

Ross Township Commissioners Meeting  
1000 Ross Municipal Drive  
Pittsburgh, PA 15237  
September 17, 2018  
7:30 p.m.

**COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:** Stephen Korbel, Daniel L. DeMarco, Patrick Mullin, Jason Piring, Grace Stanko, Joseph Laslavic and Richard Avon

**ABSENT:** Jeremy Shaffer and Jack Betkowski

**SOLICITOR:** P. J. Murray, Esq.

**TOWNSHIP MANAGER:** Douglas Sample

**RECORDING SECRETARY:** Noreen A. Re

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

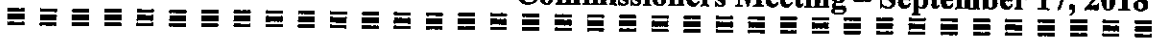
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*Pledge of Allegiance/Invocation*

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Before public comments were heard, Commissioner Korbel clarified some things regarding the Ethics Ordinance. He stated the goal of the ordinance is to eliminate current practices where elected township officials, including commissioners and tax collectors, appointed officials and nonunion employees, are permitted to engage in business activities with the township and profit at taxpayers' expense. This ordinance makes the practice of self-dealing illegal. Commissioner Korbel went through the provisions of the Ethics Ordinance in detail. The ordinance cannot be applied retroactively. The ordinance will only apply to current elected, appointed officials and current employees and for two years moving forward once those current members of those groups are no longer with the township.

If the ordinance passes, the solicitor will be directed to prepare a letter summarizing the ordinance and providing a copy of the ordinance and the letter to each impacted individual. On October 17, 2018, if the ordinance passes this evening, the township will sever all



known business relationships that violate the provisions of the ethics ordinance. If you are impacted by this and you wish to continue your business relationship with the township, you must resign your position by October 17, 2018. The ordinance does not apply to a family member of a past township employee, elected or appointed official.

It does not affect summer help, but Commissioner Korbel suggested contacting the manager or solicitor to see if there are any State ethics implications. The township cannot unilaterally impose a rule such as this against union employees. The township and the union may meet and discuss and bargain over its application to unionized employees in the future.

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**PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS ONLY:**

Mr. Joe Zawoysky, 123 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15229, addressed the Board regarding health insurance for newly-elected commissioners.

Ms. Patricia Popadyn, 131 Buckhill Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15237, addressed the Board regarding whether towing will be put out for bid. Commissioner Korbel stated if the ordinance passes, it will be put out for bid.

Ms. Beth Schellhaas, 136 Harding Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15229, addressed the Board inquiring whether her grandson could remain in his current position with her being president of the Zoning Hearing Board. Commissioner Korbel stated the ordinance would not apply to that situation. She suggested the ordinance be rewritten to clear up any misunderstandings. She stated her grandson is the third generation to serve the township, and she was sad that this tradition will not be able to continue in the future. Ms. Schellhaas also questioned if she would have to give up her floral contract with the township or step down from the Zoning Hearing Board.

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**PRESENTATION OF PLAQUES:**

**Senator Randy Vulakovich and Representative Dom Costa – In Recognition of Serving the Residents of Ross Township**

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Commissioner Korbel outlined the service over the years provided by Senator Randy Vulakovich and Representative Dom Costa and presented them each with a plaque in recognition of their service. Both Senator Vulakovich and Representative Costa expressed their appreciation.

**PRESIDENT’S REPORT:**

Commissioner Korbel reminded everyone that Community Day is this Saturday beginning at 1:00 p.m. with fireworks at dusk. He also stated the tax collector had a death in the family and would not be able to attend this evening.

**TAX COLLECTOR REPORT - None**

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

Approval of Minutes - None

Committee Meeting Bill List – September 17, 2018

Motion to approve made by Commissioner Laslavic and seconded by Commissioner Mullin.

Motion passes – 7 to 0

**ADMINISTRATION, OPERATIONS AND POLICY**

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

**ORDINANCES TO BE INTRODUCED:**

Elimination of Commissioners’ Health Insurance – Elimination of township-paid health insurance for all newly elected commissioners.

**ORDINANCES TO BE ADOPTED:**

Ethics Ordinance – Establishing a Code of Ethics for Township Employees, Elected Officials and Appointed Officials



**Motion to adopt Ordinance No. 2417 establishing a Code of Ethics for Township Employees, Elected Officials and Appointed Officials made by Commissioner Piring and seconded by Commissioner Mullin.**

Commissioner Stanko questioned the application of the ordinance to department heads and stated her opposition to the ordinance. She had a document she requested the solicitor review.

Commissioner Avon questioned whether the ordinance would only apply to future employees, elected and appointed officials. Mr. Murray responded as follows:

MR. MURRAY: "Yes. It's applied going forward. It's not applied retroactively. It does not apply to anybody in 30 days from today that's a former employee, elected official or appointed official.

COMMISSIONER AVON: "I'm talking about future people coming on the Board, not people sitting on the board currently.

MR. MURRAY: "Yes, it would apply to them.

COMMISSIONER AVON: "That's not what that reads; and, therefore, that's not --

MR. MURRAY: "No, Commissioner. It says --

COMMISSIONER KORBEL: "You're talking about the constitutional provision?

MR. MURRAY: "That she just gave me? It's the emoluments clause. This applies to changes in, for instance, the health care of commissioners. That's the emoluments clause.

COMMISSIONER STANKO: "I thought when it says 'terms of office' that meant anything new that day had to go at the end of their term, the new commissioners that would come on.

MR. MURRAY: "No. The emoluments clause does not apply to the Ethics Ordinance. I can say that with 100 percent certainty. Now, it applies to the health care ordinance eliminating health care for current commissioners. You can't do that."

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Commissioner Piring stated he would be stepping down from coaching basketball due to the new ordinance.

Roll call:

- Commissioner Piring - Yes
- Commissioner Avon - No
- Commissioner Stanko – No
- Commissioner Laslavic – Yes
- Commissioner DeMarco – Yes
- Commissioner Mullin – Yes
- Commissioner Korbel – Yes

**Motion passes – 5 to 2**

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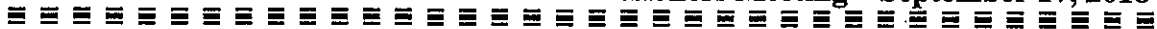
**Antidiscrimination Ordinance – Creating an Equal Opportunity Board to ensure that all persons, regardless of race, color, religion, national origin, ancestry or sex, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, disability, age or use of a guide or support animal because of blindness, deafness or physical disability, enjoy the full benefits of citizenship and are afforded equal opportunities for employment, housing and use of public accommodation facilities. It is necessary that appropriate legislation be enacted.**

**Motion to adopt Ordinance No. 2418 prohibiting discrimination and creating an Equal Opportunity Board made by Commissioner Laslavic and seconded by Commissioner Mullin.**

Commissioner Avon questioned how much the new Board could potentially cost the township. Commissioner Korbel stated it would all depend on how many complaints were received.

Roll call:

- Commissioner Piring - Yes
- Commissioner Avon - No
- Commissioner Stanko – No
- Commissioner Laslavic – Yes



Commissioner DeMarco – Yes  
Commissioner Mullin – Yes  
Commissioner Korbel – Yes

**Motion passes – 5 to 2**

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**Vacant Property Program Request – Main Boulevard, Lot & Block 516-A-44**

**Motion to adopt Resolution No. 2300 authorizing the acquisition and subsequent disposition of Parcel 516-A-44, which would be in accord with the Comprehensive Plan of Ross Township, made by Commissioner Laslavic and seconded by Commissioner DeMarco.**

**Motion passes – 7 to 0**

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**Fee Resolution – Rental of Boardroom to Non-Profits**

**Motion to adopt Resolution No. 2301, which amends Resolution No. 2265, to include a rental cost of \$75.00 for Non-Profits to rent the Boardroom for meetings made by Commissioner Laslavic and seconded by Commissioner DeMarco.**

**Motion passes – 7 to 0**

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**Appointment of Traffic Planning and Design, Inc., as the township's engineering consultant for the Multimodal Siebert Road Project.**

**Motion to appoint Traffic Planning and Design, Inc., as the township's engineering consultant for the Multimodal Siebert Road Project made by Commissioner Laslavic and seconded by Commissioner DeMarco.**

**No public comment for or against**

**Motion passes – 7 to 0**

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**Motion to suspend the application of the Ethics Ordinance to all former township employees, elected officials and appointed officials that are no longer in service of the township on the ordinance effective date of October 17, 2018, made by Commissioner Mullin and seconded by Commissioner DeMarco.**

**Motion passes – 7 to 0**

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**FINANCE, BUDGET AND PENSION:**

**Chair: Jason Piring; Members – Joe Laslavic and Dan DeMarco**

**2019 Minimum Municipal Obligation**

**Motion to adopt the 2019 MMO for the Uniform and Non-Uniform Pension Plans made by Commissioner Piring and seconded by Commissioner Mullin.**

**Motion passes – 7 to 0**

**Motion to adopt the Resolution No. 2298 requiring a three percent (3%) employee contribution to the Ross Township General Employees' Pension Plan for the year 2019 made by Commissioner Piring and seconded by Commissioner Mullin.**

**Motion passes – 7 to 0**

**Motion to adopt the Resolution No. 2299 requiring a five percent (5%) employee contribution to the Ross Township Police Pension Plan for the year 2019 made by Commissioner Piring and seconded by Commissioner Mullin.**

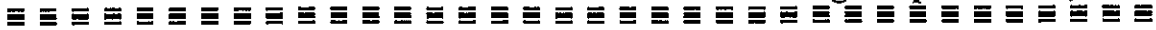
**Motion passes – 7 to 0**

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**PLANNING, ZONING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:**

**Chair: Dan DeMarco; Members – Jack Betkowski and Grace Stanko**

**Sewer Planning Module – Ross Park Trails Development**



**Motion to adopt the Resolution No. 2297 approving the Sewer Planning Module for the land development identified as Ross Park Trails made by Commissioner DeMarco and seconded by Commissioner Mullin.**

**Motion passes – 7 to 0**

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**S-18-6 - Saint Francis Subdivision/Lot Consolidation**

**The Sisters of Saint Francis are requesting a subdivision of their property to separate the cemetery from the main parcel in preparation of sale of the larger parcel. The cemetery will remain and be accessible for use via a reciprocal access agreement to include parking. The plan will require a vacation of a paper street to which the resolution doing so is a condition to final approval. The surveyor is drafting the required paperwork for the road vacation.**

**The Planning Commission recommended the plan for Conditional Approval with Final Approval to be granted upon submittal of a plan meeting all County recording requirements, comments as provided by the Township Director of Community Development, comments noted in Gateway Engineers’ review letter dated August 9, 2018, and any comments required for recording per comments provided by Allegheny County Economic Development (ACED).**

Mr. Chris Albee from Tait Engineering was present on behalf of the applicant.

**Motion to grant S-18-6, Conditional Approval with Final Approval to be granted upon submittal of a revised plan meeting and/or addressing comments by Gateway and/or the Director of Community Development, as well as all information as required by the County for recording purposes, and a resolution vacating the paper street made by Commissioner DeMarco and seconded by Commissioner Mullin.**

**Motion passes – 7 to 0**

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**PUBLIC SAFETY**

**Co-Chairs: Jack Betkowski and Dan DeMarco; Member - Pat Mullin**

**Towing RFP – Township seeks towing companies to aid in removal of disabled or abandoned vehicles.**

**Motion to authorize the Township Manager to advertise the Request for Proposal (RFP) for the Township Towing Services made by Commissioner DeMarco and seconded by Commissioner Mullin.**

**Motion passes – 7 to 0**

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**PUBLIC WORKS, SANITATION AND SEWERS**

**Chair: Patrick Mullin; Members - Jack Betkowski and Rick Avon**

**Public Works Hiring**

**Motion to authorize the Township Manager to advertise for the hiring of three Public Works laborer positions made by Commissioner Mullin and seconded by Commissioner Purring.**

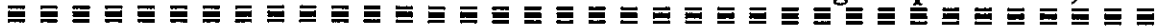
**Motion passes – 7 to 0**

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**PARKS AND RECREATION**

**Chair: Pat Mullin; Members - Jason Purring and Joe Laslavic**

Commissioner Mullin invited everyone to come out this Saturday for Community Day. He also stated tomorrow night, Tuesday, September 18th, at 7:00 p.m., that he and Commissioner Purring will be holding a town hall meeting at the Seville Club to discuss Denny Park updates and any other concerns of their constituents.



**OTHER BOARDS/ENTITIES (COG, CONNECT, Intergovernmental) - None**

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Ms. Patricia Popadyn, 131 Buckhill Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15237, addressed the Board regarding her concern that the Antidiscrimination Ordinance would make the township a sanctuary for “illegals.”

Mr. Joe Zawoysky, 123 5th Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15229, addressed the Board regarding health insurance for newly-elected commissioners. Commissioner Korbelt stated they would not qualify for health insurance. He also inquired if he can have a car towed parked in his driveway without his permission. He was advised to call the police. Mr. Zawoysky also inquired about leaves which come on his property from up the street. Commissioner Korbelt advised him he was responsible for any leaves that come on his personal property.

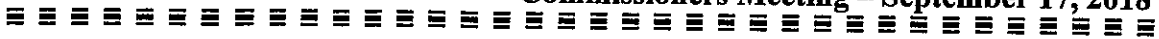
Mr. Zawoysky also inquired if anyone has received a citation for not bringing their garbage cans in after collection day. Commissioner Korbelt did not know of any citations. Upon inquiry by Mr. Zawoysky on who is paying for the repairs on Jacks Run and Reis Run, Commissioner Korbelt replied the township was paying. He also inquired about maintenance of the Short Line Hollow Trail. Commissioner Korbelt stated the township is responsible for the trail.

**Motion to adjourn made by Commissioner DeMarco and seconded by Commissioner Mullin.**

**Motion passes – 7 to 0**

**MEETING ADJOURNED AT 8:24 P.M.**

Commissioners Meeting – September 17, 2018



**Douglas Sample**  
**Manager/Secretary**

By:

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

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

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