

WILKINS TOWNSHIP BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

REGULAR MEETING, MONDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2008

The Regular Meeting of Monday, November 10, 2008 was brought to order at 7:00 PM by President William G. Wilson. A quorum was present as follows:

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

Mr. Padula was absent

(8-277) MOVED COSTA-SZOKO to approve the minutes of October 27, 2008 with one correction: Under Commissioner Szoko’s comments, include: “ Commissioner Szoko also suggested that the Township review whether or not business taxes could be reduced by 50% for new businesses.” The motion was adopted by a 3 to 2 vote with Mr. Padula being absent and Ms. Fialla abstaining.

Citizens’ Comments:

Mr. Nicholas Didiano of 333 Cline Street requested assistance in acquiring the former Slat property across the street from his home through the Allegheny County Vacant Property Program. He will meet with Mrs. Bradley to further discuss this.

Cathy Kramer and Stacie Speranza of Padgett Business Services requested assistance from the Board of Commissioners in promoting their initiative to create a directory of all businesses located in the Township for the residents of the community. Padgett is willing to provide this service to the township at no cost. Any profit remaining following the mailing of directories to the residents will be turned over to the Township. The Township will provide a letter of support to Padgett for this initiative.

Reports:

Police Report for October 2008:

	2007	2008
Total Police Calls Logged	271	233
Total Criminal Offenses Reported	33	23
Criminal Arrests/Persons Charged	16	6
Criminal Offenses Cleared	17	12
Traffic Citations Issued	40	28
Parking Tags Issued	3	6
Parking Citations Issued	4	0
Total Monies Collected	\$5,419.59	\$5,788.57

Mr. Paul Vargos’ DPW Report can be found filed in the Manager’s Office.

WTVFD #3 reported the following for October 2008: 24 Fires – Man-hours 59.81, 2 Training Sessions – Man-hours 51.00 and 9 Activities – Man-hours 196.99. Total Man-hours 307.80.

Building Permits Issued during October 2008:

2 (two) Interior Alterations: BP #2560 PCE/LLP – Bldg #4, Suite 602 \$98,840
+ Plan Review (Vein Clinic) \$525.00

BP #2563 PCE/LLP – Bldg #4 Suite 311 \$32,000.
+ Plan Review (United Insurance) \$525.00

One (1) Deck, BP2561, 810 Negley Avenue – Cost \$2,000.00

One (1) Interior Alteration, BP2562, 207 Wallace Ave – Cost \$2,000.00

One (1) Roof over Porch, BP2564, 179 Sunset Drive – Cost \$4,000.00.

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The Township received \$2,952.77 in real estate transfer taxes during the month of October representing deed transfers which were recorded by the County in August. Total year-to-date collections are: \$40,218.78 or 78.86% of budget. As of October, collections are off by approximately 4.2%..

Tax Collectors Report for October 2008:

Balance Collectable – beginning of month	\$87,917.33
Deductions (exonerations)	-619.18
Adjusted Collectable	87,298.15
Less Face Collections for month	11,272.11
Exonerations	619.18
Balance Collectable – End of month	76,026.04
Total Refunds to date	5,691.34
NSF Adjustments – to date	962.63
Face Amount of Collections	11,272.11
Plus: Penalties	1,127.21
Total Cash Collected	\$12,399.32

PA Municipal Services – Act 511 Tax Report – October 2008:

Earned Income Taxes:

Current Month	\$20,890.85	Previous Year	\$17,091.09	Difference
Current Year to Date	499,411.97	Previous YTD	494,928.41	\$4,483.56

Local Service Tax:

Current Month	3,587.90	Previous Year	1,978.48	Difference
Current Year to Date	130,729.15	Previous YTD	286,549.43	(\$155,820.28)

Mercantile Tax:

Current Month	675.00	Previous Year	1,705.55	Difference
Current Year to Date	339,654.49	Previous YTD	1,278,222.09	(\$938,567.60)

Business Privilege Tax:

Current Month	6,240.58	Previous Year	1,441.52	Difference
Current Year to Date	205,061.47	Previous YTD	180,987.42	\$24,074.05

Solicitor's Report:

Mr. Rushford announced that the Board of Commissioners met in executive session prior to the meeting to discuss a contract issue and would meet again following the meeting to discuss a personnel issue.

The Solicitor's Report can be found filed in the Manager's Office

Mr. McKeever's (Senate Eng.) Report can be found filed in the Manager's Office.

(8-278) MOVED FIALLA-SZOKO to table Resolution #12-2008, a resolution amending the schedule of fees to increase the cost of Zoning Hearing Board hearings due to the increased cost of advertising. The motion was adopted by unanimous roll call vote of all present.

First Reading – 2009 General Fund Budget:

Mrs. Bradley presented proposed Ordinance Number 991 as required by the First Class Township Code for first reading. Ordinance 991 sets the 2009 Budget at \$5,281,800. in revenues and expenses. The millage rate will remain at 4.513 mills. Final budget adoption is scheduled for December 8, 2008. In addition, Mrs. Bradley presented a revised Combined Sewer Fund Budget. Correspondence from ALCOSAN was received indicating an increase in the rates for 2009. The budget was amended to reflect these increased rates, as required.

(8-279) MOVED FIALLA-COSTA to approve the request of Chief Guthrie to jointly apply for grant funds with the Borough of Churchill and the Borough of Forest Hills to be utilized to purchase laptop computers for use in police vehicles. The motion was adopted by unanimous roll call vote of all present.

Commissioners' Comments:

Commissioner Fialla questioned whether the Board would support a request to the School District to save the oak trees in front of the Eastmont School when the building is demolished; thanked Mr. Rushford for answering questions relative to the legal fees presented last month for payment; thanked the Recreation Advisory Board for a successful Pumpkin Patch Party; and reminded residents of the need to drive safely now that it is getting darker earlier.

Commissioner Szoko stated that he read an article in the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, Sunday, November 2nd edition which indicated that Wilkins' assessed value has decreased \$116,000 from last year; stated that we need to replace businesses in Penn Center and hopes that the Showcase project will soon begin; reiterated that he wishes to analyze whether or not it is possible to provide a tax decrease to new businesses coming to Wilkins; provided an article from the Pittsburgh Tribune Review regarding new rules and regulations imposed by Hempfield Township upon their employees for salting roadways this winter and requested that Chief Guthrie and Mr. Vargo read the article and analyze what can be done by the Township; requested that commissioners consider not taking Township health care and that all medicare eligible employees are switched over to the appropriate plan.

Commissioner Costa commented upon the article provided by Commissioner Szoko relative to Hempfield Township. He believes that it is dangerous for a municipality to publicize its intent to discipline employees who place too much salt on a street during a storm. He believes that this increases liability and could lead to lawsuits when accidents occur on icy streets. Mr. Costa also thanked everyone for their attendance at the meeting.

Commissioner Wilson wished a happy birthday to the Marines; recognized that Veteran's Day is tomorrow and thanked all of those veterans for their service to our Country; commented upon an article in the Tribune Review where Commissioner Szoko was quoted as saying that real estate taxes would increase by 25% in 2009, even though that has not proven to be the case; stated that now, Commissioner Szoko wishes to decrease mercantile taxes for businesses, which would require a change in services. Most municipalities would be happy with a balanced budget, but Commissioner Szoko continues to request cost cuts, even though he is the reason that the Township is paying unreasonable legal fees. Commissioner Wilson thanked everyone for coming out to the meeting.

(8-280) MOVED FIALLA-COSTA to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 8:04 PM. The motion was adopted by unanimous roll call vote of all present.

Respectfully submitted,

Rebecca Bradley
Secretary