

BOROUGH OF CHURCHILL
2300 WILLIAM PENN HIGHWAY
PITTSBURGH, PA 15235

Minutes of Meeting

January 14, 2014

The regular monthly meeting of the Borough of Churchill was held in the Municipal Building on Tuesday, January 14, 2014 and was called to order by Jay H. Dworin at 7:30 p.m. Mr. Dworin led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance. Members present included Mses. Law and Yankes, Messrs. Lepidi, Jurewicz, and Collins. Ms. McAbee was absent. Also present were Mayor McKenna, Police Chief Park, Tax Collector/Treasurer Daniel R. Duerring and Donna Perry.

MINUTES – There was a motion made by Mr. Lepidi and seconded by Ms. Yankes that the minutes of the Regular Meeting held December 10, 2013 be approved as previously presented. The motion was unanimously approved.

There was a motion made by Mr. Collins and seconded by Mr. Lepidi that the minutes of the Special Meeting held December 18, 2013 be approved as previously presented. The motion was unanimously approved.

There was a motion made by Ms. Law and seconded by Mr. Collins that the minutes of the Organization Meeting held January 6, 2014 be approved as previously presented. The motion was unanimously approved.

MAYOR – Mayor McKenna informed that the total collection of fees by the District Magistrate decreased from year 2012 to 2013. This is another example of more revenue loss. However, on a good note there was a decline in the number of school incidents for December 2013 versus December 2012.

Chief Park wrote a supplemental report regarding the Police Department that was attached to the monthly Mayor's Report. As a new member of the Police Committee, Mr. Lepidi requested a quarterly meeting in the future to meet with the Chief and possibly the Mayor.

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

MANAGER & FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORTS - Mr. Robinson reported the Fire Department responded to 14 alarms, nine of which were motor vehicle accidents, bringing the year-to-date total of alarms to 188 compared to last year's total of a little over 200.

Under the Manager's Report, Mr. Robinson reported the road crew is still busy picking up leaf bags. Some interruptions have occurred due to snowy weather conditions.

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

REAL ESTATE TAX COLLECTOR – Mr. Duerring reported that the taxes collected at face for the month of December were \$4,129.74, plus penalties of \$412.89, minus a discount of \$.02 for a total of \$4,542.61. The balance collectable is \$38,564.51 compared to last year’s balance due of \$24,311.63. This is basically due to Churchill Valley Country Club.

Solicitor Robb provided an update on the status of the Churchill Valley Country Club. An amended motion to sell the property is scheduled for tomorrow, January 15. Zokaites, the owner, is trying to sell the property and the first debt to be paid after a sale will be real estate taxes due to the Borough and School District. The legal counsel for Jordan Tax Service is representing the Borough’s interest.

Mr. Duerring, Real Estate Tax Collector, stated the assessment value for the Country Club increased dramatically from 2012 to 2013. He questioned the status and Solicitor Robb stated a tax appeal is pending and, given the condition of the property, it is likely to be greatly decreased.

TREASURER’S REPORT – Mr. Robinson read the following report for the month of December, 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	502,258.67	328,367.34	496,885.09	333,730.92
CAPITAL RES. ACCT.	158,524.76	6.95	-0-	158,531.71
ROAD & HIGHWAY	123,437.00	5.36	-0-	123,442.36
SEWAGE AGENCY	142,575.55	184,327.35	231,982.33	94,920.57
SPECIAL ACCT.	12,550.21	50.33	50.00	12,550.54
POLICE PENSION FUND	-0-	3,637.46	3,637.46	-0-
EMPL. PENSION FUND	-0-	853.38	853.38	-0-
WELFARE BENEFIT	1,210.73	90.00	-0-	1,300.73
EMPL. SEC. 457 D.C.P.	-0-	2,500.00	2,500.00	-0-

There was a motion by Mr. Lepidi, seconded by Ms. Law and unanimously approved by Voice Vote to accept the Tax Collector's Report and Treasurer's Report for the month of December 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 \$53,313.23 for the month of December.

Deed Transfer Tax collection totaled \$4,448.71 for the month of December.

There were no delinquent Real Estate Taxes collected.

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

LISTEN TO VISITORS – Dolores Patterson of 2525 Greensburg Pike stated she hopes with the addition of the new members of Council that the Borough keeps operating as it has in the past. She asked for reconsideration of the increased millage rate.

Joan Gottlieb of 2310 Marbury Road informed that she recently learned of the death of Jane Bradbury who served as a Councilwoman from the mid 1970's to the early 1990's, a period of time that overlapped with Mrs. Gottlieb's service as well. While they were on opposite ends of the political spectrum, they worked very hard together on several issues and committees. She was named as The Progress newspaper's Citizen of the Year in 1987 and she lived on Barton Drive.

TURTLE CREEK VALLEY COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS VOTING DELEGATES – There was a motion by Mr. Collins, seconded by Ms. Law and unanimously approved by Roll Call Vote to appoint Lawrence J. Lepidi and Voting Delegate and Diana J. Yankes as Alternate Voting Delegate to the Turtle Creek Valley COG.

CHANGE 2014 WORKSHOP AND REGULAR MEETING DATES – Mr. Dworin explained that currently the Workshop Meeting is on Monday and the very next day, Tuesday, the Regular Meeting is held. This didn't give Council adequate time to digest the information. Therefore, Council would like to space out the timeframe of the meetings.

Ms. Law made the motion to change the 2014 Workshop and Regular Meeting dates to the first and third Monday of each month, respectively. The exceptions are the February Regular Meeting date will be Tuesday, February 18 and the September Workshop Meeting date will be on

January 14, 2014

Monday, September 8 because of holidays. Mr. Jurewicz seconded the motion. A discussion ensued by Council and afterward both Ms. Law and Mr. Jurewicz withdrew their motion so that Council could continue further discussion on this matter. There was a motion by Mr. Lepidi, seconded by Mr. Jurewicz and unanimously approved by Roll Call Vote to table this matter.

RE-OPEN 2014 BUDGET – Mr. Lepidi made a motion to re-open the 2014 budget and was seconded by Mr. Collins. Mr. Lepidi explained that since there was a new municipal election in 2013, the new Council for 2014 has the opportunity to re-open the budget. He stated that with increased health care costs alone, this is a reason to proceed with this action. He also thought the millage rate could be reduced.

Discussion ensued among Council and a Roll Call Vote was taken to re-open the 2014 Budget. The Roll Call Vote was as follows: Law – No, Yankes – No, Collins – Yes, Lepidi – Yes, Jurewicz – No, and Dworin – No. The motion failed to have a Majority Vote.

PAY THE BILLS – Mr. Robinson read the bills for the month and they totaled \$206,187.30. There was a motion by Ms. Law, seconded by Mr. Collins and unanimously approved by Roll Call Vote to adopt Resolution No. 4290 to pay the bills.

AROUND THE TABLE – Ms. Yankes stated her first official Workshop Meeting was last night and said all of Council is very dedicated, motivated, well-educated, interested, well-mentored and she is thrilled to have the opportunity to serve on Council.

Ms. Law seconded everything Ms. Yankes said and it is a privilege to serve. One of the most interesting points is the talent and experience that everyone on Council brings to the deliberations. She is very comfortable since there is give and take on all points of view. She expressed the fact that prior to the election she perused the Borough and talked to many residents. Ms. Law felt the need for Council to do a better job of involving people in the whole process of listening to their hopes, dreams, and needs are in order to make our community a more attractive place for people to move into.

Mr. Collins stated he is enjoying being on Council. He said there are serious challenges ahead and he likes the respect shown to each other even during differences of opinion. He thanked the audience for attending the meeting.

Mr. Lepidi thanked Mr. Dworin for the way he handled the meetings the past two nights and how well run they were.

He noted that we have several vacancies that are posted on the website that include the Zoning Hearing Board, Planning Commission and Vacancy Board. We have had volunteers for all of these positions and this is not a reflection on anyone who held the position in the past, but Council thought we should open this up to all the residents.

Mr. Lepidi informed that there is an Inter-act Club at Woodland Hills High School comprised of very impressive students. Some of them are on the Mock Trial Team and they have done very well. Both Messrs. Lepidi and Robinson are members of the Churchill-Wilkins Rotary. Some members of the Mock Trial Team and their faculty advisor attended one of the Rotary meetings to ask for funding with their expenses. The school district provides no funding for this activity. The teacher puts his own time in on the weekend to help the students. He plans to attend the school board meeting to request funding in the amount of \$4,000 to help an academic-related activity. Rotary has contacted some of the law firms associated with communities in the school district to consider monetary donations. He stated that our solicitor's firm has agreed to a contribution and he felt it speaks well of them and is appreciated.

Mr. Jurewicz congratulated Mr. Dworin on two extremely well-run meetings. He noted we have serious changes ahead and major issues to address. He's looking forward to working with everyone.

Council President Mr. Dworin thanked everyone for their support in his position. He is committed to Churchill and committed to its Council. He is very encouraged by this current Council and is looking forward to working with them.

ADJOURN – There was a motion duly made and seconded to adjourn the meeting.

CRAIG A. ROBINSON
BOROUGH SECRETARY