

**MINUTES
COLLIER TOWNSHIP BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
WORKSHOP MEETING**

March 28, 2018

7:00 P.M.

- I. CALL TO ORDER:** Commissioner Macino called the workshop meeting of the Board of Commissioners to order at 7:10 P.M.

A. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

B. ROLL CALL:

BOARD

Wilson Durisko – Present
Wayne Chiurazzi, Esq. - Present
Dawn Williams-Zabicki – Present
Rick Ruffennach – Present
George Macino – Present

STAFF

Chuck Means, Solicitor - Absent
Kevin Brett, Engineer - Absent
Craig Campbell, Police Chief – Absent
Robert Caun, Planning Director – Absent
Jeff Hinds, Finance Director – Absent
Bob Palmosina, PW Director – Absent
Brian Ralston, Bldg./Codes Officer – Absent
Rochelle Barry, Parks Director – Absent
Kyle Thauvette, Twp. Manager - Present
Valerie Salla, Twp. Secretary – Present

- C. EXECUTIVE SESSION:** A meeting was held to discuss personnel issues.

II. PUBLIC COMMENT ON NEW BUSINESS ITEMS:

Terry Bell of 793 Marigold Court approached the Board requesting an update on the violations notices sent to Jack Cargnoni, President of Woodville Associates.

Mr. Thauvette stated the letters were sent out in the beginning of March and we gave him the required days to respond to the township with his plans to improve or remediate the violations. Mr. Cargnoni failed to do so and we submitted a citation to the Magistrates Office. The Magistrate’s Office is in the process of setting a court date.

Mr. Bell questioned when does the fine start?

Mr. Thauvette stated the Judge determines when the fine starts.

Commissioner Chiurazzi stated the Magistrate’s Office will serve Mr. Cargnoni and then they will tell the Township of a hearing date. On the hearing date if Mr. Cargnoni

does not show up, the Judge will fine him with what our statute applies. He will have 30 days to appeal that like it has never happened. Then this will go downtown to a Judge. If Mr. Cargnoni shows up, the Judge will work something out with him. The Judge will probably give him 30 days to do something. That is the system. We are all not happy about this but it is what we have to do. It is part of First Class Township procedures. If Mr. Cargnoni does nothing, the Judge will issue a judgement and he can appeal that. Then this will go to our Solicitor, costing the Township money, a continuous cost to the Township, and it will be litigated. It is a terrible process when you want something done quickly. Mr. Cargnoni could also do something or go there and pay the fine and do something. Either way, Mr. Cargnoni has to do something. This could be six (6) months down the road or in 30 days.

Mr. Bell questioned could Mr. Cargnoni pay the fine and then we have to start all over again.

Commissioner Chiurazzi stated no. Mr. Cargnoni has to fix the violation.

Mr. Bell stated he graded without a permit and how can Mr. Cargnoni appeal that.

Commissioner Chiurazzi stated Mr. Cargnoni can appeal it. The problem is this has to go according to our codes to the Magistrate. The problem is Mr. Cargnoni knows he has time and knows what he can do with the system. We hope that Mr. Cargnoni will fix the problems and we will be done. It will someday come down to a Judge in the Court of Common Pleas ordering Mr. Cargnoni to do something and fine him. An appeal on this Court will not work for him but this is way down the road. This doesn't happen quickly.

Mr. Bell questioned if the hillside that is failing which is owned by Mr. Cargnoni does not have to do anything about it and never have to fix it. Does he ever have to fix the hillside? It is not in the violation letter.

Mr. John Garber of Neville Park stated only if he has to turn it over as common ground.

Commissioner Chiurazzi stated Mr. Cargnoni is also storing equipment on his property. Mr. Cargnoni can tell the magistrate that he moves the equipment and it is not being stored there. The Judge then will say ok and he doesn't have to move the equipment. What Mr. Cargnoni does on his property she will have no idea but he is not storing it and there is nothing violating the Township's ordinances.

Mr. Thauvette stated the property above Mr. Bell's property on Marigold Court is in the punch list as an item that needs fixed, showing that he has contained the stormwater on his property and is not putting water onto the residents of Marigold Court and Collier Township's property. This is an outstanding punch list item and he has to show us drawings.

Commissioner Chiurazzi questioned if this is part of the citation.

Mr. Thauvette said it is not part of the citation; it is just part of the dedication of roads that needs to be completed before the roads are turned over.

Commissioner Chiurazzi stated “Mr. Cargnoni sat at those tables with us, made a deal with us and it didn’t happen and I’m disappointed. He looked me in the eyes and said it was going to happen and it didn’t. I’m disappointed.” “Ignoring a letter from the Township when Mr. Cargnoni is the largest property owner in the Township also speaks about Mr. Cargnoni and it is unfortunate. Mr. Cargnoni is now being cited and will be served. As a Township we are doing the best that we can and would hate to have this dilemma in his back yard and feels for the residents of Neville Park.”

Mr. Bell stated he has had two (2) contractors come to him and say this is a treat and the reason this has happened is the hillside adjacent to his has released. On Tuesday, he is having a geotech engineer look at his property to say what has happened.

Commissioner Chiurazzi stated when the Township gets the date of the hearing, Kyle will notify you and I hope that some of you show up and say to the Judge this is more of an issue than just two (2) citations from the Township.

Mr. Bell questioned if the Magistrate will allow them to talk.

Commissioner Chiurazzi stated “yes, 100% she will allow you to talk.”

Mrs. MaryAnn Cupples-Wisnioski of Neville Park stated “she was at the last hearing and the Township’s attorney never asked us and we had a whole room full of people and they never asked us one question. I hope this time the Solicitor will do that.”

Commissioner Chiurazzi stated “he hopes we do not have to spend money on a solicitor going to the hearing. Brain Ralston or Kyle could go or he would be okay if Mr. Means goes. Whoever goes needs to call some of the residents to speak and the Judge needs to know. Will the Judge stop you from talking, he doesn’t know. The Judge needs to know this is more than just an issue. The process has started and once it gets to a Judge downtown, there will be a date and it will get done.”

Mr. Bell questioned if this goes to an appeal downtown the clock doesn’t start ticking on a fine till then?

Commissioner Chiurazzi stated it is brand new and is as if it never happened.

Mr. Bell thanked the Board.

Mr. Joe Verducci of Brentwood bank approached the Board asking if there was any question the Board has relative to Collier Finances being moved from PNC Bank.

Commissioner Macino stated that Collier is looking at the finances and may move them from PNC Bank. The Board hasn’t gotten a chance to go over all of what Mr. Hinds has put together and appreciates all the work that has gone into this.

III. NEW BUSINESS:

- A. Consider action to authorize Lennon Smith Souleret to proceed with preliminary design of two lighted soccer fields at Collier Community Park.

Motion was made by Commissioner Chiurazzi, second by Commissioner Ruffennach, to authorize Lennon, Smith, Souleret to proceed with preliminary design of two lighted soccer fields at Collier Community Park. By unanimous vote the motion passed.

- B. Consider action to authorize Lennon Smith Souleret to proceed with the NPDES permit application process for the two soccer fields at Collier Community Park.

Motion was made by Commissioner Chiurazzi, second by Commissioner Durisko, to authorize Lennon, Smith, Souleret to proceed with the NPDES permit as stated above. By unanimous vote the motion passed.

- C. Consider action to hire Rich Liczbinski as a part-time Assistant Records Technician for the Collier Township Police Department at a rate of \$12.00 per hour.

Motion was made by Commissioner Durisko, second by Commissioner Ruffennach, to hire Rich Liczbinski as stated above. By unanimous vote the motion passed.

- D. Consider action to appoint Tyler Lonchar as a member of the Planning Commission Board for a four (4) year term ending on December 31, 2021.

Motion was made by Commissioner Ruffennach, second by Commissioner Durisko, to appoint Tyler Lonchar to the Planning Commission as stated above. By unanimous vote the motion passed.

- E. Consider action to accept the resignation of Lynn Heckman and Karyn Brooks from the Parks and Recreation Board.

Motion was made by Commissioner Durisko, second by Commissioner Ruffennach, to accept the resignation of Lynn Heckman and Karyn Brooks from the Parks and Recreation Board. By unanimous vote the motion passed.

IV. DISCUSSION:

- A. Administrative Committee/Public Affairs:** Commissioner Ruffennach reported the following:

1. *Keep Collier Beautiful.* Will be on April 21st from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Rain or shine. Last year there were 120 volunteers and we are hoping for more this year.

Mr. Thauvette added that Lane Construction will be providing shirts for this. Cooking will be at the Community Center this year. Commissioners Durisko and Ruffennach will help cook.

2. *New Dump Truck.* Public Works will be getting a 2018 Ford F550 Chassis. We will be taking a bed from the old truck that does not run and putting it on this new truck and with the money saved, we will possibly be putting a plow on the utility truck.
3. *Carol Drive.* This project is scheduled to start on April 2. This was approved back in March.
4. *Manager's Coffee Hour.* This is on April 16th at 9:30 a.m. at the Community Center.
5. *Map Update.* We are looking into getting new Township maps. The last one we had was in 2013.

B. COG Committee: Commissioner Durisko informed on the following:

1. *Delegates.* At the beginning of the year we set two (2) delegates and that is the only two people the COG recognizes which are Commissioners Ruffennach and Williams-Zabicki. Even though the COG had a name tag for Commissioner Durisko he was not recognized and was not allowed to vote or participate in the executive session. The COG's process needs to change or we need to modify our list to add other names. It is better to have representation there than not. If Commissioners Ruffennach and Williams-Zabicki cannot make a meeting, Commissioner Durisko will put his name on the list so he is able to vote.

Commissioner Ruffennach added that if both delegates are at the meeting only the chairman is allowed to vote.

2. *Annual Dinner.* Is next month at Rockefeller's.
3. *Blighted Properties.* There was a speaker there from Habitat for Humanities to talk about taking over blighted properties.
4. *Salt prices.* The prices stayed the same at \$70.00 a ton.

C. Finance Committee: Commissioner Macino reported the following:

1. *Audit.* The research part of the Audit is completed and we should have a report for the May public meeting.
2. *Brentwood Bank.* We are expecting results soon from our meeting with Brentwood Bank.

D. Parks and Recreation: Commissioner Ruffennach reported the following:

1. The meeting was cancelled.

Commissioner Macino stated we will need to fill two (2) openings on this Board and advised Kyle to see if there are any alternates or if someone is interested.

Commissioner Williams-Zabicki stated we could put it on the website.

Mrs. MaryAnn Cupples-Wisnioski stated we need two (2) people and one (1) alternate and Tim Eckenrode usually takes care of this but whatever you guys want to do.

Commissioner Macino stated we need to get the word out and we could put it on the sign out front for those who do not necessarily look at the website.

E. Planning and Zoning: Commissioner Williams-Zabicki informed the Board on the following:

1. Encroachment issues are being addressed.
2. There will be a Public Hearing for Sheetz and for a Verizon Wireless.
3. Settler's Pointe Phase 2 final approval will be on the Commissioners regular agenda in April.

Commissioner Durisko stated the Tarot Card reader was approved also.

Commissioner Chiurazzi questioned if Sheetz is still moving forward.

Mr. Thauvette stated Sheetz has come in for preliminary approval.

Commissioner Chiurazzi questioned if Sheetz was buying homes over there off of Steen road.

Mr. Thauvette stated Sheetz is not. The Steen Development Group is working with property owners and they are also working with Sheetz to go into that spot.

F. Public Safety Committee: Commissioner Macino reported the following:

1. *Meeting with Chief Campbell.* Commissioners Macino and Ruffennach met with the Chief last week to discuss the force. We have two (2) Officers that have been off on worker's comp for over two (2) years and now there is a third officer out on worker's comp. We talked about the money spent on overtime and with the money it could be more wisely spent another Officer. The Chief thought that would be great but he would rather have a Detective that would be able to go out and do a lot of the leg work that our street Officers don't get time to do. We will eventually have to look at whether this is a wise spend. There are other issues we have to deal with regarding our existing comp issues. Once these are resolved we could probably move forward with how we want to proceed with adding another position. There is always discussion on how to determine how many police officers we actually need. We are in area that is not a high crime area but that doesn't take away from the fact that sometimes on a shift with two (2) Officers they are still trying to cover an area of 14 square miles. We will be looking at what the needs are for our force and determine the best we can.

G. Public Works Committee: Commissioner Durisko had no report. There may be another snow storm.

Commissioner Ruffennach stated there will be one more yet. It will be 4 inches here by noon and gone by 2:00 p.m.

Commissioner Macino questioned as far as putting a plow on the utility truck, is that something we can do here.

Commissioner Ruffennach stated yes.

H. Township Manager / Township Business: Mr. Thauvette reported the following:

1. *Code Red Reverse 911 Call System.* Calls were made today reading a recorded message. If you received a call today you are in the system. You also have the ability to register online your cell phone and email address. Some people have run into an issue if you register online. You go to the non-managed account, type in your name and phone number. The location pin is just to show you are in the Collier Township boundaries. It does not have to be right on where your home is located. If you are having an issue, call the Township and we will help you out. We have been helping people today and Valerie has been doing great with that. We will keep helping people as we need to. We had 900 people today register their cell phones. This system will be used for emergencies but also for community notifications. We will try to incorporate it into planning and zoning when there are Zoning Hearing Board meetings and we have to notify the residents on a certain street, we can use this for just those homes.
2. *Sustainability Event.* On April 3rd next week, Collier was asked to host the Sustainable Pittsburgh Event which is called the Sustainability Community Development network Forum. They chose us because of our solar panels on our public works garage and being one of the first communities to look at alternative energy sources. Burns and Scalo will be there doing a presentation. This is from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
3. *Salt.* We are now down towards the bottom of our salt bin but we are able to order 125% of our total still at the locked in SHACOG Rate. We have not touched that yet and we have about 900 ton left and should be good this year.
4. *Junior Achievement Day.* This was held at the Chartiers Valley primary school yesterday. We worked with first graders to help educate them about the importance of deciphering the importance between goods and services and understanding the importance of money in the community. It was a great event. Commissioner Durisko's wife and Mr. Thauvette handled a class together.
5. *Banner Community.* Last Friday, Collier Township was recognized as an original member for a Banner Community in Allegheny County. This is something we have been doing for several years.

Commissioner Durisko thanked Mr. Thauvette for being involved with the Junior Achievement Day which is great for the school and our community. The kids really look up to the police officers which is great to get that bond now. He also got to meet the new superintendent and would like to invite her and maybe the principals to a meeting for introductions.

V. OTHER BUSINESS:

Mr. Thauvette informed the Board that the encroachment issue Commissioner Williams-Zabicki mentioned will be at the April 11th meeting and if the Board would like to discuss it this would be a good time.

Commissioner Williams-Zabicki stated that Mr. Ralston sent the information to the Board and questioned how we balance the fact that we have established rules and still wanting someone to enjoy the property. What is our history or cultural attitude we have taken with these situations?

Commissioner Macino stated our culture is to really try to deal with each issue on its on merit. Some are easier to deal with than others.

The Board discussed some issues and if there is a hardship to determine. Every situation is different.

Commissioner Macino stated that a Home Owners Association can supersede our decision.

Commissioner Durisko stated we can approve a permit but if it is not acceptable to the HOA then the resident cannot do it.

Commissioner Macino stated the resident should get permission from their HOA before they come to the Township. If the HOA doesn't want it in their neighborhood than it can't happen.

VI. ADJOURNMENT:

Motion was made by Commissioner Durisko; seconded by Commissioner Williams-Zabicki; to adjourn the work shop meeting at 7:55 p.m. By unanimous vote of the Board the motion passed.

George E. Macino – President
Board of Commissioners

Valerie A. Salla
Township Secretary