

**BOROUGH OF CHURCHILL
2300 WILLIAM PENN HIGHWAY
PITTSBURGH, PA 15235**

Minutes of Meeting

June 11, 2013

The regular monthly meeting of the Borough of Churchill was held in the Municipal Building on Tuesday, June 11, 2013 and was called to order by Robert L. Ferry at 7:30 p.m. Mr. Ferry led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance. Members present included Ms. McAbee, Mrs. Pantlik, Messrs. Lepidi, Kline, and Jurewicz. Jay Dworin was absent. Also present were Mayor McKenna, Police Chief Allen Park, and Donna Perry. Daniel Duerring was absent.

MINUTES – There was a motion made by Mr. Jurewicz and seconded by Mr. Lepidi that the minutes of the Regular Meeting held May 14, 2013 be approved as previously presented. The motion was unanimously approved.

MAYOR - Mr. Lepidi questioned Chief Park about the meeting he had with the acting Superintendent of the school district and school board member Tara Reis. Chief Park stated he actually had two meetings with them and he discussed the concerns of the Police Department. We'll now have to wait and see if they implement the recommended changes. He also stated that Mr. Alan Johnson has been appointed to the Superintendent position. One of the items Chief Park recommended was on a daily basis one officer from each of the municipalities that comprise the school district visit the high school during the day and walk with our resource officer to become acclimated to the environment.

Mr. Lepidi also spoke about the incident where a pedestrian was walking on Greensburg Pike in the Forest Hills section, was hit by a school bus and ultimately passed away. The day after the accident, at approximately the same time in the morning as the accident, our police department and officers from Forest Hill and Wilkins Township questioned drivers on the Greensburg Pike to see if they witnessed the accident. They eventually received information that led to the arrest of a person. Chief Park stated his department received a nice letter from the Borough of Forest Hills and also from family members of the victim thanking them for our involvement in solving the crime.

Mayor McKenna referred to a letter from Scott Morley on Garrick Drive regarding speeding on his street. Chief Park stated he had Officer Pleins speak to Mr. Morley and advised vascar lines

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will be painted on the street. Mr. Morley did get the license plate of a vehicle that was speeding and Chief Park stated he does know the owner of the car and who was driving. Mr. Morley declined to appear at a hearing before the Magistrate so Chief Park advised he could not press charges. The Mayor further said he doesn't understand the total disregard by motorists in general who speed on our residential streets.

There was a motion by Mr. Lepidi and seconded by Mr. Kline to accept the report. The motion was unanimously approved.

MANAGER & FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORTS – Mr. Robinson stated the Fire Department responded to 12 calls for the month of May and the year-to-date total is 68. They also had two training nights. There was nothing of significance in the Borough.

On the Manager's side he reported sewer work should be starting within the next month.

We continue to try to monitor property maintenance issues throughout the Borough.

All the streets were cleaned in the past month.

There was a motion by Mr. Kline, seconded by Mrs. Pantlik and unanimously approved by Voice Vote that these reports be accepted and filed.

REAL ESTATE TAX COLLECTOR – Mr. Robinson reported that the taxes collected at face for the month of May were \$20,699.10, less discounts of \$320.54 for a total of \$20,378.56. The balance collectable is \$414,138.23.

TREASURER'S REPORT – Mr. Duerring read the following report for the month of May, 2013. It showed the following:

<u>CHECKING ACCOUNT</u>	<u>BEGINNING BANK BALANCE</u>	<u>RECEIPTS</u>	<u>O/S CHECKS AND DISBURSEMENTS</u>	<u>ENDING CASH BALANCES</u>
REGULAR ACCOUNT	950,978.19	566,413.89	560,058.60	957,333.48
CAPITAL RES. ACCT.	158,478.51	6.73	-0-	158,485.24
ROAD & HIGHWAY	123,401.28	5.19	-0-	123,406.47

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SEWAGE AGENCY FUND	155,033.58	126,876.53	98,841.25	183,068.86
SPECIAL ACCOUNT	12,486.20	.32	-0-	12,486.52
POLICE PENSION FUND	3,198.01	3,216.07	6,414.08	-0-
EMPL. PENSION FUND	856.18	853.36	1,709.54	-0-
WELFARE BENEFIT	1,030.73	-0-	-0-	1,030.73
EMPL. SEC. 457 D.C.P.	-0-	2,500.00	2,500.00	-0-

There was a motion by Ms. McAbee, seconded by Mrs. Pantlik and unanimously approved by Voice Vote to accept the Tax Collector's Report and Treasurer's Report for the month of May and have it reproduced in the minutes.

EARNED INCOME TAX

DEED TRANSFER

DELINQUENT REAL ESTATE TAX – Mr. Robinson reported that the Earned Income Tax Collector had collections of \$49,896.60 for the month of May.

Deed Transfer Tax collection totaled \$6,907.04 for the month of May.

Jordan Tax Service collected delinquent real estate taxes in the amount of \$1,515.22 for the month of May.

There was a motion by Mr. Lepidi, seconded by Mr. Jurewicz and unanimously approved that the reports be filed.

C.A.E.C. MINUTES – Mr. Ferry acknowledged the meeting minutes of the Churchill Area Environmental Council of May 2, 2013. Mrs. Gottlieb thanked Council for the extensive coverage of the Environmental Council on the Borough's website.

COMMENTS BY COUNCIL PRESIDENT, ROBERT L. FERRY – Mr. Ferry informed that last Monday, June 3 there was an Executive Session of Council held to discuss the Westinghouse tax assessment appeal. One troubling fact is that the judge allowed the properties to be broken out into separate parcels. Council had previously approved the segregation. However, as a result of the revaluation by the County, the property has now been reduced from a valuation of \$68,000,000.

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The Westinghouse “hot cell” parcel is valued at \$2.6 million (actual is \$2.8) and the other parcel is value at \$16.4 million. There was no reconciliation of why they did this and this hinders our appeal process.

Another fact that came out of the meeting is that Council determined they have a lack of confidence in our existing solicitor. Mr. Ferry had a meeting with Bob Goehring on Tuesday following the meeting and told him Council would be looking to replace him. The day after, Mr. Goehring decided to resign effective July 5. Council is now in the process of interviewing for a new solicitor. He stated if anyone knows of a qualified, potential replacement to get their resume to Council. The position will also be advertised on the website for a short period of time. He stated this in no way is reflective of Bob’s long years of providing service to the borough. There never was any question of him not doing something right. It was just Council’s feeling of a lack of confidence with the Westinghouse issue and some other issues in the past. In the interest of time and the continuing appeal process with Westinghouse, Mr. Ferry advised we will be looking for interim legal help just for this matter.

Mr. Lepidi added that we don’t want anyone to think anything other than the points Mr. Ferry discussed regarding Solicitor Goehring. He didn’t do anything wrong, it was just a subjective thing. Council is very actively looking for a new solicitor via of an Adhoc Committee comprised of himself, Ms. McAbee and Mr. Dworin. They have already identified four candidates all who have extensive experience in municipal law and have existing solicitorships. The Committee will be interviewing two firms this Thursday and the other two next week. He stated there was no hidden agenda in deciding to look for another solicitor. It wasn’t political and it wasn’t the fact that Mr. Goehring did anything wrong.

LISTEN TO VISITORS – Ms. Charlene McAbee of 2005 Garrick Drive expressed her thankfulness to two Police Officers who were very helpful when her father became ill. Officer Shaulis was particularly wonderful. Chief Park stated he would convey her thanks and appreciation to him.

Ms. Dolores Patterson of the Churchill Mansions presented an article from the Sunday paper to Council. It was about a Miami based firm that builds multi-generational housing. She thought it would be a good thing for Churchill to consider.

Mr. Jim DiPerna of Branning Road gave a little pat on the back to the office staff for the upgrades to the Borough’s website and newsletter. However, he thought there could still be some

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improvements. He stated one improvement that came up at the Republican Committee meeting was the bunny picture that appeared in the last newsletter. He said there have been a lot of bunny picture over time and they would prefer to see police and fire department statistics in the newsletter rather than bunny pictures. He also suggested having the newsletter published more often because it's our major source of information since there is never any news in The Valley Mirror.

He recently made a freedom of information request to get the tonnage figures for recycling and normal refuse. He believed the theory for keeping track of these figures was that ultimately the reduction of trash tonnage would be a savings that would pay for the cost of recycling. He was unable to obtain the information. Mr. Robinson explained we just received this information yesterday and did not have it at the time of his request. Mr. Robinson read the report at the meeting and informed that for the month of April trash collection was 104.39 tons and recycling tonnage was 25.67, for May trash collection totaled 113 tons and recycling was 17.25.

Mr. DiPerna also stated that Churchill Road looks terrible and needs re-paving. Mr. Robinson informed that Churchill Road is a county road. Mr. DiPerna suggested asking the county or state for monetary reimbursement if the Borough would pave the road. He felt that since the road is named after the Borough, it should be maintained in a better way. He also requested that a reflector be re-installed on the flower pot at Churchill and Holland Road that was previously removed when an accident occurred.

Mrs. Gottlieb of Marbury Road stated it would be nice to obtain statistics on the percentage of people that recycle. Mr. Jurewicz commented that residents have a lot of yard waste and we are trying to work on resolving this issue.

Mr. Gottlieb of Marbury Road questioned if there was a problem with a manpower shortage on the Fire Department since he saw a sign on the lawn of the Borough Building asking for volunteers. Mr. Robinson stated there is not a problem, however they are always looking for new members.

Dave Riehl noted that a reflector was also needed at Beulah and Royal Oak.

Dolores Patterson questioned if the Borough had money to invest in a public address system. Mr. Ferry suggested she sit in the front of the room.

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Jim DiPerna wondered if it was consistent with Council's position on involving politics with the borough publications. If the Borough is putting the CAEC publications on the website, this appears to him, along many other people, that it reflects a political point of view and said they should not be on the site. He suggested appointing people with no political affiliation to the C.A.E.C. board. Mrs. Gottlieb stated there is a mix of both Republicans and Democrats on the Council and affirmed the group is not political.

Ms. McAbee questioned if Council is considering placing the police statistics on the website or in the newsletter. If so, she voiced her opinion that the statistics from the high school need to be removed from the numbers. Chief Park stated it is not possible to separate the numbers.

ADVERTISE FOR BOROUGH BUILDING ROOF BIDS – There was a motion by Ms. McAbee, seconded by Mrs. Pantlik and unanimously approved by Roll Call Vote to authorize the Borough Secretary to advertise for bids for a new roof for the Borough Building.

APPROVE FIVE-YEAR WINTER SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH PENNDOT – There was a motion by Mr. Jurewicz, seconded by Mr. Kline and unanimously approved by Roll Call Vote to approve Resolution No. 4271 to enter into a Five-year Winter Services Agreement with PennDot.

APPROVE A PENNDOT RIGHT-OF-WAY FOR PROPERTY ALONG WILLIAM PENN HIGHWAY – There was a motion by Mr. Jurewicz, seconded by Mrs. Pantlik and unanimously approved by Roll Call Vote to approve Resolution No. 4272 to approve a PennDot Right-of-Way for property along William Penn Highway (State Route 2110).

ADVERTISE TO CHANGE JULY MEETING DATES – There was a motion by Mr. Lepidi, seconded by Ms. McAbee and unanimously approved by Roll Call Vote to authorize the Borough Secretary to advertise to change the July Workshop and Regular Meeting dates from July 8 and 9, 2013 to July 15 and 16, 2013 respectively.

PAY THE BILLS – Mr. Robinson read the bills for the month and they totaled \$259,861.57. There was a motion by Mr. Lepidi, seconded by Mr. Kline and unanimously approved by Roll Call Vote for the adoption of Resolution No. 4273 to pay the bills.

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AROUND THE TABLE – Mr. Lepidi stated the three biggest issues facing the Borough are the Westinghouse site, school district and the sewage issue. The Adhoc Committee was hoping to work with the owner on getting better utilization of the property, but that won't happen until the appeal process is completed.

Three Rivers Wet Weather had a meeting at the end of May. There is this push of green vs. gray solutions. He feels the green solution people are losing sight of the objective which is to improve the quality of our rivers by eliminating the amount of sewage going into it. He hopes the focus stays on the most cost effective way to correct the problem.

Cheryl agrees with what Larry said. However, she is very much in favor of rain barrels and thought it would be a great project for our environmental group.

Mayor McKenna complimented Mr. Ferry on the summary of the Westinghouse and solicitor situations.

Mayor McKenna wanted to correct for the record an earlier comment that was made regarding the flower pot at the Parkway exit. It is not a flower pot, it is a planter that was built about 15 years ago and he has been responsible for maintaining it along with a band of volunteers. They also maintain the Parkway and Churchill Commons area. He said his experience has been that people who get involved and volunteer instead of sitting around and complaining about everything have a far happier life. He suggested to this individual that he get involved and look on the bright side of things rather than constantly complaining.

Mr. Jurewicz thanked Solicitor Goehring for his thirty years of service. He said he regrets the circumstances of the present situation.

He discussed some green solutions and stated collecting rain water is a big deal so there is not another catastrophic problem such as the one that occurred on Washington Boulevard whereby the sewers could not handle all the water. He said bioswales are good and permeable surfaces are good for absorbing the rain water instead of flowing into the sewer system.

Mr. Jurewicz informed that in the fall there will be a partnership between the Borough of Forest Hills and Churchill to give a series of health education talks. Hilary Tindle, a UPMC physician, wrote a book on how a positive outlook could transform our health and aging and she will be one of the speakers.

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ADJOURN – There was a motion duly made and seconded that the meeting be adjourned until Monday, July 15, 2013 at 7:00 pm.

**CRAIG A. ROBINSON
BOROUGH SECRETARY**