

Ross Township Board of Commissioners
Committee Meeting
1000 Ross Municipal Drive
Pittsburgh, PA 15237
February 3, 2020
7:00 p.m.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Stephen Korbelt, Jeremy Shaffer, Jason Perring, Jack Betkowski, Sarah Poweska, Daniel L. DeMarco, Joseph Laslavic and William McKellar

ABSENT: Patrick Mullin

SOLICITOR: P. J. Murray, Esq.

TOWNSHIP MANAGER: Ronald Borczyk

RECORDING SECRETARY: Noreen A. Re

**DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND BOARD
LIAISON:** Dominic J. Rickert

Pledge of Allegiance/Moment of Silence held for Mr. Walt Salachup

Commissioner Korbelt announced there would be an executive session following the meeting to discuss two potential litigation matters.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS ONLY – None

Commissioner Korbelt also announced the township is working with DEP to resolve issues related to the township's original dumping site at the Public Works site. The southern area of the Short Line Hollow Park Trail was opened as an additional area for dumping township-related material and material from the Reis Run Road landslide. He indicated the Board is committed to reopening access to the trail as soon as possible, but they are constrained by DEP and other regulatory agencies. Updates will be provided as they become

available. Questions or concerns should be directed to Commissioner Korbelt or to Mr. Borczyk.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Bill List – February 3, 2020

Motion to approve the Consent Agenda made by Commissioner Laslavic and seconded by Commissioner Purring.

Motion passes – 8 to 0

APPOINTMENTS FOR BOARD AND COMMISSION OPENINGS:

Interviews were conducted at the January 20, 2020, Combined Committee and Business Meeting. All persons submitted a clean criminal background check unless otherwise noted.

ZONING HEARING BOARD

1 Vacancy & 1 Alternate – 5-Year Term

Motion to appoint Tara Howey, current member, for a five-year term set to expire December 31, 2024, made by Commissioner Laslavic and seconded by Commissioner Shaffer.

Motion passes – 8 to 0

PLANNING COMMISSION

2 Vacancies – 4-Year Term

Commissioner Korbelt stated a current member withdrew after interviews were scheduled. Therefore, another advertisement will go out for candidates.

Motion to appoint Jennifer Deemer, current member, to a four-year term to expire on December 31, 2023, made by Commissioner DeMarco and seconded by Commissioner Laslavic.

Motion passes – 8 to 0

VACANCY BOARD

Commissioner Korbel requested reappointing Mr. Walt Salachup posthumously. An advertisement will be placed for a new Vacancy Board member. Upon inquiry by Commissioner Betkowski as to the legality of the matter, Mr. Murray responded as follows:

MR. MURRAY: “It's not illegal. I haven't researched it, but there's no claim that's going to be made against the township, if you do it.”

Motion passes – 8 to 0

CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION

1 Vacancy & 1 Alternate – 6-Year Term

Commissioner Korbel stated there was one candidate, William McKellar. The Board is awaiting amendments from the Civil Service Commission to move forward. The matter will be placed on hold until those amendments are made.

BUILDING APPEALS BOARD

2 Vacancies & 1 Alternate

Since there were no applicants, the matter will be re-advertised.

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY BOARD

1 Vacancy – 5-Year Term

Motion to appoint Sandra Miller for a five-year term expiring December 31, 2024, made by Commissioner Shaffer and seconded by Commissioner Betkowski.

Roll call:

- Commissioner Laslavic – No
- Commissioner McKellar – No
- Commissioner Piring – No
- Commissioner Shaffer – Yes
- Commissioner Betkowski – Yes

Commissioner DeMarco – No
Commissioner Poweska – No
Commissioner Korbelt - No

Motion fails – 6 to 2

The vacancy will be re-advertised.

ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

**7 Vacancies – (3) 1-Year Term, (1) 2-Year Term
3-Year Term, (1) 4-Year Term and (1) 5-Year Term**

**Motion to appoint Kim Stelmach to a one-year term
expiring December 31, 2020, made by Commissioner Laslavic
and seconded by Commissioner DeMarco.**

Motion passes – 8 to 0

**Motion to appoint Susan Hockenberry to a one-year term
expiring December 31, 2020, made by Commissioner Perring and
seconded by Commissioner Laslavic.**

Motion passes – 8 to 0

**Motion to appoint Bradley August to a one-year term
expiring December 31, 2020, made by Commissioner DeMarco
and seconded by Commissioner Perring.**

Motion passes – 8 to 0

**Motion to appoint Barry Rush to a two-year term expiring
December 31, 2021, made by Commissioner Laslavic and
seconded by Commissioner Perring.**

Motion passes – 8 to 0

**Motion to appoint Caitlin Klotz to a three-year term expiring
December 31, 2022, made by Commissioner DeMarco and
seconded by Commissioner Perring.**

Motion passes – 8 to 0

Motion to appoint Kristen Schawalder to a four-year term expiring December 31, 2023, made by Commissioner Laslavic and seconded by Commissioner Perring.

Motion passes – 8 to 0

Motion to appoint Jennifer Deemer to a five-year term expiring December 31, 2024, made by Commissioner Laslavic and seconded by Commissioner Perring.

Motion passes – 8 to 0

ADMINISTRATION, OPERATIONS AND POLICY:

Chair: Joe Laslavic; Members – Dan DeMarco and Pat Mullin

Township Manager Report:

Mr. Borczyk stated he was involved in a series of funding meetings for the MTF grants for McKnight-Siebert. He also met with Ms. Amy Steele, Director of Northland Library, to discuss support for the library in 2020.

Ordinance to be Introduced

Creating an Athletic Advisory Board (AAB) – Establishing operating procedures and stating the powers of the Board

Commissioner Laslavic stated it will be a nine-person Board consisting of two representatives from West View/Ross, two representatives from the North Hills Athletic Association and two representatives from North Hills Soccer and three at-large positions. The matter will be voted on in February.

New Business - None

FINANCE, BUDGET AND PENSION:

Chair: Sarah Poweska ; Members – William McKellar and Jack Betkowski

Finance Director Report

Mr. Berty stated he is looking into refinancing the bond for savings. He announced that today is marked as the beginning of the Weight Loss Challenge for township employees through the Wellness Program. The top prize is \$100. The program is funded through the insurance company. After speaking with Jordan Tax, the goal is to switch to monthly sewer billing by April.

New Business – None

PUBLIC WORKS, SANITATION AND SEWERS:

Chair: Pat Mullin; Members – Jason Piring and Jeremy Shaffer

Public Works Director Report

Mr. Funk projected they should be okay with the amount of salt they can store in light of the salt contract.

New Business - None

PLANNING, ZONING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:

Chair: Dan DeMarco; Members – Sarah Poweska and Jack Betkowski

Community Development Director Report

Mr. Rickert had no report this evening.

New Business - None

PUBLIC SAFETY:

Chairs: William McKellar; Members – Jack Betkowski and Dan DeMarco

Police Chief Report:

Chief Ley mentioned the Third Annual Joint Town Hall meeting with West View Police and the North Hills School District will be held on Thursday, March 19th, from 6:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at the Middle School. Two new speakers will be at the event. A physician will be coming to talk about health-related concerns associated with the younger population, and an interventional specialist will be creating a classroom experience and informational hands-on for parents.

Police Contract – The Police Association and the Township have reached a tentative agreement on the terms of a new four (4) year contract retroactive to January 1, 2020.

Motion to ratify the Tentative Agreement by and between the Township of Ross and the Ross Township Police Association for changes to the Collective Bargaining Agreement effective January 1, 2020, through December 31, 2023, made by Commissioner McKellar and seconded by Commissioner Piring .

Motion passes – 8 to 0

New Business - None

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PARKS AND RECREATION:

Chair: Jason Piring; Members – Joe Laslavic and Pat Mullin

Parks and Recreation Director Report:

Ms. Peet was not present, and no report was given.

New Business - None

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JUNIOR COMMISSIONER REPORT

Junior Commissioner Duerig gave an overview of things happening in the school district. Among the highlights she listed is the High School Jazz Band's Annual Mardi Gras Event will be held on February 29th. The cost is \$5 for a night of jazz music and all-you-can-eat pie.

Commissioner Korbelt also commented that the North Hills Middle School put on a “wonderful” performance of The Little Mermaid Junior.

Commissioner Korbelt commented that someone was present in the audience from the Census Bureau. He stated the township will be promoting on its website and social media that the Census Bureau is looking for people in Ross Township to take the census and meet with residents. The pay is \$23.50 an hour. The positions are only temporary. Applicants can go to 2020census.gov/jobs for more information.

Commissioner Betkowski inquired if anyone would be interested in hearing someone from Tree Pittsburgh speak about the tree canopy in Allegheny County. Commissioner Korbelt stated he would be interested. The presentation would be approximately 15 minutes long. It was suggested to have the Environmental Advisory Board attend.

Commissioner Shaffer inquired as to enforcement of the Tree Ordinance in regards to the construction of a new cell tower. Mr. Rickert stated the particular application Commissioner Shaffer was referring to was before the ordinance. Anything moving forward will have to comply. Gateway will insure the measurements and so forth are done. They will be identified on the site plans.

OTHER BOARDS/ENTITIES (COG, CONNECT, Intergovernmental):

Mr. Funk stated he has attended a couple of COG meetings. There is a Public Works Committee, which will be holding their second meeting this coming Monday at the Public Works building in

Ross. At this meeting they will be electing officers and setting future dates. There will be a guest speaker at the meeting.

Commissioner DeMarco stated the Northland Library Board reorganized. Casey Sample is the new president of the Board. The annual appeal was in the packets. Northland Library's Annual Gala is coming up in April.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Dr. David Barkovich, 196 Avondale Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15237, welcomed the two new commissioners. He emphasized that “it's important that we all get along.” He addressed the Board regarding the Board and the township having a variety of viewpoints on different things.

MEETING ADJOURNED TO EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 7:40 P.M.

Manager/Secretary

**President,
Stephen Korbel
Ross Township Board of
Commissioners**

**Minutes transcribed by Noreen A. Re, Certified Realtime
Reporter**