Herold, President

John M. Shepherd, Township Secretary

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