

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

6:35pm Meeting was called to order by Mr. Bufalini and the meeting was being recorded

6:35pm

ROLL CALL

President

Rich Bufalini- present

Vice President

Joe Kusnir – present: arrived 8:30PM

Commissioners

Dave Ciccone- absent

Nick DiPietro- present

Gary Tranelli – present

Others Present

Norm Kraus, Jr., Township Manager

Marie Stratakis-Hartman, Township Engineer

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

6:35pm ENGINEER’S REPORT Marie Stratakis Hartman REPORT ON FILE

Mrs. Hartman covered a wide range of topics in her ten page report. The report is on file and available for review in the Township manager’s office.

7:13pm CITIZEN’S COMMENTS PERTAINING TO THE AGENDA: NONE

Steve Rodich/ 3195 Bradbury Drive

Mr. Rodich commented that the Board of Commissioners was doing the right thing by closing Steuer Lane due to road sliding. When he was a commissioner in the 90s they had tests done showing the movement of the road at that time.

7:14pm BUSINESS AGENDA

Mr. DiPietro Motion to approve the Workshop Minutes for February 8th, 2016

Mr. Tranelli Second the motion

Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Tranelli Yes

Mr. Ciccone Absent

Mr. DiPietro Yes

Mr. Kusnir Absent

Mr. Bufalini Yes

Motion Carried

Mr. Bufalini Motion to approve the list of bills dated 3-14-2016, as presented; General Fund; \$61,224.47; Sewer Fund; \$13,973.20 and State Fund; \$13,932.05.

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Mr. DiPietro Second the motion

Roll Call Vote:

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

Mr. Tranelli Motion to approve Resolution R-2016-04, a Resolution of the Board of Commissioners of the Township of Hopewell, Beaver County, Pennsylvania, a First Class Township under the laws of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, closing Steuer Lane for the purpose of public safety.

Mr. DiPietro Second the motion

Roll Call Vote:

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

Mr. Tranelli Motion to approve Police Officer Miles Newton for requested Family Medical Leave beginning April 8, 2016 and ending on, or around May 2nd, 2016, for the birth of his second child.

Mr. DiPietro Second the motion

Roll Call Vote:

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

Mr. DiPietro Motion to execute the GIS proposal so that the Larson Design Group can get started creating our Base mapping and Marie Hartman and Jamie Yurcina can start collecting data this summer of 2016 from them,

Mr. Bufalini Second the motion

Roll Call Vote:

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

7:16pm

One Addition to Engineer Report

Engineer Marie Harman wanted to add comments on the Kane Rd. bridge work that PennDOT is slated to do this Summer(July 2016) that will involve major work on the township's part to move a main water line pipe where bridge construction will occur. Ms. Hartman wanted to say this would be a major undertaking for the township and is actually infringing upon the right of way privileges that the township has where the work would be done. Chairman Bufalini said to get in touch with Representative Rob Matzie and seek assistance from him on this matter, hoping he can get in touch with PennDOT officials on this matter.

7:20pm

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

President Bufalini tabled a discussion on sewer rate adjustments until all five Board of Commissioners would be present at the meeting to discuss. There was a discussion on the Recreation Department's Camp Lakewood and possible township liability with the overnight sleepover. Solicitor Mike Jones said as long as the parents of campers sign a waiver form releasing the township from any liability, the sleepover can continue. Also, all work/security clearances have to be in place for all camp workers who work for the township. On a couple employment notes, Manager Norm Kraus passed out the ads that are running in the Beaver County Times for the part-time maintenance position at Hopewell Park, as well as the part-time Police Officer ad for the township.

7:35pm

CITIZEN FORUM/ Steve Rodich- 3195 Bradbury Drive

Mr. Rodich brought the issue of Andrews Alley and Martha Street before the Board of Commissioners again. This is an issue that he first brought to the BOC and Engineer Marie Hartman back in June of 2014. It was found that spring water was running along the alley, which sits behind Aliquippa Tire and the Serbian Club on Brodhead Rd. It was found that the sewer cap there actually sits higher than the road itself. Over the course of 11 different dates, starting with June 9th, 2014 and on up to January 4th of this year, Mr. Rodich had conversations, letters and general dialogue with President Bufalini, Road Supervisor Chas Srafin and Engineer Marie Hartman about Andrews Alley and the water drainage issues in the alley, along with possible maintenance of the alley and Martha St. He asked that the township to make the road drivable. He attempted to get all the signatures of residents along the road and alley, so the township could do the limited maintenance program they now have in place for situations like this one. He had sent three letters to an out-of-state limited liability partnership seeking to get the last signature he needed, but the group never responded to him.

In general, Mr. Rodich told the Board that this was a 2-3 day project at the most for the township road department and feels there is a general lack of commitment from all parties involved in the township in addressing the Andrews Alley/ Martha St. issue. Mr. Rodich feels it is unfair for the township to refuse doing the minimum maintenance program, all because one signature from an out-of-state limited liability group is not responding or signing. He pointed out when he was a commissioner, the Boards back then did alleys and private roads all over the township as maintenance issues came up. Presently Serbian Club members are accessing the Club entrance through the front door and avoiding the back door entrance through the alleyway due to the road problem. He is asking the BOC to find legal ways to do the proper service needed on these roads, not the legal way NOT to do the service on the alley and road. Mr. Rodich continued to point out that he met with Attorney Keith McMillen back in the 90s about road issues and private roads and was told if there was a visual inspection made and it proved to look unsafe, you had the obligation to fix that road. Mr. Rodich asked Mr. Jones to send a letter to the limited liability Partnership from his end in an attempt to get the last signature needed so road work could be done.

President Bufalini told Mr. Rodich the township would like to do maintenance on all alleys and private roads, but to do in legally. Mr. Bufalini said he realized garbage trucks are ruining these roads and Mr. Rodich concurred that the berm of the road on Martha St. is worse than ever. Some dressing needs done on Martha St. to deter the parking issue there that club members and others from parking there. Mr. Rodich thanked the BOC, Mrs. Hartman and Mr. Jones for the consideration of this matter, that has dragged on for almost two years.

Wendy Dameron/ 1036 Lafayette Drive

Mrs. Dameron was here to address the BOC on behalf of her son Chandler, who had previously presented a Dog Park to the Board as the major project tied into his Eagle Scout Project. Mrs. Dameron wanted to keep the subject in front of the Board, but did say that meetings with the Humane Society officials and Center Township officials had gone well and there was a good chance the Dog Park could be located in the back of the Humane Society. She pointed out that is still not 100% and still hoped the township would consider the Dog Park option with the property adjoining the Township Administration Building. Mrs. Dameron still felt this was a good option

and had spoken to township residents that felt it was a good place to have the Dog Park. Commissioners Bufalini and DiPietro told Mrs. Dameron the BOC would look at the Township Administration Building site, as well as possible options in the new part of Hopewell Park across Laird Rd. at a later date, along with any other possible site options that might be out there. They thanked Mrs. Dameron and Chandler for their continued efforts with the Dog Park.

8:02pm **NEW BUSINESS/ None**

8:02pm **OLD BUSINESS/ None**

8:10pm **EXECUTIVE SESSION BEGINS/Discussing current litigation and police contract issues, as well as personnel issues.**

9:30pm **EXECUTIVE SESSION ENDS/ President Bufalini announces one motion to be acted on.**

9:31pm

Mr. Kusnir Motion to authorize the solicitor to file a petition to intervene in the assessment appeal lawsuit filed in Beaver County Court.

Mr. DiPietro Second the Motion

Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Tranelli Yes

Mr. Ciccone Absent

Mr. DiPietro Yes

Mr. Kusnir Yes

Mr. Bufalini Yes

Motion Carried

9:32pm **ADJOURNMENT**

Commissioner DiPietro

Motion to adjourn

Commissioner Kusnir

Second the Motion

Voice Vote

All in favor

Motion Carried