

WILKINS TOWNSHIP BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

REGULAR MEETING, MONDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2009

The Regular Meeting of Monday, February 9, 2009 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. Padula	Mr. Szoko

(9-55) MOVED COSTA-PADULA to approve the minutes of January 26, 2009 with one correction: Under Commissioner Fialla’s comments – delete: “supplies are appropriately tracked” and replace with “taxpayer dollars are wisely spent.” The motion was adopted by unanimous roll call vote.

Correspondence:

Mr. M. Joseph Martinelli, 703 McMasters Avenue, submitted correspondence resigning from his position on the Zoning Hearing Board.

(9-56) MOVED FIALLA-COSTA to authorize the Manager to prepare a proclamation honoring Mr. Martinelli’s service on the Zoning Hearing Board. The motion was adopted by unanimous roll call vote.

(9-57) MOVED PADULA-FIALLA to accept the resignation of M. Joseph Martinelli as a member of the Wilkins Township Zoning Hearing Board. The motion was adopted by unanimous roll call vote.

Correspondence:

Ms. Madonna DeOrio of 226 Wallace Avenue submitted correspondence seeking appointment to the opening on the Wilkins Township Zoning Hearing Board.

(9-58) MOVED FIALLA-SZOKO to table Ms. DeOrio’s request for appointment and authorizing the manager to place an advertisement on the Township website seeking interested applications for submittal prior to the next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board. The motion was adopted by unanimous roll call vote.

Citizens’ Comments:

Ms. Patty Stewart of 118 Gardenia Drive read correspondence from the Recreation Advisory Board to the Board of Commissioners requesting that the Board of Commissioners appoint a new co-chair to maintain stability among the Recreation Advisory Board.

Commissioner Wilson appointed Commissioner Joseph Costa as Co-Chair for the Recreation Advisory Committee.

Mr. Fred Galvez, Investment and Enterprise, Inc., addressed the Board relative to a citation that he received from Chief Guthrie for trespass by motor vehicle on property owned by Chief Guthrie.

Ms. Rhonda Lazarus of 221 Farnsworth Avenue questioned how Ms. DeOrio became aware of an opening on the Zoning Hearing Board; questioned the actions of the Board at the last meeting in agreeing that the Recreation Advisory Board could rent a dunk tank and questioned Mr. Rushford regarding the tax credit for new businesses that was discussed at the last meeting.

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Reports:

January 2009 Police Report	2008	2009
Total Police Calls Logged	309	268
Total Criminal Offenses Reported	24	26
Criminal Arrests/Persons Charged	22	17
Criminal Offenses Cleared	22	21
Traffic Citations Issued	59	43
Parking Tags Issued	16	9
Parking Citations Issued	10	2
Monies Collected during January	\$8,665.55	\$7,292.58

Mr. Vargo requested that the Chief amend his report to state that Mr. Vargo did not report 1,000 gallons in missing gasoline, one of the Police Officers reported it.

(9-59) MOVED FIALLA-SZOKO to authorize Chief Guthrie to attend the annual Chief's conference to be held in July in Valley Forge and authorizing the payment of the registration fee and hotel expenses. The motion was denied by the following vote: Commissioners Costa, Padula and Wilson voting "NO". Commissioners Fialla and Szoko voting "YES".

Mr. Paul Vargos January 2009 Report is on file in the Manager's Office

WTVFD#1 Reported the following for November 2008: 19 Fires, 2 Practices, 1 Meeting and 2 Training Sessions. Total man-hours for November 344.5.

WTVFD #1 Reported the following for December 2008: 12 Fires, 2 Practices, 3 Specials, 1 Training Session and 1 Meeting. Total man-hours for December 369.

WTVFD #3 Reported the following for January 2009: 13 Fires, 2 Training Sessions and 11 Activities. Total man-hours for January 2009 219.56.

WTVFD #4 Reported the following for December 2008: 9 Fire Calls, 24 Fire Schools, 1 Drill, 1 Public Service, 10 Work Details and 1 Meeting. Total man-hours for December 663.75.

WTVFD #4 Reported the following for January 2009: 18 Fire Calls, 12 Fire Schools, 2 Drills, 10 Work Details, 2 Drivers Training and 1 Meeting. Total man-hours for January 524.25.

The WHEMS Report for January 2009 is on file with the above VFD Reports.

The Building Inspector reported one BP #2573 C-S, for the demolition of the Eastmont School.

The Township received \$1,886.40 in real estate transfer taxes during the month of January representing deed transfers which were recorded by the County in December.

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PA Municipal Services – Act 511 Tax Report for January 2009:

Earned Income Taxes:

Current Month	\$51,390.77	Previous Year	\$25,436.99	Difference
Current YTD	51,390.77	Previous YTD	25,436.99	\$25,953.78

Local Service Tax:

Current Month	7,872.03	Previous Year	-0-	Difference
Current YTD	7,872.03	Previous YTD	-0-	\$7,872.03

Mercantile Tax:

Current Month	-0-	Previous Year	-0-	Difference
Current YTD	-0-	Previous YTD	-0-	-0-

Business Privilege Tax:

Current Month	-0-	Previous Year	2,725.13	Difference
Current YTD	-0-	Previous YTD	2,725.13	(\$2,725.13)

The Solicitor's Report is on file in the Manager's Office.

The Senate Engineering Report is on file in the Manager's Office.

- (9-60) MOVED PADULA-COSTA to accept the recommendation of Mr. McKeever to pay Investment and Enterprise \$83,316.47 for the work done on the Critical Sewer Contract as enumerated in Periodic Pay Estimate #1. The motion was adopted by unanimous roll call vote.
- (9-61) MOVED SZOKO-COSTA to approve the payment of the schedule of bills in the amount of \$301,538.39, as presented. The motion was adopted by unanimous roll call vote.
- (9-62) MOVED FIALLA-COSTA to authorize a credit on the sewage bill for 162 Churchill Lane in the amount of \$243.12, pursuant to an ALCOSAN credit of \$291.16 and a WPJWA credit of 10% of the bill (116.00). The motion was adopted by unanimous roll call vote.
- (9-63) MOVED PADULA-FIALLA to authorize the Manager to correspond with Forest Hills Borough and advise that the Wilkins Township Board of Commissioners is no longer interested in pursuing the Regional Police Force Study due to merger being cost-prohibitive without the inclusion of Churchill Borough. The motion was adopted by unanimous roll call vote.
- (9-64) MOVED PADULA-FIALLA to authorize the Summer Lunch Program and Summer Recreation Programs at Lions, Linhart and Eastmont Parks from June 15, 2009 through August 21, 2009. The motion was adopted by unanimous roll call vote.
- (9-65) MOVED COSTA-PADULA to authorize interested elected officials to attend the annual Turtle Creek Valley Council of Governments Dinner Meeting to be held on February 17, 2009 at Olympia Hall at a cost of \$50.00 per participant. The motion was adopted by unanimous roll call vote.

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(9-66) MOVED PADULA-COSTA to authorize interested elected officials to attend the Allegheny League of Municipalities 36th Annual Conference to be held at Seven Springs from April 2, through April 5, 2009 at a cost of \$660.00 (Plan A) or \$465.00 (Plan B). Also, agreeing that those elected officials attending the Spring Conference would not be able to attend the Fall Conference and vice-versa. The motion was adopted by unanimous roll call vote.

Commissioners' Comments:

Commissioner Szoko thanked Chief Guthrie for securing two digital video cameras for the police department when he attended the annual Chief's of Police meeting in July of 2008. These cameras, with a retail value of \$8,000.00, were secured at no cost by the Township of Wilkins; questioned whether the investigation into the missing fuel being conducted by the County would include all individuals from the top on down; requested that he be provided with a list of the qualifications for paid positions for township employees for the last ten years; questioned whether or not the Recreation Advisory Board Members were requesting the removal of Commissioner Fialla as their representative because she beat Mrs. Martinelli in the election last year.

Commissioner Padula questioned Mr. Rushford on the legal term "ripeness" as used in his legal bill for the month of January under the category of "Szoko".

Commissioner Fialla reiterated that Commissioner Szoko is seeking the job advertisements for employees hired within the last ten years, not their job descriptions; wished everyone a good night; stated that the next meeting of the Board of Commissioners will be held on February 23, 2009 and also reminded everyone that the Board of Commissioners is scheduled to meet with the Zoning Hearing Board and the Planning Commission on February 18, 2009 to review the Planning Commissioners' recommendations for zoning changes in the Township.

Commissioner Costa stated that he was happy to hear that there will be no objections this year to the Recreation Advisory Board contacting the Sheriff's office for help with this year's Summer Festival; and also commented that it would be nice if members of the Police Department volunteered their time for projects such as the Spring Clean-Up, like the Public Works employees have been asked to do.

Commissioner Wilson commented on the number of hours that the volunteer fire department members put in each month; requested that the Manager check the sound system prior to the next meeting to determine why there is so much feedback; and stated that he spent four years in the military to provide citizens like Ms. Lazarus the opportunity to come to a meeting and belittle elected officials.

(9-67) MOVED COSTA-FIALLA to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 PM. The motion was adopted by unanimous roll call vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Rebecca Bradley
Secretary