

**TOWNSHIP OF HOPEWELL  
Beaver County, Pennsylvania  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
WORKSHOP MINUTES**

**6:32pm till 7:10pm**      **Manager Norm Kraus and HR/Payroll Manager Peggy Santia addressed the BOC about the new MBS 2016 Township Medical Plan, as well as the changes taking place with overtime and hourly wage employees through Federal Govt. guidelines in 2016.**

**7:10pm**

**ROLL CALL**

President

Rich Bufalini- in attendance

Vice President

Joe Kusnir – in attendance

Commissioners

Dave Ciccone- present (by teleconference)

Nick DiPietro- present

Gary Tranelli – present

Others Present

Norm Kraus, Jr., Township Manager

Marie Stratakis-Hartman, Township Engineer

Michael Jones/McMillen,Urick,Tocci,Fouse&Jones, Township Solicitor

**7:11pm**

**ENGINEER’S REPORT- MARIE STRATAKIS HARTMAN/ Report on file**

Mrs. Hartman asked to BOC for new road recommendations for the 2016 road improvement program, now that the 2015 program has been completed. At 7:30pm, Mrs. Hartman addressed the BOC about the pending Garbage Bids that have been submitted to the BOC by Waste Management and Valley Waste. The BOC has had the bid tabulations for both now for two weeks and Mrs. Hartman reviewed them with the BOC again. She reminded the Board they could choose between the two bidders or allow her to re-bid the whole contract again. Manager Kraus expressed his frustration with WM and the constant complaints and calls throughout the year that the administration office has had to handle. Mike Christ, the Municipal Coordinator for Western PA with WM was in attendance and addressed Mr. Kraus and the BOC, saying he was not aware of the internal service issues to this degree, but guaranteed they will get better. He has a new Manager, Rick Davies, in charge of this area, and assured the BOC Mr. Davies will monitor the situation better than in the past. The comment came up about complaint calls going to WM customer service in India, and Mr. Christ said calls don't go to India and he could set it up that all calls from Hopewell Township on customer service issues could go to one dedicated person. He also added that credit could be issued if there were consecutive misses on collections for customers. Mrs. Hartman mentioned breach of contract issues and Solicitor Jones said he could write language into the contract that would specify penalties for WM and possible terms for the contract to be broken if certain terms were not being met with customer service issues. Mr. Jones was going to write new language in the contract for Mrs. Hartman to review. The BOC did not take any formal vote on the garbage contract, pending further changes and review of the current bids before the BOC. Ms. Hartman insists on a current customer list for the township from Mr. Christ, which he has failed to produce after Ms. Hartman has asked for it 6 times. The BOC's main concern are the numerous customer complaints and the repeated complaints of the same service/pickup issues that seem to be continuing. Mr. Jones pointed out that repeated customer

issues could result in a customer getting credit back on their bill, or the township getting paid liquid damages and then the township reimbursing the customer. Ms. Hartman again pointed out that the BOC could award the contract at the next meeting, that being on 11/23/2015, or her re-bidding the contract and opening up bids again. Mr. Jones will add language to the contract addressing the main customer service issues and get it back to Ms. Hartman for consideration.

**8:12pm**

**CITIZEN'S COMMENTS PERTAINING TO THE AGENDA**

Chandler Dameron, a Life Scout with Boy Scout Troop 486, was in attendance with his mother and wanted to make a presentation on the BOC considering letting him build a Dog Park at Hopewell Community Park to fulfill his Eagle Scout Project. He has already met with Manager Kraus, Engineer Hartman and Recreation Director Pam Fiejdasz about the Dog Park. Chandler and his family have visited 11 Dog Parks throughout several counties, with the only two in Beaver County being at Bradys Run and at Ambridge Community Park. Chandler made a great presentation to the BOC, as well as Manager Kraus and Engineer Hartman. He pointed out the one they saw in Mercer County would be ideal for the Hopewell Community Park and the cost would be \$20,000 for him to build. He would do several fundraising projects, as well as get his sister's Girl Scout Troop involved in the project to help build and fundraise. President Bufalini assured Chandler the BOC would consider his project and discuss it with Mr. Kraus and Ms. Hartman, as well as Ms. Fiejdasz. Mr. Kusnir did point out to Chandler that his project could be turned down and he might have to start from scratch with a new project to earn Eagle Scout status. Chandler did understand that and thanked everyone for their time and consideration.

**8:30pm**

**BUSINESS AGENDA**

Mr. DiPietro Motion to approve the Workshop Meeting minutes of October 12th, 2015.  
Mr. Tranelli Second the motion

Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Tranelli Yes  
Mr. Ciccone Yes  
Mr. DiPietro Yes  
Mr. Kusnir Yes  
Mr. Bufalini Yes

Motion Carried

Mr. Kusnir Motion to approve the list of bills dated November 9th, 2015 as stated: General Fund;  
\$477,994.62: Sewer Fund; \$137,561.04.

Mr. Ciccone Second the Motion

Roll Call Vote

Mr. Tranelli Yes  
Mr. Ciccone Yes  
Mr. DiPietro Yes  
Mr. Kusnir Yes  
Mr. Bufalini Yes

Motion Carried

Mr. DiPietro Motion to approve the Development Improvement Agreement for the Bet Tech Building No. 3  
Revised and Building No. 4 Land Development Plan.

Mr. Bufalini Second the Motion

Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Tranelli Yes  
Mr. Ciccone Yes

Mr. DiPietro Yes  
Mr. Kusnir Yes  
Mr. Bufalini Yes  
Motion Carried

Mr. Ciccone Motion to approve the release of the retainage to Youngblood Paving, Inc. in the amount of \$7, 697,29. Five Percent (5%) retainage was withheld on work completed last year (2014).

Mr. Tranelli Second the Motion

Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Tranelli Yes  
Mr. Ciccone Yes  
Mr. DiPietro Yes  
Mr. Kusnir Yes  
Mr. Bufalini Yes  
Motion Carried

**8:32pm** **ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION**

Solicitor Jones addressed the BOC with regards to the Comcast Cable Franchise Extension Agreement that he reviewed with Comcast Director of Regulatory Affairs, Frank Polito. Mr. Jones pointed out the contract runs for a 10-year term and the maximum change Comcast would make to the duration of the contract would be to reduce the terms to seven years. He pointed out that the township is under a current 3% franchise fee and can up the fee to 4 or 5% at anytime during the contract. The additional charge would be passed onto the residents in Hopewell Township and would be listed on the monthly bill that customers get. The 3% franchise fee the township currently receives is based on gross revenue. Mr. Jones also pointed out to the BOC that the Cohen Law Group out of Pittsburgh solicits new business with municipalities, claiming they can get better contract terms for the municipalities. Mr. Jones pointed out that Cohen pushes the grant monies programs through their solicitation, as well as expanded verbiage of the current cable contract terms, making it look like they are providing more information for the municipality to digest and receive. President Bufalini pointed out that the 3% franchise fee and seven years would be adequate for the township and the rest of the BOC agreed. Mr. Jones will go back to Mr. Polito with the 3%/ 7years option and hopefully have it finalized for the BOC to vote on at the 11/23/2015 Business Meeting.

**9:28pm** **CITIZEN'S FORUM/ NONE**

**9:28pm** **NEW BUSINESS**

Commissioner DiPietro mentioned he walked the 1Mile Event at the 5K Trees and Trails Event this past Saturday at Hopewell Park. A veteran who ran the 5K brought up the tattered flags at the Park and the bad appearance they make. Manager Kraus assured Mr. DiPietro that it would be addressed with Park Maintenance Manager Carl Wagner.

**9:29pm** **OLD BUSINESS/ None**

**9:31pm** **EXECUTIVE SESSION/ To discuss litigation within the township**

**9:41pm** **EXECUTIVE SESSION Concluded**

There was no action taken as a result of the discussions held by the Board of

Commissioners during the Executive Session that was held.

**9:42pm**

**ADJOURNMENT**

Commissioner Kusnir  
Commissioner Tranelli

Motion to adjourn  
Second the Motion

Voice Vote

All in favor  
Motion Carried

Minutes Recorded by: Norm Kraus, Jr. 11/9/2015  
Minutes prepared by Norm Kraus, Jr. 11/10/2015