

Workshop Meeting Activity

October 13, 2014

<u>TITLE</u>	<u>MOTION</u>	<u>SECOND</u>
Approve Sept. 15, 2014 Leg. Mtg. Min.	Comm Jones	Comm Schollaert
Mgr. Patterson Attend Annual COG Dinner & Township Pay	Comm Lisanti	Comm Jones
Township Pay \$30 Door Prize for COG Dinner	Comm Schollaert	Comm Lisanti
Trick Or Treat-Oct. 31, 2014	Comm Jones	VP Doebler
Adjournment	Comm Jones	VP Doebler

TOWNSHIP OF ALEPPO
WORKSHOP MEETING MINUTES
OCTOBER 13, 2014

CALL TO ORDER:

President Rodney W. Gartner called the meeting to order at 7 PM with the Pledge of Allegiance and roll call. Those in attendance were Vice-President Matthew Doebler, Commissioners Joanne Schollaert, George Jones, Anthony Lisanti, Solicitor Christopher Lovato, Manager Gwen Patterson and Secretary Martha B. Rogers.

MINUTES:

Commissioner Jones made a motion to approve the September 15, 2014 Legislative Meeting Minutes. Commissioner Schollaert seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

POLICE CONTRACT - 2015-2018:

Manager Patterson said our five-year contract will be over on June 30, 2015. Ohio Township will prepare it this season since our contract crosses budget seasons. This will be a three-year renewal. All the terms are the same. It is a three per cent increase each year in costs which is the same as we had on our last contract. They offer a five per cent discount. If we pay in full at the beginning of the contract, we receive the discount which is approximately \$5,000.00. Commissioner Jones asked if there are any complaints and Manager Patterson said there have been no complaints about the service.

CRACK SEALER SALE:

The crack sealer we have was put on Municibid. It sold this morning for \$9,200.51. A resolution will need to be adopted next week.

INVESTMENT STRATEGY:

Commissioner Jones reported that Manager Patterson got suggestions from a variety of financial institutions as to how to properly invest the unrestricted money we have. PLGIT came back with the most professional and the best plan. We must wait until we have a firm grip on public works expenditures primarily for roads before we finalize. We will accept the ladder concept.

WEBER'S CORNER SUBDIVISION:

Manager Patterson said Mr. Seiler has been to a lot of our meetings. He has come for all the approvals for the sub-division and to build a house. He received a conditional use approval last month. He received two of the three variances from the Zoning Hearing Board that he was seeking. The last step is to approve the sub-division which cuts the large parcel into two. He is not allowed to have a parcel larger than one acre for a house in this zoning district. We are waiting for County comments which we should have by the end of the week. The Board can vote on the sub-division approval next week.

BACKHOE PURCHASE:

Manager Patterson said Tom Jarvie, Public Works Foreman, feels our backhoe is in need of replacing. He would like to have the backhoe available for salt and winter emergency situations. He asks that the Board find the funding for a backhoe. We will not be putting it in the budget for 2015. Any funding would come from the general fund balance. State pricing is used for all of his purchases. The selling price is \$93,000 with an \$18,000 trade in on the old one. The final purchase would be approximately \$75,000. When you go to dealers that have State approved pricing, it counts as the bidding process. We put away \$20,000 every year in the budget for a truck fund. The pickup truck is due to be replaced in 2015 but Tom feels it is in good shape and can be replaced at a later date. Funds put away for a new vehicle can be used for a new backhoe. Vice-President Doebler asked about buying a used backhoe.

2015 BUDGET:

Manager Patterson has begun the budget process. She and Commissioner Jones, Finance Chair, have gone over the very first rough draft. She will give the Board the first official draft at the meeting next week. Our yearly standard expenses have not changed. They did put in the \$100,000 to pay the Sewickley tap-in fee. Some money will be allocated for roads for next year.

Commissioner Jones said there will be a surplus of approximately \$75,000 to \$100,000 in 2014. In 2016 or 2017, there may be approximately \$200,000 or a quarter of a million dollar surplus. Legal expenses have been high this year. The \$200,000 should be allocated to roads and also for a pickup truck. Manager Patterson said there is no proposed millage increase in this year.

President Gartner asked about the double tap-in fee. Commissioner Lisanti said it is still being evaluated. Commissioner Jones said we are still waiting for a response on the request for the overpayment of \$100,000 or more. Manager Patterson said she has not heard anything to date.

CITIZEN'S BUDGET COMMITTEE:

Commissioner Jones said one resident and one former commissioner have offered to help with the budget. Manager Patterson and he would like the Board to approve the establishment of a citizen's budget committee. It would be Greg Shipley and Clayton Steup. President Gartner said he feels it is the responsibility of the five elected people to do the budget. He suggested an internal committee of at least two people from the Board to work on the budget. Vice-President Doeblen is interested in what the citizens of the community have to say.

LOAN REQUEST FROM THE ALEPPO TOWNSHIP AUTHORITY:

Commissioner Lisanti said the landslide has cost approximately \$50,000 so far. The cost to construct a new line outside of the slide area would be \$300,000 to \$350,000. The Authority received a letter signed by State Senator Matt Smith, State representative Mark Mustio and Glenfield's State representative Dan Deasy encouraging the Director of Allegheny County Economic Development to grant the Authority a loan of \$100,000 through the County's Authority for Improvements in Municipalities. This loan was approved by AIM and funding should be received soon. President Gartner asked if there is a possibility of getting money from FEMA, Federal Emergency Management. Commissioner Lisanti said he is not aware of any at this time.

In 2015 the State will re-appropriate money for grants and loans. The Authority will have to come up with the remaining \$250,000 by either raising rates or receiving a loan from the Township or obtain a loan or grant from agency prior to the start of construction.

Commissioner Jones asked about security on the loan. He asked if there are legal aspects to be considered with a township loaning to an authority. Solicitor Lovato said the Township could loan money to the Authority. We would have to comply with the Local Government Unit Debt Act. It would take time. Advertising and ordinances would be required. The process can be investigated.

TOWNSHIP & AUTHORITY MERGER:

Commissioner Jones said we own the sewer and the Authority operates it. The Authority has asked us to consider Gwen's participation in the management of the Authority on a part-time basis. The Authority is now talking to the Township about a loan. Commissioner Schollaert said it has been talked about in the past. It has always been decided to keep the Township and the Authority separate. Solicitor Lovato said the Township would have to be willing to assume any debt. It would require approval from whomever gave the debt. Commissioner Lisanti said Authority Board Member Tom St. Clair said if there was a capital lease held by the Authority, it would make sense. Right now, it's a footnote in the Authority's audit. Commissioner Jones said the first step into checking into this is how complicated would it be to do this.

MARTHA ROGERS' RETIREMENT:

Township Secretary Martha Rogers is retiring at the end of October. Manager Patterson said there was an ad placed in the Sewickley Herald and the Tribune Review. She has received three letters of interest so far. Vice-President Doebler would like to assist. Commissioner Jones said it would be good to have a code of conduct and confidentiality.

SEVEN SPRINGS CONFERENCE:

Vice-President Doebler attended the Fall Conference on September 25 through 28. He would like to thank the residents of Aleppo Township for sending him to the conference. A former Chief of Police gave a report on emergency management. We do not yet have a written emergency management plan. It is very important and should be done as soon as possible. The Chief of Police also suggested we consider the warehousing of drinking water, one gallon of water per person per day.

The Allegheny County District Attorney talked about police investigative techniques. There was also a report from a trial attorney who tried a case concerning a municipality mismanagement of their storm water runoff. If we modify existing roads, we are obligated to manage our storm water. Our engineers should be taking care of this. The jury in this case hated the notion that the municipality and a co-defendant school district were represented by the same engineer. There was a conversation about social media. There was a presentation on the Sunshine Act in terms of electronic communications. She said we cannot discuss municipal issues via e-mail with three or more commissioners on the e-mail. This applies to a quorum.

Allegheny County Executive Rich Fitzgerald came in and spoke about Alcosan and the consent decree. There was a presentation on land banking which is the practice of aggregating parcels of land for future sale or development. The proposition is as they roll out these land banks, they will do it at the COG level.

A representative of the State Ethics Committee spoke about avoiding conflicts of interest. You cannot use public office for the financial benefit of yourself or anybody in your family. Minutes are to indicate a refusal to vote on any issue that would lead to a conflict of interest. Commissioners are required to fill out an annual statement of financial interests.

There was a presentation from the Department of Homeland Security on locks and dams in Allegheny County. Jay Costa talked about Act 13 Grants for Sewer and Water Lines.

Vice-President Doebler encourages more people to attend this conference next year.

QVCOG ANNUAL DINNER:

Commissioner Lisanti made a motion that Manager Gwen Patterson go to the dinner with the Township paying for it. Commissioner Jones seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Schollaert made a motion that the Township pay for the door prize of \$30.00. Commissioner Lisanti seconded. The motion passed with four yes votes and one no vote from Vice-President Doebler.

TRICK OR TREATING DATE:

Commissioner Jones made a motion to have trick or treating on October 31, 2014 between 6 and 8 PM. Vice-President Doebler seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Commissioner Schollaert said an address change for McCoy versus South McCoy has been discussed. This is becoming a dangerous situation especially when ambulances are needed. Manager Patterson said we received a letter last year signed by residents on both streets. It would be easier to change the road name. We would need legal help to do this. The Board asked the Solicitor and Manager Patterson to research what has to be done to change the street name.

NEW BUSINESS:

NA.

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION:

Mrs. Sandy Moore, 921 Red Gate Road, asked how much a right of way costs. The Board said it is fair market value.

She also asked about DEP fines. There is a matter of pending litigation involving the Department of Environmental Protection that involves an ongoing investigation. Board Members cannot speak about it under the Executive Session Provision to the Sunshine Act.

Mr. Len Kinter, Sewickley Heights Drive, asked if it would be possible for Public Works to paint the center line of the intersection of Sewickley Heights Drive and Glen Mitchell Road. Manager Patterson said she will ask Public Works about it.

ADJOURNMENT:

Commissioner Jones made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Vice-President Doeblner seconded. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Martha B. Rogers
Township Secretary