

WILKINS TOWNSHIP BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

REGULAR MEETING, MONDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2008

The Regular Meeting of Monday, December 8, 2008 was brought to order at 7:00 PM by President William G. Wilson. A quorum was present as follows:

Mr. Wilson		Ms. Fialla
Mr. Padula	Mr. Costa	Mr. Szoko

(8-293) MOVED PADULA-FIALLA to approve the minutes of the Second Stated Meeting of November 24, 2008, with one correction – under motion 8-281, Commissioner Padula abstained, not Commissioner Fialla.

Communications:

Congressman Tim Murphy, US House of Representatives sent correspondence regarding an opportunity for grant funding through a new economic stimulus package which is anticipated to be passed in early 2009. This package would fund: Highway Infrastructure, Corps of Engineers, School Buildings, Clean Water, Transit, Airport Improvement and Public Housing initiatives. It is vital that projects be ready for construction advancement within 120 days. All municipalities in the 18th District are requested to provide information relative to these types of projects to Susan Mosychuck, Chief of Staff for Congressman Murphy as soon as possible.

(8-294) MOVED PADULA-FIALLA to authorize the Engineer to correspond with Congressman Murphy's Office to advise of sanitary sewer projects that can be construction ready within 120 days including the separation of combined sanitary sewers (CSO's) and continued EPA compliance work. The motion was adopted by unanimous roll call vote.

Ms. Joy Voeltzel, Secretary of the Recreation Advisory Board sent correspondence on behalf of the Board which voted unanimously at their meeting held on December 2, 2008 to request that the Board of Commissioners either ask Commissioner Fialla to step down or remove her as the Liaison/C0-Chair for the Recreation Advisory Board..

Correspondence was received from Mr. Mike Shawley, Deputy Fire Marshal for the County of Allegheny, Department of Emergency Services thanking Mr. Vargo for his help in facilitating the live fire training evolutions held in the municipal building parking lot on November 8, 2008.

Mr. Anthony Russo, Executive Director of the Wilksburg Penn Joint Water Authority sent correspondence advising the Board that the water authority will be forced to raise rates for 2009 due to a declining customer base, an ever growing elderly population, an aging waters system and stricter EPA and DEP mandates.

Ms. Ashley Guthrie of 709 McMasters Avenue sent correspondence advising the Board that she believes that an individual working for Investment & Enterprise on the Township contracted sewer work damaged her vehicle and asking who would pay for the damage.

Citizens' Comments:

Mr. John Gibbons, 127 Gardenia Drive commented upon the Declaratory Judgment action filed by Commissioner Szoko against the Township; questioned Commissioner Wilson relative to permitting several members of the staff to leave work early the day before Thanksgiving and stated that he helped mail the Wilkins Advisor and is proud of his involvement.

Mr. N. Leonard Hill, 405 Kingston Drive provided the Board with a synopsis of the training seminar that he attended on December 4th entitled "Fight Blight."

Ms. Rhonda Lazarus of 221 Farnsworth Avenue questioned whether the proceeds of a bond taken out in 1994 were utilized to repair deficiencies addressed by the EPA.

Reports:

Police Report for November 2008:

	<u>2007</u>	<u>2008</u>
Total Police Calls Logged	297	170
Total Criminal Offenses Reported	33	23
Criminal Arrests/Persons Charged	18	12
Criminal Offenses Cleared	24	10
Traffic Citations Issued	42	10
Parking Tags Issued	4	4
Parking Citations Issued	0	8
Total Monies Collected during November	\$7,815.85	\$7,225.36

Mr. Paul Vargos' DPW Report for November 2008: has been filed in the Managers Office.

WTVFD #1 reported as follows: 19 Fires – man-hours 98, 3 Practices - msn-hours – 116, 5 Specials – 178 hours, 1 Meeting – 78 hours. Total man-hours for the month – 470 hours.

WTVFD #3 reported as follows: 19 Fires – man-hours 26.77, 1 Training – man-hours 12, 13 Activities – man-hours 460.64. Total man-hours for the month – 499.41.

Building Permits Issued during November 2008:

- 1 Sprinkler Alteration – cost \$6,400.
- 1 Addition + Plan Review – cost \$70,525.
- 1 Retaining Wall – cost \$50,000.
- 1 Patio Room – cost \$18,740.
- 1 Story Addition – cost \$3,000.
- 1 Porch Roof – cost \$4,500.

The Township received \$3,875.41 in real estate transfer taxes during the month of November representing deed transfers which were recorded by the County in October. Total year-to-date collections are: \$44,094.19, or 86.46% of budget. As of November, collections are off by approximately 5.2%.

Tax Collectors Report for November 2008:

Balance Collectable – beginning of month	\$76,026.04
Adjusted collectable	76,026.04
Less Face Collections for month	9,740.00
Balance Collectable – End of Month	66,286.04
Total Refunds to Date	5,691.34
NSF Adjustments – To date	962.63
Face Amount of Collections	9,740.00
Plus Penalties	974.00
Total Cash Collected	\$10,714.00

PA MUNICIPAL SERVICES – ACT 511 TAX REPORT:

Earned Income Taxes:

Current Month	\$52,216.44	Previous Year	\$68,962.58	Difference
Current YTD	551,628.41	Previous YTD	563,890.99	(\$12,262.58)

Local Service Tax:

Current Month	\$15,595.49	Previous Year	\$14,260.78	Difference:
Current YTD	146,324.64	Previous YTD	300,810.21	(\$154,485.57)

Mercantile Tax:

Current Month	-0-	Previous Year	-0-	Difference:
Current YTD	339,654.49	Previous YTD	1,278,222.09	(\$938,567.60)

Business Privilege Tax:

Current Month	-0-	Previous Year	1,160.42	Difference:
Current YTD	205,061.47	Previous YTD	182,147.84	\$22,913.62

The Solicitors' Report is on file in the Managers' Office.

The Board will be provided with a draft Ordinance at their next meeting with regard to the new Open Records law passed by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

The Engineers' Report is on file in the Managers' Office.

(8-295) MOVED SZOKO-PADULA to approve the payment of the Schedule of Bills, in the amount of \$114,421.20, as presented. The motion was adopted by unanimous roll call vote.

ORDINANCE NO. 991

AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF WILKINS, ALLEGHENY COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA. APPROPRIATING OUT OF REVENUES AVAILABLE FOR FISCAL YEAR 2009 SPECIFIC SUMS REQUIRED AS SHOWN BY THE BUDGET AND FIXING THE REAL ESTATE TAX LEVY FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2009.

(8-296) MOVED PADULA-COSTA to read Ordinance No. 991 for the first time, by title only.

The motion was adopted by unanimous roll call vote.

(8-297) MOVED PADULA-COSTA to waive the second reading of Ordinance No. 991 and adopt Ordinance No. 991.

The motion was adopted by a 3 to 2 vote with Ms. Fialla and Mr. Szoko voting no.

RESOLUTION NO. 13-08

A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF WILKINS, ALLEGHENY COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, APPOINTING REBECCA BRADLEY AS THE OPEN-RECORDS OFFICER OF THE TOWNSHIP OF WILKINS PURSUANT TO ACT 3 OF 2008.

(8-298) MOVED PADULA-COSTA to read Resolution No. 13-08

(8-299) MOVED PADULA-COSTA to accept Resolutuion No.13-2008.

Motions 8-298 and 8-299 were adopted by unanimous roll call vote.

(8-300) MOVED PADULA-FIALLA to accept the recommendation of the Recreation Advisory Board to limit newsletter articles submitted by all groups other than the Township to one-half page, or 300 words. The motion was adopted by unanimous roll call vote.

(8-301) MOVED COSTA-PADULA to accept the recommendation of the Engineer to authorize payment in the amount of \$42,973.00 (\$36,561. base bid plus two change orders) to R.L. Glendenning for the replacement of the roof on the Community Center from the Community Facilities Fund.

Motion (8-301) was adopted by unanimous roll call vote.

(8-302)MOVED FIALLA-PADULA to accept the contract between the Township of Wilkins and the Allegheny County Redevelopment Authority for the acquisition and demolition of 512 Washington Avenue and authorizing the appropriate individuals to execute the agreement: contingent upon the final review and approval of the Solicitor. The motion was adopted by unanimous roll call vote.

(8-303)MOVED PADULA-FIALLA to authorize the manager to prepare a Proclamation honoring Ruth Fecko for her service of forty five (45) years as a crossing guard for the Township. The motion was adopted by unanimous roll call vote.

(8-304)A motion authorizing elected officials to attend the ALOM Bi-Annual Legislative Reception to be held at the Weston Convention Center on January 8, 2008 at a cost of \$65.00 per person. There was no action on this motion, therefore, the Motion died.

(8-305)MOVED PADULA-FIALL;A to approve the request of VFC #4 to reimburse them for candy purchased for the Halloween Parade in the amount of \$65.79. The motion was adopted by unanimous roll call vote.

(8-306)MOVED PADULA-COSTA to approve the request of the Manager to permit the Township offices to remain closed on Friday, December 26th and to allow Public Works and Administrative employees to utilize a personal or vacation day to take the day off. The motion was adopted by unanimous roll call vote.

(8-307)MOVED COSTA-SZOKO to cancel the Second Stated Meeting scheduled for December 29, 2008. The motion was adopted by unanimous roll call vote.

Commissioners' Comments:

Commissioner Costa thanked everyone for coming out on such a cold night; thanked Mr. Gibbons for coming forward and admitting his partial responsibility for the mailing of the Wilkins Advisor last year. It only took a year for those responsible to accept responsibility instead of including their names on the original mailing.

Commissioner Fialla wished everyone a happy holiday season; thanked everyone for coming out; wished everyone a peaceful, healthy and prosperous 2009; and with regard to the Recreation Advisory Board correspondence read this evening, stated that she is upset that the Recreation Advisory Board was given an opportunity to make charges against her publicly, but that her response was truncated; finally, commented that she voted against the 2009 budget because at the last meeting, Mr. Vargo offered to give Chief Guthrie \$8,000 from the Public Works Emergency Management line-item for the purchase of opticoms. She believes that this shows that there is still extra money in the budget and that additional cuts should have been made.

Commissioner Szoko commented upon the proposed scheduled demolition of the Eastmont School for January 2, 2009, commented that the Board needs to find the right type of person to appoint as a representative to the Monroeville Area Chamber of Commerce; requested that Mrs. Bradley contact Mr. Zemet again; commented that the Board needs to find a way to stop the exodus of businesses from Route 22; stated that he is not in favor of consolidated police services and believes that if the Township would consolidate, it should start small, with Public Works; commented upon the Declaratory Judgment Action that he filed against the Township; and stated that he voted no against the budget because the Township still has a tax and spend mentality.

Commissioner Padula stated that his wish for 2009 is that the Board members bury the hatchet, and not in each other. He is tired of Commissioners praising one employee for the purpose of executing another: commented upon the AED's; the Opticom and the proclamation for Ruth Fecko; commented that the Ivy Street no parking situation has been adequately addressed, but God forbid the Fire Department was unable to get a fire truck onto Wilbur or Ivy because of an internal dispute; wished everyone happy holidays and made the following motions:

(8-308)MOVED PADULA-COSTA to instruct Chief Guthrie to research grants for the purchase of AED's and any other equipment needs of the Department. The motion was adopted by unanimous roll call vote.

(8-309)MOVED PADULA-COSTA to authorize the transfer of \$5,100 from the 2009 Emergency Management Budget Line Item 190-90413 (Public Works Radios) to Line Item 190-90412 (Police Radios) to be utilized for the purpose of purchasing Opticom units for six police cars. The motion was adopted by a 3 to 2 vote with Ms. Fialla and Mr. Szoko voting "NO".

(8-310)MOVED FIALLA-PADULA to instruct Chief Guthrie to contact Representative Costa's office to request that they prepare a citation honoring Ruth Fecko's forty five (45) years of service as a crossing guard. The motion was adopted by unanimous roll call vote.

Commissioner Wilson recognized the firemen from VFC #3 who were just honored for their service and were present at the meeting: William Gabriel, Louis Maroda and Robert Skrbín. Mr. Wilson congratulated and thanked these men for their services and led the audience in a round of applause; commented that the 2009 Budget is balanced and that most communities, especially given the state of today's economy would be ecstatic that their budget balanced, without the need to eliminate staff; thanked Mrs. Bradley for her work on the budget and led the audience in a round of applause on her behalf, wished everyone a Merry Christmas and requested that following adjournment, the Board meet in Executive Session for five minutes to discuss an item of personnel.

(8-311)MOVED PADULA-COSTA to adjourn. The Board adjourned at 9:25 PM. The motion was adopted by unanimous roll call vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Rebecca Bradley
Secretary