

BOROUGH OF WILMERDING
MINUTES OF THE FEB. 1, 2011 REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL

The meeting was called to order by President Stephen Shurgot at 7:30 p.m.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by the President.

MR. S. SHURGOT: everyone remain standing so that we may have a moment of silence for Jim Cortazzo, our Fire Chief, who has passed away.

ROLL CALL: MICHAEL TRKULA, present; JAMES FILIA, present; KAREN PETERSON, present; SANDRA SMITH, present; GREGORY JAKUB, present; JOHN THOMAS, present; STEPHEN SHURGOT, present.

M. TRKULA / TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES OF THE JAN. 4, 2011 MEETING AS PRESENTED.

MS. S. SMITH: I have a question on the minutes. On page 4 I did not ask when do the terms expire but can we increase the number of committee members. The Solicitor's answer is correct when he said that it is fixed by borough ordinance.

/ S. SMITH TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES WITH THE CORRECTIONS. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.

MS. S. SMITH: can I make a request. There is nothing in the minutes of what is said in the workshop. For example, when the Solicitor gives his report he states that everything was covered earlier in the workshop. We do not know what he said because there is nothing in the minutes. Can we include the workshop in the minutes.

MR. S. SHURGOT: we would just have to keep them separate.

PETITIONS & MEMORIALS

MR. P. LIVERATTI - AIRBRAKE AVE.: can we get the people to clean up after a snow storm. There are a lot of sidewalks that are not cleaned and you can't even walk on the sidewalks. People have to go out into the street.

MR. S. SHURGOT: we will instruct our Code Officer to take a look at this.

MRS. S. ZIBRAT - AIRBRAKE AVE.: I just received a statement in the mail from Keystone on the wage tax. I thought that you went with Keystone to collect the whole one percent but it says to submit a half percent and the other half percent would go to Oakmont.

MR. S. SHURGOT: that is for last year.

MR. M. VOLPE - LANDLORD: I was wondering if Council can give some consideration to the issue concerning Card Avenue Extension. It is a paper street but the borough maintains it. They paved the alley and also plow it. There are two homes and eight garages there. It is not a private alley. You are plowing the private alley behind the 200 block of Welsh Avenue and also the 500 block of Middle. I am asking that you give some consideration too plowing Card Avenue Extension. You have been doing the work for years and I would like you to continue to do so. I have some pictures of those areas and it shows that the private alleys were plowed but Card Avenue extension was not.

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I know there has been some change in the Public Works Department, did you hire any extra people when the equipment broke down. I noticed that there were some contractors clearing the snow on three different occasions. I offered my time and equipment to help with snow removal at no charge to the borough. If you need help I am available.

MR. S. SHURGOT: we did not contract with any one for snow removal. If they were plowing they did it on their own. We did not ask anyone to help.

MR. M. VOLPE: I would also ask for some consideration on cleaning the parking area around the churches. There is no place to park if you are going to church.

MRS. T. HICKMAN - AIRBRAKE AVE.: is there a problem with the electrical wires around Airbrake, Middle and Third Street. We heard a loud boom and then there was debris falling and the wires came down. Is there something wrong with the wires or transformers in that area. Duquesne Light did come out to take care of it.

MR. J. FILIA: that would be up to them to determine if there are any problems.

CORRESPONDENCE

1. we have a resolution that establishes reasonable costs of collection for delinquent taxes and imposing the cost of such collection upon the delinquent taxpayer. It designates Keystone Collections Group as the delinquent collector of the 511 taxes.

G. JAKUB / M. TRKULA TO ADOPT THE RESOLUTION DESIGNATING KEYSTONE COLLECTIONS AS THE DELINQUENT COLLECTOR OF THE 511 TAXES. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.

2. received a letter from the North Versailles Public Library requesting our help in funding the North Versailles Public Library's Summer Reading Program. Last year 245 children participated and this program encourages the children to read during the summer to expand their horizons and retain their reading skills. Your support will provide story tellers, arts and crafts, snacks, reading incentives and prizes educational experts and a closing party in August.

S. SMITH / K. PETERSON TO RECEIVE AND FILE. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

PUBLIC SAFETY - J. FILIA: for the month of January Eastern Area Pre-Hospital Services responded to 45 calls with 35 being transported. Their average response time for emergency calls was 7.2 minutes and for non emergency calls it was 9.56 minutes. Chief DiCenzo will not give us the police report.

CHIEF V. DiCENZO: for the month of January we responded to 190 calls and there were 2 arrests. A brief summary of the calls were; 2 assaults, 4 burglary calls, 5 criminal mischief, 7 domestics, 1 drug investigation, 5 harassment calls, 2 juvenile related calls, 4 parking complaints, 4 suspicious activity, 3 suspicious vehicles, 3 thefts and 2 tow tagged vehicles.

CODE ENFORCEMENT:

MR. S. SHURGOT: everyone has received a copy of his report.

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PUBLIC WORKS - G. JAKUB: right now we have one full time and one part time employee in public works. On the plus side we do have someone here to take care of the equipment if things break down. We have not brought anyone in to plow. We did have some problems with the new equipment that we bought from Zoresco and we are trying to resolve that issue. We also hired another person on an as needed basis.

ENGINEER - D. GILLILAND:

The final phase of TV inspection of sewers should commence in February.

I have had no further communication from PennDOT regarding the Maple Street retaining wall.

The repair of the inlet at Orient and Frank will be started sometime in February depending on weather conditions.

The Semi-Annual Progress Report for the consent decree has been filed with DEP.

COG REPORT - G. JAKUB: when COG submitted their earned income tax proposal they incurred \$4,000 in expenses and they are talking about sending each member an invoice for \$220 to cover this expense.

MR. S. SHURGOT: we will talk about that when the bill comes in.

MR. G. JAKUB: COG is also pushing everyone to use the Vactor Program again this year. Last year the cost was \$7,500 and they are raising it to \$9,000 or \$850 a day. We may want to consider working with other municipalities and sharing the vactor. We only used it ten days last year.

COG is also soliciting donations for their hospitality suite at Seven Springs for the Borough's Association Conference.

COG's annual dinner will be on Feb. 25th at Banquets Unlimited at a cost of \$50 per person.

G. JAKUB / S. SMITH TO SEND THE TWO COG REPRESENTATIVES TO THE DINNER. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.

UTILITIES - K. PETERSON: we received some information from Energy Savers and they are offering us an opportunity to present their program. I will try to set up a date when they can come in and talk to us.

SOLICITOR - G. EVASHAVIK: Nick attended a statutory appeal hearing for Ronald Reagan. As you are aware Mr. Reagan has been a repeat violator of Borough Ordinances regarding the upkeep of his property. Mr. Reagan's attorney told the Judge that he has secured a grant on behalf of Mr. Reagan that would enable him to clean up or at least begin cleaning of the property within sixty days, therefore he requested a sixty day extension. The Judge granted him a postponement and we asked that no further postponements be granted. The Judge said he would consider that at the next hearing.

We sent a letter to the County concerning the turning lane into Wall.

I spoke with the East Allegheny Superintendent about Wilmerding wanting to relinquish ownership of the YMCA property. It is a discussion item on the February agenda for the school board. The district will either take the property back under a deed from the borough and lease it to the YMCA directly or possibly authorize sale to the YMCA.

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The hearing with Sean Kerrigan has been postponed until April 12, 2011

PERSONNEL - J. FILIA: the Personnel Committee is recommending the hiring of Mr. Thomas Nee on a as needed basis in the Public Works Department.

S. SMITH / K. PETERSON TO HIRE MR. THOMAS NEE ON A AS NEEDED BASIS WITH A SALARY OF \$9.00 AN HOUR. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 6-0-1 WITH M. TRKULA ABSTAINING.

FINANCE - J. THOMAS:

J. THOMAS / M. TRKULA TO PAY ALL THE APPROVED BILLS. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL 7-0.

we received the January report from Maiello and the amount collected for delinquent garbage for December was \$1,181.51 and for delinquent real estate taxes was \$444.19. The total for the nine months that they have been collecting our delinquents is \$11,975.76 for garbage and \$23,122.76 for real estate taxes. There is no cost to the borough to have them collect our delinquents.

the Elk bill that is in your packet only covers work until the end of December. They were out here in January and did some more work on the boiler.

we received notice of a delinquent water and sewage account on a property on Station Street. It is one of the townhouses, which is serviced by Westmoreland Water. Wilksburg Penn-Joint sent out numerous notices to them but they ignore them. They are asking us if we can send them a letter that we are contacting Westmoreland Water to have them shut off the water unless payment is received. WPJWA feels that the letter should come from us and I would like our Solicitor to prepare a letter and send it to them informing them that their water will be shut off if payment is not received. The Solicitor should have all the information from MAWC on what is needed to have their water shut off.

RECREATION - S. SMITH: our committee will be meeting to start working on the Easter Egg Hunt which will be on April 23rd, the day before Easter.

PLANNING - K. PETERSON: the committee is looking into the wind turbines. We are going to be setting up a meeting to have someone come out and talk to us about this.

we also discussed the dredging of the creek. The committee would like to know if this can be brought up at the COG meeting to try and get other municipalities involved which may also be effected.

TAX COLLECTION COMMITTEE - J. THOMAS: the committee is still negotiating with Keystone Collections for the contract to start collecting the wage tax in 2012.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

None

Meeting adjourned at 8:02 p.m.