

LAWRENCE PARK TOWNSHIP  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING

6:00 p.m.

September 9, 2020

4230 Iroquois Avenue

**In Attendance:** Commissioner J. Cabaday, Commissioner T. Benovic, Commissioner E. Gerardine, Commissioner F. Mussett, Secretary C. Cunningham (Solicitor A. Martinucci Via cell phone).

**Visitors:** Joe Golden, Jim VanDyne, Harry Martz, Rita Nicolussi, Charles Curtis, Dale Durst, Doug Czerwinski, Linda Rodgers, Janell & Michael Peterson, Bob Henny, Amy Johnson

~Commissioner Cabaday called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was performed~

**Presentation:** Attorney Wayne Gerhold spoke to the Board concerning a "bridge" loan that has been applied for concerning a future project for the Township. Gerhold presented Ordinance 2020-2 on behalf of the Township with roll call VOTE taken by Secretary C. Cunningham; Commissioner T. Benovic; "aye"; Commissioner J. Cabaday; "aye"; Commissioner E. Gerardine "aye"; Commissioner F. Mussett "aye"; (Commissioner S. Messina-Miller was absent) with all in favor, Ordinance 2020-2 was duly approved.

**Engineers Report:**

- Community Center Air Conditioning & Air Handling Upgrade Project: Urban is continuing our coordination efforts for the project. CJL is continuing with plan development and cost estimating. Target date for plan completion is winter 2020-2021 with construction in 2021.
- 2020 Streets Resurfacing Project: A change order was prepared by Urban and executed by the Township and Joseph McCormick Construction to extend the project's completion date 35 days, from August 21<sup>st</sup> to September 25<sup>th</sup> to allow time for First Energy to relocate a utility pole from the southwest to the northwest corner at the Priestley and Field intersection so that remaining ADA ramps may be constructed. As of this date, the pole has not been moved. Urban will again attempt contact First Energy to try and determine their schedule for the work.
- Per the Township's Request through Urban, the contractor has again re-seeded and re-mulched areas disturbed by construction activities at several locations. Urban will continue to periodically monitor the grass growth and, if necessary, request further re-seeding and re-mulching.

**Solicitors Report:**

Since the Commissioner's meeting on August 12, 2020, we have been engaged to address a number of different issues.

- We have reviewed and continue to review various code enforcement issues.
  - a. The Township has been contacted by representatives of the property owners at 1211 & 1215 Rankine, and we are following up on those contacts.
  - b. The Code Enforcement Officer has recently provided additional information regarding a previous code enforcement matter that we will be following up on.
  - c. The Code Enforcement Officer has raised the question of "quality of life" citations, such as have been attempted in the City of Erie. I have suggested that the matter be referred to the Planning Commission for consideration.
- We have clarified one section of the new Housing Property Maintenance Code, concerning the defense and indemnification of Township employees engaged in Code Enforcement activities, which is covered by 42 Pa.C.S. §§8545-8550.
- We have directed attention to various matters concerning the RUS/USDA funding for the sewer project; our Bond Counsel, Wayne Gerhold, is in attendance at today's meeting to address that in greater detail and present the Commissioners with an Ordinance allowing for bridge financing through Northwest Bank for the project. The Ordinance was advertised in the Erie Times News this past Saturday as required by the Local Government Unit Debt Act (53 Pa.C.S. 8801, et seq.), and may be properly be considered and voted upon at tonight's meeting.
- We provided the Planning Commission with additional guidance concerning the recently proposed minor subdivision request.

**Reports:**

Commissioner T. Benovic made a motion to approve all reports as presented. Commissioner F. Mussett seconded the motion; the motion carried.

**Visitors signed in to speak:**

- Jim VanDyne presented two drafts for consideration concerning the Historical sign that will be erected in the Township. Commissioner Cabaday asked the residents who were present at the meeting by a show of hands which draft they preferred. The majority of the room preferred version #1.

- Harry Martz asked if he would be informed if there were going to be any zoning changes to the property that belonged to Eastminster Church located behind his property. Solicitor Martinucci stated that it would have to go before the Zoning Hearing board and that it would then be advertised in the newspaper and on the Township website.
- Amy Johnson the new branch manager of the Iroquois division of the Erie County Library asked if the directional signs were going to be changed in the parking area commonly used between the Township building and the Library. Commissioner Cabaday said it had been tabled due to lack of funds from the library and that possibly this would be addressed at a later time. Cabaday asked her to reach out to the Township Office with her contact information or with any questions or needs going forward.

**Bills:**

Commissioner F. Mussett made a motion to pay bills as presented, Commissioner T. Benovic seconded the motion; the motion carried.

**Minutes:**

Commissioner T. Benovic made a motion to approve the Minutes from 8/12/20. Commissioner F. Mussett seconded the motion; the motion carried.

**Resolutions:**

-Commissioner J. Cabaday read aloud Resolution 2020-11 – minor subdivision with following roll call VOTE taken by Secretary C. Cunningham; Commissioner T. Benovic; “aye”; Commissioner J. Cabaday; “aye”; Commissioner E. Gerardine “aye”; Commissioner F. Mussett “aye”; with all in favor, Resolution 2020-11 was duly approved.

-Commissioner Cabaday read aloud Resolution 2020-12 – Enactment of Ordinance 2020-1 amended Property Maintenance Code with following roll call VOTE taken by Secretary C. Cunningham; Commissioner T. Benovic; “aye”; Commissioner J. Cabaday; “aye”; Commissioner E. Gerardine “aye”; Commissioner F. Mussett “aye”; with all in favor, Resolution 2020-12 was duly approved.

**Old Business: N/A**

**New Business:**

- Michael Peterson addressed the Board and the audience concerning his request for his minor-subdivision. He stated that all he has requested is to join two parcels. A resident asked if the property has been purchased yet, Peterson said that he could not do the closing until the properties could be joined and that he was not going to pay for it unless he was able to subdivide. However, County Planning has approved it along with the original property owner.

~Commissioner F. Mussett motioned to adjourn the meeting at 6:26 p.m. Commissioner E. Gerardine seconded the motion; the motion carried. ~

Respectfully Submitted:

Cindy Jo Cunningham  
Board of Commissioner’s Secretary