

*ROSS TOWNSHIP SUPERVISORS  
MINUTES  
APRIL 7, 2014*

*The Ross Township Board of Supervisors gathered at approximately 7:00 p.m for their regular monthly meeting. Chairman Beers called the meeting to order with Vice Chairman Drake and Supervisor Kresge present. Solicitor Dunn was absent. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.*

*The minutes of the March 3, 2014 meeting were approved as presented on a motion made by Vice Chairman Drake, seconded by Supervisor Kresge and carried. A motion was made by Vice Chairman Drake to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented. The motion was seconded by Supervisor Kresge and carried.*

*OPEN TO THE PUBLIC-Carolyn Lange of Mountain Rd. reported that cat litter is being dumped along Mountain Rd. and Upper Smith Gap Rd. in large quantities and asked what can be done about it. Chairman Beers stated that perhaps someone used it when they were stuck on ice or snow, but, it was noted the cat litter was **used** cat litter. Some discussion took place regarding a camera setup. The Supervisors noted they did not have a solution to this situation.*

*Judy Breidinger, Park Chairman noted that Saturday is the Easter egg hunt and she would like to use the bathrooms in the Municipal Building so arrangements were made assist her with opening the building although she has the ability to gain access. Chairman Beers asked if she wanted to discuss the clean up of the park and she indicated that April 26<sup>th</sup> is the date and it will be the upper end of the park, no mulch needed. Chairman Beers asked if the playground equipment being donated was discussed more particularly the location of it. He suggested it be placed behind the other equipment already there except there are trees in the area. Suggestion was they may be moved. Also in the mix is the pavilion we have the grant for. Further discussion will be needed on these matters.*

*PLANS-The first item is the Developer's Agreement for the Dollar General Land Development. It was noted the agreement is now ready for signatures. A motion was made by Vice Chairman Drake, seconded by Supervisor Kresge to approve. The motion carried.*

*The next item was the Sewer Planning Module for Blue Ridge Winery. This module was recommended for approval by the Planning Commission. A motion was made by Supervisor Kresge to approve as recommended by the Ross Township Planning Commission. The motion was seconded by Vice Chairman Drake and carried.*

*OLD BUSINESS-Vice Chairman Drake noted interviews were held last week for the position of part-time Zoning/Codes officer. She made a motion to appoint Stephen Meylach. The motion was seconded by Supervisor Kresge and carried. An additional motion was made by Supervisor Kresge that the position is three days per week; pay rate*

*is \$16.00 per hour plus mileage. That motion was seconded by Vice Chairman Drake and carried. Chairman Beers noted that a stipulation was made that the three days are to be decided by Mr. Meylach but once scheduled they should remain the same. (21-24hours per week)*

*A request was received from Bernie Kozen for a support letter for Chestnuthill Township's grant application for trail work on their park trail. A motion was made Supervisor Kresge, seconded by Vice Chairman Drake to provide such letter. The motion carried.*

*The next item on the agenda involves the budget amendments necessary for the grant for LSA funds. The Secretary was requested to explain this item. She went on to indicate that the grant awarded is in the amount of \$369,900. What is needed is will there be a new building or a renovation project and a cost estimate will have to be drafted and included. Chairman Beers noted that a decision has to be made as to whether we are building a new building or renovating the present one to make the required adjustments. Chairman Beers noted that the funds we received would be adequate for a renovation of this building. Supervisor Kresge stated that the reason we applied for the grant was to build a new building and he went on to thank Rep. Mario Scavello and Rep. Rosemary Brown for their assistance in that regard. He further described many reasons for building a new building citing some expenditures spent with this application in mind stressing those expenses would not have been made if renovation was proposed. He reviewed the in kind services the Township would perform such as excavation, septic system, and other site work. Water could be made available through a connection to the central water system that presently runs through the field. Supervisor Kresge expressed concern over the sewer system, well water and foundation issues with the present building. He added he is looking to put a fireproof concrete vault or safe room for protection of Township records and said that couldn't be built in the present situation. Also noted was the grant we received for the composting toilets for the park could be incorporated into a new building and make them part of the sewer system instead of composting. Supervisor Kresge stated that many letters of support from other municipalities and politicians were received and made part of the grant application. He also mentioned that we refurbished the meeting room and other areas damaged during the August 5, 2013 incident with insurance funds for approximately \$15,000 and finally said that at this point there should only be discussion about the new building because he felt a vote was taken on the new building at the time the grant application was agreed to. Chairman Beers noted that the architect expenses for the new building will be another \$70,000-\$80,000 dollars with Supervisor Kresge responding there would be architect expenses to renovate this building also. Chairman Beers indicated he thought a vault could be constructed in this building since there is a concrete floor. He noted that Rep. Rosemary Brown was 99% sure the grant funds could be used to renovate. A question was asked by a resident " what would this building be used for" if a new building was built. Some discussion took place concerning cost of new construction and it was determined that the approximate cost was about \$200 per square foot. Vice Chairman Drake asked if there is any estimate on what the cost of refurbishing this building would be. Some discussion took place concerning the front wall of this building*

*and the exits to the rear. Some one from the public asked if this building could be rented or it could be used for something else. Renting it would interfere with the fact that we are tax exempt. A question was asked if a firm amount was arrived at on the cost of a new building and suggested a committee be formed to assist with obtaining such information. Vice Chairman Drake suggested meeting to discuss this in more depth and in the meantime get costs for renovating this building. It was noted that the meeting could include the three Supervisors, Township engineer, and architect. The Secretary suggested meeting with the architectural firm that at one time offered some pro bono work (based on the August 5<sup>th</sup> incident). Vice Chairman Drake suggested the grant writer could attend also. Chairman Beers noted we need numbers before a decision can be made and he feels an architect would be that person. Some further discussion took place about a discrepancy with the dollar amount of each square foot. The end result was to set up a meeting with the pro bono architect, the Township Engineer and the Supervisors and/or the grant writer. A resident asked if the public would be invited and there was a negative response because this would be an information gathering session.*

*Chairman Beers announced the CJERP hearing is scheduled to be held again (for the Regional Zoning Ordinance) on May 1, 2014 at the West End Fire House on Rt. 715, Brodheadsville at 7:00 p.m. Chairman Beers noted that the Ross Township Planning Commission will need to make a review and the Secretary noted that she has distributed it to their Secretary to place on their April 15<sup>th</sup> agenda.*

*ROAD FOREMAN REPORT-Ethan Brewer, Road Foreman presented a plan that he and Russ Kresge, Township Engineer reviewed concerning the Federal Mandate on sign retroreflectivity he submitted copies to the Board which they will review and is tabled until the next meeting.*

*The Road Foreman discussed some replacement tires for the mower and it was determined to purchase the two tires needed. (Galaxy approx. \$500.00)*

*Road inspection was scheduled for the Supervisors and Road Foreman for April 15<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 a.m.*

*CORRESPONDENCE-The Secretary discussed the increase in the umbrella liability insurance proposal and it was decided to increase in from 1million to 2 million at a cost of \$1,263.00. We will also ask for quotes on cyber insurance to make an informed decision.*

*After a review of the bills Chairman Beers asked about the bill to Chestnuthill Township and the Secretary explained it was for Atty. Fareri and the advertising for the Regional Zoning work.*

*Linda Zak asked about if the new building meetings will be open to the public because she doesn't want the Township to go into debt. It was determined we would ask Solicitor Dunn for a decision on this.*

*A motion was made by Vice Chairman Drake and seconded by Supervisor Kresge to pay the bills as presented.*

*There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.*

*Respectfully submitted,*

*Doris Price, Secretary*