

WILKINS TOWNSHIP BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

SECOND STATED MEETING, MONDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2010

The Second Stated Meeting of Monday, October 25, 2010 was brought to order at 7:17 PM by President Sylvia J. Martinelli. A quorum was present as follows:

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

Chairwoman Martinelli apologized to the audience for starting the regular meeting late. The Board met in Executive Session to discuss three items of personnel and will return to Executive Session following adjournment of the regular meeting to finish discussion of the final item of personnel. No action will be publicly taken at this time.

(274-10) MOVED PADULA-COSTA to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners held on October 11, 2010 as presented. The motion was adopted by a three to two vote with Ms. Fialla and Mr. Szoko voting "NO".

Correspondence:

Mr. Don McConnell of Queenston Drive submitted correspondence resigning from his position as a member of the Zoning Hearing Board due to his work schedule.

(275-10) MOVED MARTINELLI-COSTA to accept the resignation of Mr. McConnell, authorizing the Manager to send correspondence thanking him for his service on the Board and authorizing the Manager to place an advertisement on the website seeking his replacement. The motion was adopted by unanimous roll call vote.

Citizens' Comments:

Mr. Karl Crary of 256 Penhurst Drive commented upon the discussion at the budget meeting relative to focusing on reducing expenditures for fire service when the police, public works and administration take up larger portions of available revenues. Mr. Crary believes that the focus should be on the larger departments.

(276-10) MOVED SZOKO-COSTA to authorize the manager and Mr. Hill to develop a policy for review by the Board to begin a "Wall of Shame" to be placed on the website to showcase properties with significant code violations. The motion was adopted by unanimous roll call vote.

(277-10) MOVED PADULA-COSTA to authorize the manager to advertise a proposed ordinance which amends the Codified Book of Ordinances, Chapter 124, to add a rental registration program. The motion was adopted by unanimous roll call vote.

(278-10) MOVED SZOKO-COSTA to reject all bids for the Balint Lane Bridge Replacement Project with a bid opening date of August 3, 2010 and a bid opening date of October 20, 2010. The motion was adopted by unanimous roll call vote.

(279-10) MOVED COSTA-PADULA to authorize Senate Engineering to resubmit applications for CITF Grants for the Dowling Avenue Sanitary Sewer Project – Phase 1 and the Saw Mill Run Stream Bank Stabilization project. The motion was adopted by unanimous roll call vote.

- (280-10) MOVED SZOKO-PADULA to authorize the Manager to notify the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania that the Board has elected to accept a reduction of 25% of the amortization contribution requirement as calculated by Mockenhaupt, or the payment of a minimum municipal obligation (MMO) in 2011 and 2012 of \$256,221 instead of \$303,807. The motion was not adopted by a three to two vote with Mr. Padula, Mr. Costa and Mrs. Martinelli voting “NO”.
- (281-10) MOVED FIALLA-PADULA to accept the recommendation of the Planning Commission and authorizing the manager to advertise a public hearing to adopt an ordinance which amends the Township’s Zoning Code to permit accessory uses and structures of less than 120 square feet to be located within 5 feet of the rear and/or side lot line. The motion was adopted by unanimous roll call vote.
- (282-10) MOVED FIALLA-PADULA to accept the recommendation of the Planning Commission and authorizing the manager to submit a proposed ordinance amending the Zoning Ordinance as it pertains to no-impact home-based businesses and unused school buildings to the Allegheny County Planning Commission for comment. The motion was adopted by unanimous roll call vote.

RESOLUTION NO. 19-2010

A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF WILKINS, ALLEGHENY COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, AUTHORIZING REBECCA BRADLEY, MANAGER, TO EXECUTE FOR AND IN BEHALF OF WILKINS TOWNSHIP ALL REQUIRED FORMS AND DOCUMENTS FOR THE PURPOSE OF OBTAINING FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR THE HAZARD MITIGATION GRANT PROGRAM UNDER THE ROBERT T. STAFFORD DISASTER RELIEF AND EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE ACT.

- (283-10) MOVED FIALLA-COSTA to adopt Resolution No. 19-2010. The motion was adopted by unanimous roll call vote.

RESOLUTION NO. 20-2010

A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF WILKINS, ALLEGHENY COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA AGREEING TO THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF THE OPEN SPACE SUB-APPLICANT MAINTENANCE AGREEMENT CERTIFICATION.

- (284-10) MOVED COSTA-FIALLA to adopt Resolution No. 20-2010. The motion was adopted by unanimous roll call vote.

RESOLUTION NO. 21-2010

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE TOWNSHIP OF WILKINS, ALLEGHENY COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, AUTHORIZING THE TOWNSHIP OF WILKINS TO PARTICIPATE IN THE ALLEGHENY COUNTY JOINT PURCHASING CONTRACT ADMINISTERED BY THE COUNTY OF ALLEGHENY.

- (285-10) MOVED COSTA-FIALLA to adopt Resolution No. 21-2010. The motion was adopted by unanimous roll call vote.

(286-10) MOVED FIALLA-SZOKO to authorize the manager to send a letter of inquiry to contiguous municipalities, with the exception of Penn Hills for the purpose of determining their interest in obtaining grant funds through DCED to perform a study to determine the feasibility of shared services and/or merger of public works services. The motion was adopted by unanimous roll call vote.

Commissioners' Comments:

Commissioner Fialla commented upon the fact that Mr. Hoebel, who appeared before the Board at the last meeting to request that the Board amend their code to permit him to keep his pet boa constrictor, was not present at tonight's meeting, but that she has received a number of calls on this issue. Mr. Hoebel has an opportunity to appeal the decision of Mr. Hill within thirty days of the date that he received notification. As of today, Mr. Hoebel has not appealed Mr. Hill's decision. Ms. Fialla also thanked everyone for coming to the meeting.

Commissioner Padula thanked Mr. McConnell for his years of service on the Zoning Hearing Board; reminded residents to change the batteries in their smoke detectors when they move their clocks back on November 7th, thanked the Recreation Advisory Board for their hard work on the Pumpkin Patch Party; questioned when the Township will get the laptops back from Response; cautioned the Board regarding their approach of the Fire Departments, reminding them that their members are volunteers and we should not strong arm them and stated that he believes that the dialogue regarding shared services has already begun.

Commissioner Szoko stated that he really enjoyed the dialogue between the members of Board with regard to making a decision on the pension obligation; read correspondence that he received from the Penhurst Civic Association regarding a resident who was scammed by a home repairman and commented that he believes that the Township's animal ordinance needs to be tightened more, not relaxed and that if Mr. Hoebel wants to have a boa constrictor, he should move to a different community where they are permitted.

Commissioner Costa stated that he attended the Three Rivers Wet Weather Conference last week and that the materials are available for review in the manager's office; stated that the keynote speaker from the Environmental Protection Agency started things off by stating that while they realize that most municipalities are cash-strapped, they will require these municipalities to fund programs which clean our watersheds and make all of our waters drinkable; and commented upon ALCOSAN's desire to locate holding tanks next to ball fields and parks in their communities to hold sewage during wet weather events to eliminate overflows. Mr. Costa also commented upon the fact that many individuals in Wilkins are of the belief that it is acceptable to park in their front yards and partially on the street. He requested that Mr. Hill and the Police Department aggressively enforce the Township code in this regard to stop this practice and requested that this information be placed on the Township's website.

Commissioner Martinelli thanked Lerah Pasqualino and Melissa Brinza for all of their hard work in heading up the Recreation Advisory Committee that put together the Pumpkin Patch Party; thanked Mr. Costa and Mr. Padula for their attendance and help and thanked Mr. Matthews and Mr. McClelland for running the hay wagon. Mrs. Martinelli also thanked Mr. McConnell for his service as a member of the Zoning Hearing Board; and commented that she has received a number of phone calls and letters regarding the Township's exotic animal ordinance. Everyone that she has spoken to has requested that the ordinance not be changed to permit boa constrictors.

(287-10) MOVED FIALLA-COSTA to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 9:04 PM. The motion was adopted by unanimous roll call vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Rebecca Bradley, Secretary

