

WILKINS TOWNSHIP BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

REGULAR MEETING, MONDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2010

The Regular Meeting of Monday, October 11, 2010 was brought to order at 7:00 PM by President Sylvia J. Martinelli. A quorum was present as follows:

Mrs. Martinelli                      Ms. Fialla  
Mr. Padula                      Mr. Costa    Mr. Szoko

(262-10) MOVED COSTA-PADULA to approve the minutes of the budget meeting of September 27, 2010 as presented. The motion was adopted by unanimous roll call vote.

(263-10) MOVED PADULA-COSTA to approve the minutes of the Second Stated Meeting of September 27, 2010 as presented. The motion was adopted by unanimous roll call vote.

Communications:

Mr. Anthony Russo Jr., Executive Director of the Wilksburg-Penn Joint Water Authority (WPJWA) submitted two items of correspondence. The first letter advised the Board that the WPJWA has a new website ([www.wpjwa.com](http://www.wpjwa.com)) and requested that the Township add their website as a link on the Township's website. The second letter requested the Township's level of interest in exploring cooperative agreements and/or regional alternatives for the management, maintenance and operation of sewer infrastructure. The WPJWA will be submitting a proposal to 3 Rivers Wet Weather to explore regional alternatives for communities which are a part of the WPJWA Distribution System.

(264-10) MOVED PADULA-FIALLA to authorize the manager to advise the WPJWA that the Township supports their efforts to apply for funds to explore alternatives for sewer infrastructure, including regionalization and cooperative agreements. The motion was adopted by unanimous roll call vote.

Communications:

The Township received two letters from Dennis Davin, Director of the Allegheny County Redevelopment Authority advising that the CTF Grant Applications submitted by the Township for the Dowling Street Area Sanitary Sewer Replacement, Phase I project and the Saw Mill Run Bank Stabilization project, while eligible projects, cannot be funded due to the volume of applications submitted compared to the amount of available funding.

Mr. Patrick Doyle, PhD., President, Board of Trustees, C.C. Mellor Library submitted funding requesting that the Township allocate \$1.00 per capita toward their 2011 budget for a donation to the Library for 2011.

The Monroeville Area Chamber of Commerce notified the Township of the upcoming ROC Awards which will be presented at a recognition banquet to be held on November 4, 2010, beginning at 5:30 PM at the Doubletree Hotel in Monroeville. The cost per person is \$45.00.

(265-10) MOVED PADULA-COSTA to authorize the payment of \$45 for one individual to attend the ROC Banquet on behalf of the Township. The motion was adopted by a four to one vote with Mr. Szoko voting "NO".

Citizens' Comments:

Mr. Carl Krary of 256 Penhurst stated that he believed that the interim real estate tax ordinance that is on the agenda should not be approved because it would make Wilkins less attractive to new business.

Ms. Diane Parker (property owner) and Mr. Cory Hoebel (tenant) of 432 Dunbar Drive commented upon correspondence that they received from Mr. Hill regarding the keeping of a boa constrictor as a pet.

Mr. N. Leonard Hill of 405 Kingston Drive reminded residents that VFC #4 will hold their annual Halloween parade beginning at 5:00 PM at the Emanuel Lutheran Church and proceeding to the fire hall on Sunday, October 31<sup>st</sup>; stated that he will be providing the elected officials with a copy of a handbook just received from Allegheny County regarding Emergency Operations and commented upon Mr. Szoko's statement in the Post-Gazette two weeks ago regarding retiring one police officer and furloughing another. Mr. Hill stated that prior to reducing the number of fulltime police officers, the Commissioners should talk with the taxpayers to determine whether or not they would be willing to pay additional tax dollars to retain them.

Mr. Mike Boyd of 105 George Street thanked the Police Department for their help at the intersections during last week's Tour du District.

Reports:

Police Report for September 2010:

	<u>2009</u>	<u>2010</u>
Total Police Calls Logged	243	278
Total Criminal Offenses Reported	44	30
Criminal Arrests/Persons Charged	13	7
Criminal Offenses Cleared	15	5
Traffic Citations Issued	19	32
Parking Tags Issued	5	6
Parking Citations Issued	2	0
Monies collected during September	\$ 2,707.72	\$ 3,389.27

Mr. Bruener's DPW Department Report for September can be found filed in the Managers Office

WTVFD #3 reported as follows:

17 Fires, man-power 89.36 hours, 1 Training, man-power 36 hours, 10 Non-incident Activities, man-power 501.91, hours. Total monthly man-power hours: 627.27.

One (1) Building Permit Issued: #2669 CS, Ronald Demko, 504 Clugston Avenue, Porch Roof – Cost \$1,000.00

The total amount of transfer tax received in September (representing August transfers) was \$514.50. Total year-to-date collections are: \$24,898.57, or 55.33% of budget. We are currently 20% behind (\$9,000) where we should be at this time of the year.

Tax Collector's Report for September 2010:

Balance Collectable – Beginning of the Month	\$ 92,998.31
Additions	412.94
Deductions (Exonerations)	-123.20
Adjusted Collectable	93,288.05
Less Face Collections	-3,762.04
Balance Collectable – End of Month	89,526.01
Face Amount of Collections	3,762.04

Plus Penalties	371.70
Less: Discounts	-0.90
Total Cash Collected	4,132.84
Overpayment Refunds	135.42

Act 511 Tax Report – September 2010

Earned Income Taxes:

Current Month	\$ 28,082.64	Previous Year	\$ 12,000.00	Difference
Current YTD	494,888.99	Previous YTD	495,659.84	(\$770.85)

Local Service Tax:

Current Month	24,851.31	Previous Year	33,532.12	Difference
Current YTD	133,146.69	Previous YTD	144,387.66	(\$11,240.97)

Business Tax (Mercantile & Business Privilege)

Current Month	7,589.64	Previous Year	35,733.17	Difference
Current YTD	534,150.15	Previous YTD	502,862.55	\$ 31,287.60

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

Mrs. Martinelli announced that the Board met in executive session prior to the regular meeting to discuss three items of personnel.

(266-10) MOVED SZOKO-COSTA to authorize the payment of the schedule of bills, in the amount of \$400,306.76 as presented. The motion was adopted by unanimous roll call vote.

(267-10) MOVED FIALLA-PADULA to accept the recommendation of the Engineer to approve Periodic Pay Estimate #1 to ElGrande in the amount of \$188,724.87 representing 95% of the amount due for the paving of Old William Penn Highway and Hart Drive. The motion was adopted by unanimous roll call vote.

(268-10) MOVED PADULA-COSTA to authorize the Manager to advertise for the adoption of the proposed ordinance instituting interim real estate tax assessments on new construction and improvements. The motion was adopted by unanimous roll call vote.

(269-10) MOVED PADULA-FIALLA to authorize the Solicitor to correspond with the Renda's and advise them that their property located at 105 Powell Street is grandfathered in as an existing nonconforming use. The motion was adopted by unanimous roll call vote.

(270-10) MOVED FIALLA-SZOKO to approve the request of the Allegheny County Training Academy to use the Municipal Building Auditorium for annual updates for police officers from 8:30 AM until 3:30 PM. On the following dates: January 10-11, 24-25,31; February 1, 7-8, 14-15, 21-22; March 7-8, 14-15, 21-22, 28-29; April 4-5, 11-12 and October 3-4. The motion was adopted by a four to one vote with Mrs. Martinelli voting "NO".

(271-10) MOVED COSTA-PADULA to authorize the Township to enter into a contract with Hoffman's Boarding Kennels for the year 2011 at a cost of \$55.00 per emergency call and \$205.00 per month. The motion was adopted by a four to one vote with Ms. Fialla voting "NO".

Commissioners' Comments – Allegheny League of Municipalities Training:

Mrs. Martinelli requested that the Commissioners report on their learning experiences at their recent trip to the Allegheny League conference held in Seven Springs.

Mrs. Martinelli commented upon a seminar she attended regarding Marcellus shale and gas drilling in Western Pennsylvania and the need to update our ordinance to address issues such as odor and noise; a seminar regarding successful bargaining and health care costs. Mr. Padula commented upon a seminar that he attended regarding how to listen; Mr. Costa reported on a seminar that he attended regarding the need to computerize meetings and Ms. Fialla commented upon the development of new business models to aid municipalities in remaining going concerns and understanding the issues presented by constituents before legislating them.

Commissioners' Comments:

Mr. Szoko commented upon an email that he had received regarding projected increases in healthcare for 2011; stated that he recently met with a resident of Lucia who thanked him for keeping the township taxes low and commented that this is not the economy to raise taxes. Mr. Szoko also commented that he does not believe that the Township should contribute to the Library because they are a nonprofit and need to either raise fines, or charge admission and requested an opinion from the Solicitor relative to a finding in the Police Pension Audit for the period ending December 31, 2008.

Mr. Costa thanked everyone for coming to the meeting; reminded residents to remember to register for the Pumpkin Patch Party which will be held on October 23<sup>rd</sup>; commented that at the last meeting of the Recreation Advisory Board, the Board was notified that their budget for the Summer Festival would be cut in half and that they are already working on ways to hold a five day festival, with less Township funding.

Ms. Fialla stated that one of the biggest challenges that the Board of Commissioners faces in defining the 2011 budget is trying to determine what the priorities of the residents are and she welcomes any input from residents. Ms. Fialla thanked everyone for their attendance at the meeting this evening and hoped to see them at the next meeting.

Mr. Padula thanked everyone for coming to the meeting and thanked the two students who were present for their interest; commented that he too welcomes input from residents and stated that he hopes to see everyone at the Pumpkin Patch Party on the 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Mrs. Martinelli commented that she is saddened by Mr. Szoko's complaint regarding library funding and discussed the number of activities that the library provides to the township, including reading programs for the children, the book exchange program and the book club; thanked everyone for coming to the meeting and invited the two students who were present to the microphone to introduce themselves and let the Board know why they were present.

(272-10) MOVED COSTA-PADULA to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 PM. The motion was adopted by unanimous roll call vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Rebecca Bradley  
Secretary