

WILKINS TOWNSHIP BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

SECOND STATED MEETING, MONDAY, JANUARY 26, 2009

The Second Stated Meeting of Monday, January 26, 2009 was brought to order at 7:00 PM by President William Wilson. A quorum was present as follows:

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

(9-40) MOVED PADULA-COSTA to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of January 12, 2009, as presented. The motion was adopted by unanimous roll call vote.

Correspondence:

Prior to the reading of correspondence, Mrs. Bradley announced that the Board of Commissioners met in executive session on Monday, January 12, 2009 and Monday January 26, 2009, prior to the regular meetings for the purpose of discussing items of personnel and litigation.

Correspondence from H. Daniel Cessna, District Executive, Pennsylvania Department of Transportation, District 11 was read.. Mr. Cessna advised that the weight limit restriction on Thompson Run Bridge over Thompson Run Road will be reduced from 31 tons, except combinations 40 tons, to 28 tons, except combinations 40 tons, due to superstructure deterioration of the steel beams. PennDot will be performing repairs to the steel beams to ensure the safety of the bridge until such time as it can be replaced.

Mr. Marshall Bond, Manager for the Municipality of Monroeville submitted correspondence outlining the proposed pension settlement between the former Eastern Regional Communications Center (ERC) and the Pennsylvania Auditor General and requesting confirmation from the member municipalities as to the proposed settlement, the payment of attorney's fees from the remaining ERC assets, and the return of \$12,325.39 to the Allegheny County Capital Fund representing funds received for capital expenditures not made.

(9-41) MOVED PADULA-FIALLA to approve the proposed agreement between the Eastern Regional Communications Center and the Auditor General for the repayment of \$145,000 in pension assets, approving the disbursement of \$7,500.00 for attorney's fees and authorizing the return of \$12,325.39 to the Allegheny County Capital Fund. The motion was adopted by unanimous roll call vote.

Correspondence:

Commissioner Fialla read a portion of correspondence that she submitted to the Recreation Advisory Board in response to their request for her removal as the Township liaison to the Recreation Advisory Board.

Citizens' Comments:

Mr. Timothy Saunders of 908 Rita Drive and Mr. Scott Matthews of 553 Lucia Drive addressed the Board of Commissioners on behalf of the Wilkins Township Public Works Department employees. Correspondence was provided to each member of the Board and read publicly. The Public Works Department employees are questioning comments made by Commissioner Szoko relative to an investigation into 24 gallons of gasoline which was conducted by the Chief of Police last month

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- (9-42) MOVED PADULA-COSTA to appoint Sharon Vrontos of 115 Larchwood Drive to fulfill the unexpired term of Mr. Steve Farris on the Wilkins Township Planning Commission, through 12/31/12. The motion was adopted by a three to two vote with Ms. Fialla and Mr. Szoko voting “NO”.
- (9-43) MOVED PADULA-COSTA to authorize the Manager to advertise for a special meeting between the Board of Commissioners, the Planning Commission and the Zoning Hearing Board on February 18, 2009 beginning at 7:00 PM in the Municipal Building for the specific purpose of discussing the recommendations of the Planning Commission for rezoning; further authorizing the payment of \$240.00 to Mr. Graney for his attendance at the meeting. The motion was adopted by unanimous roll call vote.
- (9-44) MOVED PADULA-SZOKO to authorize the Manager to seek grant funds and make application for the purpose of upgrading the existing fire alarm monitors in the three Fire Departments, the Municipal Building and the Community Center and tabling the request of VFC #4 for financial aid in repairing their fire monitoring system. The motion was adopted by unanimous roll call vote.
- (9-45) MOVED FIALLA-COSTA to authorize Mockenhaupt to perform a study of the Police Pension Fund to determine the ramifications of Act 92 upon the plan, with fees for the service to be drawn upon the Police Pension Fund.. The motion was adopted by unanimous roll call vote.
- (9-46) MOVED PADULA-FIALLA to authorize the Manager to file an application for a summer intern with the Local Government Academy seeking an intern for records management and EPA Consent order related projects. The motion was adopted by unanimous roll call vote.
- (9-47) MOVED FIALLA-COSTA to authorize the Engineer to make application for grant funds through the H2O PA Water Supply, Sanitary Sewer and Storm Water Projects Grant. The motion was adopted by unanimous roll call vote.
- (9-48) MOVED FIALLA-PADULA to authorize the manager to attend the annual PELRAS Conference to be held at State College from March 25-27, 2009 at a cost of \$329.00, including hotel lodging. The motion was adopted by unanimous roll call vote.
- (9-49) MOVED FIALLA-COSTA to authorize the payment of one booth rental fee for each of the three Volunteer Fire Departments for the Summer Festival 2009. The Fire Departments will be required to pay the cost of each additional booth rental required. The motion was adopted by a four to one vote with Mr. Padula “ABSTAINING”
- (9-50) MOVED FIALLA-COSTA to agree that the Recreation Advisory Board will not be responsible for paying the cost of public works and police department overtime for their participation at the Summer Festival 2009. The motion was adopted by unanimous roll call vote.
- (9-51) MOVED PADULA-COSTA to authorize the Recreation Advisory Board to rent a dunk tank for the Summer Festival 2009, contingent upon the preparation and approval by the Solicitor of a release of liability statement to be signed by all participants. The motion was adopted by a four to one vote with Mr. Szoko voting “NO”

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(9-52) MOVED PADULA-SZOKO to authorize the Recreation Advisory Board to advise car dealers that they may display cars at the Summer Festival 2009 for a donation in excess of \$1,000.00, contingent upon the car dealers providing proof of insurance and signing a release of liability. The motion was adopted by unanimous roll call vote.

Commissioners' Comments:

Commissioner Szoko questioned the status with Mr. Zemet; reiterated the need to follow protocol, have discipline and structure and again requested an answer to who pumped gas into Truck 60 on a Sunday in November; commented that he liked the statement made by Commissioner Fialla in her communication to the Recreation Advisory Board regarding being more analytical and less political; and made the following motion:

(9-53) MOVED SZOKO-FIALLA to authorize the Solicitor to review the Local Tax Enabling Act and prepare a legal opinion to determine whether the Township can offer new businesses a 50% reduction in business privilege and mercantile taxes for the first two years of new business. The motion was adopted by unanimous roll call vote.

Commissioners' Comments:

Commissioner Padula requested that Mr. Hill provide an update on the demolition of the Eastmont School; requested an update on the water bill presented by Ms. D'Urso of Churchill Lane at the last meeting; commented on the unaccounted for gasoline in the police department; and wished the Steelers good luck in the Super Bowl XLIII on Sunday.

Commissioner Fialla thanked everyone for their attendance this evening; commented that the role of the Commissioners is not to always do things that everyone is going to like, but she believes that everyone takes their jobs seriously and stated that policies are implemented to make sure that taxpayer dollars are wisely spent.

Commissioner Costa thanked everyone for coming out and commented that he understands that the new Community Center is not popular with everyone, but everyone that he has spoken with cannot wait until it is open; and thanked the Public Works Department employees for all of their hard work and effort to prepare the Community Center.

Commissioner Wilson thanked everyone for coming out and commented that the Road Department should not feel bad about the comments made by Commissioner Szoko, as Commissioner Szoko does not leave anyone out in his character assassination. He hopes that the employees got things off their chests at the meeting; thanked them for coming and stated that not everyone shares the same views as Commissioner Szoko.

(9-54) MOVED PADULA-FIALLA to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 PM. The motion was adopted by unanimous roll call vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Rebecca Bradley
Secretary

