

Ross Township Commissioners Meeting
1000 Ross Municipal Drive
Pittsburgh, PA 15237
October 21, 2019
7:30 p.m.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Stephen Korbel, Daniel L. DeMarco, Patrick Mullin, Jack Betkowski, Jason Perring, Joseph Laslavic and Grace Stanko

ABSENT: Jeremy Shaffer and Richard Avon

SOLICITOR: P. J. Murray, Esq.

INTERIM TOWNSHIP MANAGER: Richard Hadley

RECORDING SECRETARY: Teresa M. Benson

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

Pledge of Allegiance/Invocation

Commissioner Korbel stated anyone who is in attendance for the Kossman/Perry Shops redevelopment, the developer called and withdrew their plan consideration for tonight. The matter will be addressed at the November 18th meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS ONLY – None

PRESENTATION – Northland Public Library

Northland Library Annual Budget Presentation – Executive Director Amy Steele

Ms. Amy Steele was present, as well as Bob Lukitsch, director of finance and support services at the library. The Learning Garden is complete and open. They have a fairy garden, dinosaur garden

and futuristic garden. The garden will be closing for the winter and reopening in April. She extended her thanks to Commissioner Shaffer for the Library Foundation completely funding the project out of donations. They are also replacing the HVAC system, the roof and skylights. Ms. Steele thanked Ross Township for being the municipal sponsor for the Keystone grant. The library received \$700,000 in external grant money for these projects. The HVAC system and the roof should be finished by early December. The skylights might have to wait until spring.

Ms. Steele also commented that she heard from Ms. Katharine Kelleman, CEO of the Port Authority, who told her in March they will be extending the bus line through Perrysville up to the library. Regarding funding, she stated next year they are looking at about a 9 percent increase in funding for the library, which is still well below what public libraries received from the state in 2008. The library is expecting a 3 percent increase in RAD funding. They have also budgeted an increase in their table gaming funds, which has been pretty level for the last three or four years.

On the expense side, wages and benefits are their biggest challenge, as well as health care costs. The percentage of the premium the staff contributes will be increasing for 2020. In the past the solicitor's services were donated, which is no longer the case, so the cost of professional services has increased.

Commissioner Betkowski congratulated Ms. Steele on the number of programs offered at the library.

Commissioner DeMarco mentioned circulation and the formation of a committee next year of representatives from the different municipalities to discuss the matter. Ms. Steele stated a formula is used to determine the share for each municipality, which circulation is one component that measures usage. Since the state recognizes items that can be downloaded as part of usage, Ms. Steele indicated the committee would look into that fact in determining usage, as well as computer usage at the facility.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

Commissioner Korbelt stated following the meeting tonight the Administration Committee will meet in Executive Session to discuss the manager search.

TAX COLLECTOR REPORT:

Ms. Poweska stated the deadline for paying both property and school taxes at face value is October 31st. It is also the deadline for paying the third installment on school taxes. She indicated she has received a lot of phone calls from people concerned about paying their taxes. She stated she is working with them to find some solutions and getting the forms needed for tax relief from the state. Ms. Poweska stated she would be at the Municipal Center on Wednesday, October 30th, from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. collecting taxes in person.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Bill List – October 21, 2019

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

Motion passes – 7 to 0

PUBLIC HEARING

Resolution - Inter-Municipal Transfer of Restaurant Liquor License for Morning Chef, LLC, 8013 McKnight Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15237

Attorney Nicholas Miller was present representing the applicant. He described the request in detail. The new restaurant will be Another Broken Egg, which is a southern-inspired breakfast and lunch establishment. Alcohol is only going to be approximately 8 percent of the total revenue. Due to the hours, there will be an outside entrance. There will be no live entertainment. Seating will be

143 seats. Mr. Sean Cahill, equity owner of Morning Chef, LLC, was also present. Tentative opening is first quarter of 2020.

Motion to adopt Resolution No. 2334 approving the transfer of a restaurant liquor license, No. R-9863, into Ross Township from the Borough of Verona made by Commissioner Betkowski and seconded by Commissioner Laslavic.

Motion passes – 7 to 0

ADMINISTRATION, OPERATIONS AND POLICY:

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

Resolution - Verizon Easement at 1100 Ross Park Mall Drive

Motion to adopt Resolution No. 2332 granting an easement to Verizon Pennsylvania for the construction of underground facilities located at 1100 Ross Park Mall Drive made by Commissioner Laslavic and seconded by Commissioner Mullin.

Motion passes – 7 to 0

Resolution – Authorization to Execute Agreements for the Sewickley Oakmont Multimodal Project

Motion to adopt Resolution No. 2333 that authorizes and directs the Township Interim Manager to execute a Reimbursement and Maintenance Agreement with the PA Department of Transportation for the Sewickley Oakmont Multimodal Project SR 4022-A12 made by Commissioner Laslavic and seconded by Commissioner Perring.

Motion passes – 7 to 0

ALCOSAN GROW Grant – Denny Park Stream Lining Project

Motion to authorize the appropriately designated Township Officials to execute an Agreement with ALCOSAN to accept the award of a GROW Grant in the amount of \$84,100.00 for the

Denny Park Stream Lining Project made by Commissioner Laslavic and seconded by Commissioner Mullin.

Motion passes – 7 to 0

ALCOSAN Grow Grant – McIntyre Sewer Rehabilitation

Motion to authorize the appropriately designated Township Officials to execute an agreement with ALCOSAN to accept the award of a GROW Grant in the amount of \$170,500.00 for the McIntyre Sewer Rehabilitation Project made by Commissioner Laslavic and seconded by Commissioner Betkowski.

Commissioner Betkowski thanked everyone involved in this matter.

Motion passes – 7 to 0

Northway Car Wash – One (1) Agreement for Car Wash Services

Motion to authorize the Interim Township Manager to execute a one (1) Year Agreement with Northway Car Wash for Car Wash Services for Ross Township vehicles in the amount of \$9,725.00 made by Commissioner Laslavic and seconded by Commissioner Piring.

Commissioner Piring questioned why cars were not washed at Public Works. Commissioner Korbel stated it could be done, but Public Works employees would have to do it. He stated using Northway was much more economical.

Motion passes – 7 to 0

Commissioner Laslavic stated the second “Wills for Heroes” was held this past Saturday, and it was a success. He thanked Commissioner DeMarco for his involvement, as well as everyone else involved in the event.

FINANCE, BUDGET AND PENSION:

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

DROP Program – Police Pension

Motion to approve the following three (3) Police Officers entering the DROP program: William Barrett effective November 1, 2019, and Joseph LaMonica and Michael P. Thomas effective December 1, 2019, made by Commissioner Piring and seconded by Commissioner Betkowski.

Motion passes – 7 to 0

PARKS AND RECREATION:

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

Ms. Peet was unable to attend the meeting, but Commissioner Mullin relayed the message that the Halloween party was a success. This Friday night there is a Special Needs Dance at the Municipal Center. There will be a free Thanksgiving dinner on Wednesday, November 13th, at noon.

PLANNING, ZONING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:

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

Ordinance to be Introduced:

Amendment to Section 27-202, Zoning – Definition of Bed and Breakfast to include Airbnb

Commissioner Korbelt stated this will revise the definition to exclude short-term rentals that are in a commercial use “not so much somebody renting out their back bedroom, but somebody that’s using a property in a residential neighborhood to operate it as a business.”

Motion to authorize the advertisement of a Public Hearing to be held on November 18, 2019, for consideration of an Ordinance of Ross Township amending and repealing, in part, Chapter 27 of the Ross Township Code of Ordinances, Zoning, Section 27-202, Definition of Bed and Breakfast to include Airbnb made by Commissioner DeMarco and seconded by Commissioner Stanko.

Motion passes – 7 to 0

Resolution - Sewer Planning Module for the Ross Park Mall Redevelopment project

Motion to adopt Resolution No. 2335 approving the sewer planning module for the land development identified as Ross Park Mall Redevelopment made by Commissioner DeMarco and seconded by Commissioner Laslavic.

Motion passes – 7 to 0

Ordinance to be Adopted

Ordinance 2433 - Deed of Dedication of Sanitary Sewer Lines for the Ridge at Highland Pines Development

Motion to adopt Ordinance No. 2433 and authorize the appropriately designated Township Officials to execute the Deed of Dedication of Sanitary Sewer Lines between Buckhill Road, LP, and Ross Township for the Ridge at Highland Pines Development made by Commissioner DeMarco and seconded by Commissioner Laslavic.

Motion passes – 7 to 0

S-19-4 – Purcell, Subdivision and Lot Consolidation at Jacks Run and McIlrath Drive

Mr. Rickert stated the applicant is seeking to subdivide a portion of his main lot and combine it with two other lots. At the September 26th Planning Commission meeting, they recommended

approval being granted upon meeting the housekeeping items mentioned in Gateway's September 24th review letter and any comments received late Friday afternoon. The subdivision and consolidation were a condition to approval to rezone the parcels from R-2 to R-3.

Mr. Mark Purcell was present. Upon inquiry by Commissioner Stanko, Mr. Purcell stated the entrance is on Jacks Run. Mr. Purcell stated there would be maybe 15 townhouses in a U-shaped configuration. He also stated they would comply with all the housekeeping items with the township's approval.

Motion to grant Conditional approval of the S-19-4 Purcell Subdivision and Lot Consolidation Plan with final approval to be granted upon submittal of final plans addressing/correcting all comments in Gateway Engineers' review letter dated September 24, 2019, made by Commissioner DeMarco and seconded by Commissioner Mullin.

Motion passes – 7 to 0

SP-19-1 - Kossman Development, Preliminary Approval for a Mixed-Use Development at 7910-7920 Perry Highway.

Postponed until November 18, 2019

PUBLIC SAFETY:

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

Resolution – Approval of Radar Sign for Bellevue Road.

Motion to adopt Resolution No. 2336 to authorize the Interim Manager to execute an Application for Traffic Signal Approval with the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation for a Radar Sign on Bellevue Road made by Commissioner Betkowski and seconded by Commissioner Purring.

Motion passes – 7 to 0

Ordinance to be Introduced

Stop sign at the intersection of Buckhill Road and Mayer Drive.

Chief Ley thanked Gateway Engineers for their efforts in getting the stop sign. The four-way controlled intersection did not meet the stop sign warrants for PennDOT.

Public hearing to be held on November 18, 2019

PUBLIC WORKS, SANITATION AND SEWERS:

Chair: Patrick Mullin; Members – Jack Betkowski and Rick Avon

Mr. Mullin had no report this evening.

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

Northland Library - 2020 Budget

Motion to adopt the 2020 Northland Library budget made by Commissioner Betkowski and seconded by Commissioner Stanko.

Motion passes – 7 to 0

Commissioner DeMarco commented that over the past few weeks he has seen what he deemed to be violations of the new temporary sign ordinance with signs being placed in the public right-of-way. He suggested a sweep to get the signs cleaned up in order to get the message out. Commissioner Perring suggested letting private property owners know the signs have to be 3 feet back and not just pull the signs. Commissioner DeMarco stated he was referring to businesses and township property, not private property. Commissioner Perring commented there was some miscommunication last time when signs were removed from private property for not being 3 feet back.

Also, due to Election Day, the meeting will be moved to Wednesday, November 6, 2019.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Mr. Ken Veverka, 126 Country Lane, Pittsburgh, PA 15237, addressed the Board regarding excessive deer in his neighborhood. Commissioner DeMarco stated deer feeding is illegal in the township. He stated there is a new game warden, and a new plan has been drafted. Commissioner DeMarco stated there would be a public meeting in February to present the draft to the public. He stated the deer feeding ban is the first step in a deer management program. Mr. Veverka also stated he has a raccoon issue, also. Commissioner DeMarco suggested Mr. Veverka get in touch with the game warden.

Mr. Donald Rowe, 124 Rosecrest Drive, Pittsburgh, PA 15229, addressed the Board regarding an issue with 911 sending a West View police officer instead of a Ross Township officer. He also mentioned a problem with overflow parking from the football stadium blocking their road and their driveway. Signage on the street was discussed, as well as permit parking. He discussed his issues in detail. Commissioner DeMarco referred Mr. Rowe to the Traffic Advisory Board. Chief Ley addressed some of Mr. Rowe's concerns.

Mr. Ronald Grupp, 149 Grove Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15229, addressed the Board regarding public and private schools being required to teach economics/personal finance. He presented a letter to the Board, and Commissioner Korbel stated he would have the solicitor look at it.

Motion to adjourn make by Commissioner Laslavic and seconded by Commissioner DeMarco .

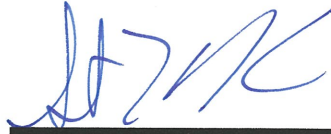
Motion passes – 7 to 0

MEETING ADJOURNED TO EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 8:50 P.M.

Commissioners Committee Meeting – October 21, 2019



Manager/Secretary



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

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

