

**Township of Crescent  
Board of Commissioners  
Workshop Meeting  
November 18, 2015**

On November 18, 2015 the monthly meeting of the Crescent Township Board of Commissioners was called to order at 6:00 P.M. in the Crescent Township Municipal Building 225 Spring Run Road, Crescent, Allegheny County, Pennsylvania.

**ROLL CALL**

Those present - Commissioners: President Jerry Keller, Vice-President Todd Miller, Joe Sabol, and James Meredith

Secretary/Manager: Kellie Crago

**PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS**

Dan Sweeney 1501 Laurel Ridge Drive and his wife Valerie were present for the meeting. He stated a number of pros living in the neighborhood but one main con was the lack of sidewalks. Because of where his house is located, near the bend; going to the mailbox is not a trivial thing. He notes some residents do not allow their kids to play in the front yard due to the speeding along Laurel Ridge Drive. He explained scenarios where individuals came close to being hit by drivers speeding along the roadway. He and his wife are in favor of the Chief's recommendation of placing speed bumps on Laurel Ridge. He suggested using removable speed bumps during winter months or lowering the speed limit or even installing stop signs. He understands this may be an inconvenience to others, but that would be minor, compared to hitting someone with a vehicle.

Denise Thomas 1519 Laurel Ridge Drive agreed with what Mr. Sweeney said. Since she has the time, she does clock the vehicles. All vehicles from construction to soccer mini vans go fast, up to 55 mph. Her daughter moved into the neighborhood to be closer to them. Although, she is concerned because they walk down to her house and there is speeding along Laurel Ridge. She appreciates the time Chief Zimmel has put into this matter; by monitoring the area, erecting the digital traffic sign and assigning officers to the area. She did some research and speed bumps have not impaired emergency vehicles in a residential neighborhood. It only would impair them on a daily route basis.

Kristi Zvolenski 1519 Laurel Ridge Drive respects the concerns for speeders along the street although she does not feel speed bumps are the solution to the problem. She feels their hill is dangerous enough in the winter months and people excel on the initial incline to get up the hill. She lives at the top of the Laurel Ridge at sees cars get stuck in front of her house all the time. She would not be against lowering the speed limit. Besides speed bumps being an inconvenience factor she noted there would be wear and tear on a vehicle and how it slows an emergency vehicle down by 10 seconds.

Becky Covington 1513 Laurel Ridge Drive was out of town and emailed a letter for Ms. Zvolenski to read to the Board. Ms. Covington feels the speeding has gotten better since the radar sign was placed months ago. She also feels it is their own responsibility to teach their kids street safety. She would like this issue to be dealt with from within the community, without the help of police or construction measures.

Matt Majcher 1622 Lilac Lane opposes the speed bumps. He does not see the speeding when he is out walking his dogs. He did research and emailed it to the Chief. What he found out from the Institute of Transportation of Engineers, speed bumps are not recommended on grades greater than 8%. He produced a report showing from the bottom of Laurel ridge to the top, the total average grade was 19.2%. He is also concerned because he leaves for work at 3AM at times and the roads are not even plowed yet. He would be open to reducing the speed limit.

Luis Glumac 1516 Laurel Ridge Drive is for the speed bumps for going down the hill only because that is where people seem to pick up the maximum amount of speed.

Jeff Gagat 1638 Aster Lane recognizes the speed on Laurel Ridge yet feels speed bumps are not the answer. He would like to know how many tickets have been issued in the last six months or year. He also wanted to know the details from the speed device that was placed on Laurel Ridge and how many vehicles were truly speeding. He believes this is an enforcement issue and a vehicle should not be subject to additional wear and tear. He also wanted to know if speed bumps create a liability to the township primarily motorcycles and if it would cause any issues with snow removal and the plows. He agrees with lowering the speed limit or using radar.

Danielle Lockhardt 1503 Laurel Ridge Drive sees the speeding down Laurel Ridge all the time despite the speed limit signs. She would like for the kids to be able to walk down the road to the soccer field without it being a threat. She is in favor of the speed limit being lowered to 15 mph. She would like everyone to do their part. She also wanted to commend the road department on keeping their road clean in the winter time because they do an excellent job. She also wanted to thank the police department for sitting in her driveway to help with this speeding issue. She is open to any solutions possible to slow this traffic down.

Tetyana Verbytskyy 1501 Laurel Ridge Drive moved to the plan three years ago. Her main concern is the speed limit. She walks the dog every morning and sees the speeding every morning in the dark. She is for the speed bumps but she is also open to anything that can be done to slow the vehicles on the road.

Valerie Sweeney 1501 Laurel Ridge Drive is for the speed bumps and would suggest removable ones for the winter time. Regarding comments about lowering the speed limit, she feels if they are not going to respect the speed limit at 25, they are not going to respect the speed limit at 15.

Krisit Zvolenski 1519 Laurel Ridge Drive feels like 25 mph going down Laurel Ridge is high. It feels like you are actually speeding down the road, even if you are do the speed limit. She is open to lowering the limit to 15mph.

Girish Bhanushali 1511 Laurel Ridge Drive her main concern is speed. Her kids are not allowed to play in their front yard. She would like to see the school buses and the large trucks go down the hill in a lower gear because they go down the hill so fast. She suggests the speed limit be lowered.

Danielle Lockhart 1503 Laurel Ridge Drive commented that since there are no sidewalks or street lights, the neighborhood should be treated like a school zone and the speed limit should be reduced to 15 mph. There is no buffer zone for those walking or riding bikes.

Erik Shannon 1515 Laurel Ridge Drive with his wife Teresa and son Eli came down to speak on the issue. He feels speed bumps should be the last resort. This is the first time as a community the issue has been discussed. He has seen his fair share of speeders along Laurel Ridge. He feels the township should look at other measures first before installing speed bumps. He would also like to see the raw data from the device placed months ago. He also feels the lack of sidewalks adds to some risks other neighborhoods do not have. He is not sure he is in favor of speed bumps, unless it is the last resort.

Lois Lockhart 1503 Laurel Ridge Drive notes he is a shift worker and he pulls out of his driveway morning, noon and even night. His house is on the blind curb and when he pulls out and looks both ways, he ends up with cars on his bumper because they are coming around the bend way to fast. Where he works they have both types of speed bumps; asphalt and plastic. He also has plowed snow and knows the plows have springs on them and they bounce back and keep going. On asphalt bumps, they are even smoother. The plow hits them and keeps on going. If a bump is on a hill, they need to be angled in a manner so no ice accumulates on them. There should never be a problem in the winter.

Mike Gerhardt 1646 Aster Lane has been in the community for 11 years. He opposes the speed bumps and is open to the reduction of speed limit. A while back there was concern about no parking in the neighborhood and now there are no parking signs on every speed limit sign to remind the residents. He wants to know directly from the Chief if it is his recommendation to put speed bumps on Laurel Ridge because he has not heard it directly. He lives on Aster Lane and does not feel there is a speeding issue on his street.

## **PUBLIC SAFETY**

Commissioner Miller responded to residents comments about lowering the speed limit. He noted 15 mph are only allowed in a school zone. An impact study can be done where the engineer and solicitor can get involved. A certain area can be lowered only if an area is deemed to be a hazardous condition. Only a judge can make that determination. This study will take time. He is against speed bumps and feels it will be a hazard to motorcycles and plows. He would like to see the whole township lowered but he knows this could not be done.

Chief Zimmel introduced himself and Captain Longerman. He noted the original complaint came in back in May. This was received from Commissioner Keller while he was campaigning and was received by residents along Laurel Ridge Drive. Captain Longerman installed the radar sign on the week of May 22. He explained the purpose of the device was not to display everyone's speed; it was used to gather information on the number of vehicles and the speed they were traveling. After the device was put up, there was heavy enforcement on the road. From May 22 through June 15, the site was monitored 20 times. As a result, 2 violations occurred and they were given warnings. He reminded the public the department cannot stop vehicles until they are traveling 10mph over the speed limit.

Chief Zimmel read the following stats gathered from the week if May 22-29:

<b>Speed limit</b>	<b># of vehicles</b>	<b>Percentage of Total vehicles %</b>
16-25 mph	886	42.5 %
26-35 mph	967	46.3%
36-45 mph	27	1.3% (can be ticketed)
46-55 mph	2	.09% (can be ticketed)

He continued to explain the average speed was 24.3, although 85% of the drivers were going 30 mph. The last statistic notes the speeding occurred in the morning and evening on the way to work and coming home from work.

He stated the idea of speed bumps was his idea and does not want a community to become divided over this topic. He travels roads frequently that have speed humps in Economy Borough and has driven Sharon Road in Moon that also has them. He has been in contact with Captain Mark Joyce in Finlay Township and they have five roads that have speed humps within their township. The Captain made it

perfectly clear that speed humps slow drivers down and were effective. He noted this was a recommendation from him and the Board has the ultimate decision on how they would like to proceed with this issue. He wanted to note his idea was to install two humps on the flat areas along Laurel Ridge around house numbers 1505/1504 and 1513/1516. He would not recommend any on the steep areas of the road. If there is another solution to the speeding, he is open to it and would welcome the suggestions.

Captain Longerman stated the township uses Enrad and Accu -Trac. With those devices, vehicles have to be traveling 11 mph over the limit before they can be stopped and ticketed. Radar is not permitted to be used by any local police officer. He travels Sharon Road in Moon and it does slow traffic down. He also agrees with Mr. Gagat with zero tolerance enforcement. He just reminded everyone that the large portions of residents that are speeding are their neighbors.

Commissioner Miller felt we needed to look into other options before jumping right into speed humps and discuss them with the solicitor. He made a motion for the Police department to enforce the area more plus put the radar box up for a longer period of time and move forward to possibly do an impact study of lowering the speed limit to 15mph. Commissioner Meredith seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken and found all commissioners were in favor of the motion. Commissioner Miller reminded the residents that this process could take a very long time and was not a definite answer to the problem.

## **PUBLIC WORKS**

Commissioner Meredith explained to the Board earlier in the year the updated the street opening Ordinance. He went into detail the process of opening a street, who would need to obtain a permit, and the methods and materials needed to close the street. He presented the board with an improved permit noting the updated information from the ordinance. Commissioner Meredith made a motion to accept the updated application and was seconded by Commissioner Miller. A roll call vote was taken and found all commissioners in favor of the motion. The motion was granted.

The next item was the discussion of the Sautter Road improvements for 2016. Commissioner Meredith went into detail about installing 6 catch basins on Sautter Drive in 2016 and paving would take place in 2017 if finances would allow. The engineer reviewed the plans and made minor changes to the plans designed by the public works foreman. He noted it would take 2-3 months in order for the project to be completed.

Commissioner Meredith further discussed about the Spring Run road bridge replacement. Allegheny County has contacted the township and they have plans on replacing the bridge on Spring Run Road in 2017 or 2018. A definite date has not been set but discussion has started. When solid plans have been made they will be relayed on to the residents.

The last item discussed by Commissioner Meredith was tar and chipping approximately nine roads in the township. He listed nine streets; Purdy, Crescent Blvd Ext., Main St., Old Harper, Riverview, Mathers Lane, Louisa, McCutheon Way and Ravine Street. He would like to do all of Purdy Road and exchange some services with Moon if possible. This will need to be discussed with Moon Township and the State. There was discussion on not using the winter maintenance money because that was used to balance the budget. Discussion continued on using the Agility Agreement for tar and chipping. Commissioner Miller made a motion to approach PennDOT using our Agility Agreement and was seconded by Commissioner Sabol. Discussion continued explaining that more roads may need to be added or deleted depending on the states parameters. A roll call vote was taken and found all commissioners in favor of the motion.

## **FINANCE**

Commissioner Keller reminded all commissioners and department heads that anything that is purchased from tonight on needs to be approved by the Finance Chair. All purchases need to be made by December 1, besides emergency or reoccurring purchased items. He explained the budget is in good shape and will end up with approximately \$150,000. For the 2016 budget, he explained he needed \$84,000 from the capital reserve to balance it. For the 2015 budget, he needed to do the same. He can cut costs but that means cutting services. He feels a tax increase is a top priority item the commissioners need to consider for next year. Over the past years, revenues have only increased by 15% while expenses from the police department have increased by 52% and public works by 84%. This was due to the purchase of the backhoe, hiring of the third employee and increasing the amount for the road program. The Board agreed to increase the road program to over \$100, 000. He continued to explain why more was not put in to the 2016 road program because it was set aside for Riverview Road repairs/engineers costs. He went into detail about controlling overtime cuts for the police department. He cut both the police and public works department by both .01%. He was being fair. Discussion continued on the purchase of a bucket for a 12'' bucket for the backhoe and the price running \$800. This would be used for digging trenches along the roads on like Riverview and Chanticleer. Commissioner Miller stated that since it was under \$1000 board action was not needed at this time.

## **MANAGER'S REPORT**

Ms. Crago explained Portnoff Law Associates contract with the township to collect to delinquent garbage bills will expire in February 2016. Currently Jordan Tax Service sends out our garbage bills. The original contract included the collection of delinquent bills but had to be modified because the township was under a current contract with Portnoff until 2016. Commissioner Keller wanted to know what Jordan Tax's collection rate was versus' Portnoff's.

The second item Ms. Crago discussed were future capital improvement projects on the municipal building. She referred to when the DCED came to the township last year and talked about capital improvement projects 5 to 10 years out. She explained the building is important and needs to be maintained. She presented to the Board three quotes to replace the three windows in the administrative office. There was discussion amongst the commissioners regarding the different bids and the amount of money left in the building capital project budget for year. Any remaining would be used to clean the carpets. Commissioner Sabol made a Window World for \$1429 and was seconded by Commissioner Meredith. A roll call vote was taken and found all commissioners in favor of the motion. The motion was granted.

The next item was the discussion of the Shouse Park inspection from Ted Neff. She explained the drop boxes need to be replaced at the entrance of the park. She noted this will be on the agenda for the new board at the beginning of next year. Commissioner Miller asked for a couple of quotes when it comes back on the agenda.

The fourth item Ms. Crago discussed was the option of paying reoccurring bills via ACH/online in 2016. She has spoken with the solicitor and there is nothing that prohibits it in the First Class Township code. She will be discussing this option with Mark Turnely, the auditor, to see about internal controls. She wanted to get the boards feeling on this option because it would need to be voted on at the re-organizational meeting in January. Each commissioner felt the online payment method would be a good option as long as it was controlled. She next discussed the option of having room renters use two checks; one for the rental and one for the deposit. There was discussion on the positive and negatives of submitting two checks and holding one for an extended period of time.

The last item Ms. Crago discussed was the portable toilet placed at the hockey deck. She received flyer from a local vendor noting they offer this service. She stated this vendor will come out three times a month versus four like the current company. Discussion continued on how this would affect the residents using the hockey deck area and the savings of \$400/year. Commissioner Miller made a motion to change to the portable toilet vendor to Pittsburgh Potty at a rate of \$125/month. This would be for a handicap unit. Commissioner Sabol seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken and found all commissioners in favor of the motion. The motion was granted.

Ms. Crago informed the Board the passing of the commissioner from Aleppo Township, reminded the board of the senior's luncheon that will be held in December and to check their mailboxes for any correspondence.

## **PARKS AND RECREATION**

Commissioner Sabol reminded everyone the children's Christmas party will be Saturday December 19 at 1PM. It will be held at the Fire Hall. Commissioner Keller reminded Commissioner Sabol the Parks board still has a couple thousand dollars left in its budget for 2015 and it will not be rolled over to next year.

Commissioner Keller commented on the amount of money that has been spent on the up keep of the building this year. He noted \$4000. He proceeded to say that the building is old and needs to be maintained properly for the residents.

## **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

John Radcliff 1636 Aster Lane wished the township would have reached out to all the HOA's and contacted them about speed humps on Laurel Ridge. He was not in favor of speed bumps but was in favor of lowering the speed limit. This would give the township the opportunity for increased revenue according to the statics given earlier in the meeting.

Jeff Gagat 1638 Aster Lane reminded the board that Crescent is the second highest taxed municipality in Western Allegheny County. He would like to see the board control costs and bring that rate down. He plans on addressing these issues when he takes his seat in January. Secondly, he likes the ACH option on bills but it also changes the internal control and could help with those concerns. He commented on the option of the second check made out for rentals and fraud issues that could occur. Mr. Gagat stated he is not for the speed bumps. He feels it comes down to policing and money. He wanted to know if you could hire a State Trooper to use a radar gun. He also felt that the wrong message was sent out when warnings were given to the two speeders on Laurel Ridge. He also would like to see the catch basins on Purdy brought up a bit higher if the road is going to be tar and chipped.

Jason McElvy 1629 Aster Lane stated he works for a bank and he sees seniors come in concerned about fraudulent checks and would not want to see the township in that position. Regarding tar and chipping Purdy he would like to know if Moon Township would do their portion also so there would not be a break in the road. He would also like the center line at the bottom of Laurel Ridge repainted in the spring because it has worn away.

Dan Sweeney 1501 Laurel Ridge addresses Commissioner Keller's previous comment. He stated only 2 people were speeding. He would like to correct the commissioner and remind him that 47% of people were actually going over the speed limit and were speeding but only 2 were able to be ticketed.

## COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Commissioner Sabol wanted to commend the residents of Parkwood for coming out this evening and addressing the serious issue in their plan. He feels something needs to be done when that amount of people complain about the same issue. He did not feel speed bumps were the resolve, but something needs to be done to protect the residents. He also said the kids that were at the meeting were very well behaved.

Commissioner Miller agreed with the policing of the plan and would like to see the Enrad used more often. The more an officer sits in an area the more a resident will be on guard with their speed. He also asked if the office looked into the Google video meeting which was presented at the Seven Springs conference. Ms. Crago indicated the office did not have the resources to purchase a laptop or accessories to pursue the idea at the present time but will keep it for future reference. Commissioner Miller felt this was a great idea because it would be a way to reach out to the residents and find more volunteers.

Commissioner Meredith commented that his department will be fully staffed and have gone over the winter maintenance agreement. He discussed the procedures of cleaning cul de sacs and how difficult it has been without a smaller truck in the fleet.

Commissioner Keller would like to inform the residents that they work closely with Moon Township and have a good relationship with them. He would like to thank those who came out this evening. He would like to see all three HOA's to approach their members and poll their residents and let us know their desires concerning speed bumps. He also wanted to comment on a comment that was made at the Board meeting last Thursday. It was mentioned about merging with Moon Township and asked the Board to approach their Board if the opportunity would arise. He has worked for two years with their Supervisors and no opportunity has come about. Commissioner cannot make that decision. The residents need to file a referendum on the ballot on both the Crescent and Moon Township for a merger.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Commissioner Sabol and was seconded by Commissioner Miller. A voice vote was taken and found all commissioners in favor of the motion. The meeting adjourned at 8:46PM.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Certified as a true and correct copy

---

Kellie L. Crago  
Township Manager / Secretary