

BOROUGH OF CHURCHILL  
2300 WILLIAM PENN HIGHWAY  
PITTSBURGH, PA 15235

Minutes of Meeting

August 13, 2013

The regular monthly meeting of the Borough of Churchill was held in the Municipal Building on Tuesday, August 13, 2013 and was called to order by Robert L. Ferry at 7:30 p.m. Mr. Ferry led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance. Members present included Ms. McAbee, Mrs. Pantlik, Messrs. Lepidi, Kline, Jurewicz and Dworin. Also present were Mayor McKenna, Assistant Police Chief Roch Kujava, and Donna Perry. Daniel R. Duerring was absent.

MINUTES – There was a motion made by Mr. Dworin and seconded by Mr. Lepidi that the minutes of the Regular Meeting held July 16, 2013 be approved as previously presented. The motion was unanimously approved.

MAYOR – Mayor McKenna reported that the Police Department gave out over 100 tickets last month for traffic violations. He stated people need to slow down and come to a complete stop at stop signs. Assistant Kujava reported that we have received many complaints about speeding and stop sign enforcement and the Chief has made traffic enforcement a high priority in the department. In September a state-sponsored blitz on safety belt usage by young drivers will be conducted. The department participated in this event last year and it was very successful.

Mr. Lepidi noted in the Mayor's Report there were four thefts from cars in driveways on Holland and Hampstead. Since he lives on Hampstead he questioned what part of Hampstead the thefts occurred. Assistant Chief Kujava wasn't absolutely positive where they happened. He did inform that this is a county-wide problem. It's a crime of opportunity and the actors are not breaking into the vehicles. The thefts are occurring to unsecured vehicles. He urged everyone to lock their doors and informed that a lot of the thefts are occurring on Sunday nights.

Mr. Ferry questioned if there were any home burglaries and Officer Kujava reported there have been a couple. He highly praised the District Attorney's Crime Scene Unit for their help in solving these crimes. He was also fairly certain that we don't have any unsolved burglaries.

There was a motion by Ms. McAbee and seconded by Mr. Kline to accept the report. The motion was unanimously approved.

**MANAGER & FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORTS** – Mr. Robinson stated the Fire Department responded to 28 alarms for the month of July and the year-to-date total is 113. Many of the calls were storm related and vehicle accidents on the parkway.

On the Manager’s side, he reported that sewer work is being done by four different sets of crews that include sewer televising, lining, repairing and cleaning.

There were concerns over zoning hearing notices that were posted on Elmhill. This was due to a Wilkinsburg Zoning Hearing Board meeting to hear a request from Allegheny County for a use variance. They want to install an air quality monitoring station on a section of ground that is situated on the right side of the Parkway on ramp in Forest Hills.

Mr. Robinson informed that the Churchill-Wilkins Rotary sponsored the cost of a bin to recover used and worn out American flags. It is situated in the lobby. The Boy Scout troop in Forest Hills will be notified when to come and retrieve the flags to properly dispose of them.

Mr. Lepidi believes we have a developing problem with overly mature trees and the branches are wrapping around power lines. He has noticed in his area that there are a lot of oak trees with dead branches on the under part of the tree. He has been encouraging his neighbors to trim their trees. He suggested we should put an article in the next newsletter regarding this matter.

There was a motion by Mr. Lepidi, seconded by Mrs. Pantlik and unanimously approved by Voice Vote that these reports be accepted and filed.

**REAL ESTATE TAX COLLECTOR** – Mr. Robinson reported that the taxes collected at face for the month of July were \$43,498.14, plus penalties of \$397.76 for a total of \$43,895.90. The balance collectable is \$148,130.43.

**TREASURER’S REPORT** – Mr. Robinson read the following report for the month of July, 2013. It showed the following:

<u>CHECKING ACCOUNT</u>	<u>BEGINNING BANK BALANCE</u>	<u>RECEIPTS</u>	<u>O/S CHECKS AND DISBURSEMENTS</u>	<u>ENDING CASH BALANCES</u>
REGULAR ACCOUNT	920,411.92	301,237.46	351,834.91	869,814.47
CAPITAL RES. ACCT.	158,491.32	7.16	-0-	158,498.48
ROAD & HIGHWAY	123,411.17	5.53	-0-	123,416.70
SEWAGE AGENCY	171,964.54	100,275.74	100,644.97	171,595.31

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SPECIAL ACCT.	12,350.80	976.11	1,482.53	11,844.38
POLICE PENSION FUND	3,397.56	3,292.05	6,689.61	-0-
EMPL. PENSION FUND	853.36	853.36	1,706.72	-0-
WELFARE BENEFIT	1,120.73	-0-	-0-	1,120.73
EMPL. SEC. 457 D.C.P.	-0-	2,500.00	2,500.00	-0-

There was a motion by Mr. Jurewicz, seconded by Mr. Dworin and unanimously approved by Voice Vote to accept the Tax Collector's Report and Treasurer's Report for the month of July and have it reproduced in the minutes.

**EARNED INCOME TAX**

**DEED TRANSFER**

**DELINQUENT REAL ESTATE TAX** – Mr. Robinson reported that the Earned Income Tax Collector had collections of \$30,607.43 for the month of July.

Deed Transfer Tax collection totaled \$4,152.26 for the month of July.

Jordan Tax Service collected delinquent real estate taxes in the amount of \$4,504.98 for the month of July.

There was a motion by Ms. McAbee, seconded by Mr. Kline and unanimously approved that the reports be filed.

**LISTEN TO VISITORS** - Margie Darbut of 1503 Williamsburg Place questioned where the burglaries in Blackridge occurred. Assistant Chief Kujava informed there was one on Collins Road and one on Forest Drive in January. Both burglaries were solved and done by the same juveniles aged 13 and 15. One of the homes did have a security system, but it was not activated. He stated he is very much in favor of security alarms and cautioned everyone to keep their doors locked and to keep lights on.

Ms. Darbut also questioned if Council is considering doing something with the deer problem in the fall. Mr. Robinson advised Council is investigating some possibilities.

Diana Yankes of 2210 William Penn Highway spoke on behalf of a part of the Recreation Board's mission and programs. There appeared to be some confusion at the Workshop Meeting regarding the facebook page of the Churchill Recreation Board. She wanted to try to clear up any misunderstandings. She informed that she manages the facebook page and that this is not a site with back and forth friend communication. We are a community organization page. Facebook is a

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promotional tool that businesses all over the world use to share the human side of their business. We have 13 albums with over 100 pictures of various events and activities. There was also some question as to Council having an oversight of the Recreation Board. She stated two of the seven Recreation Board members are on Council and she assured that the oversight is already in place. Mr. Ferry thanked Diana for all her work on the Recreation Board. He stated that Council would like to develop a policy as to the content of the website and want to gain a greater understanding of facebook.

Joan Gottlieb of 2310 Marbury Road stated she has noticed there are several people who are not taking the blue bin into an area where it is not visible, either from the street or from their neighbors to the side. She suggested a second reminder about this should be placed in the newsletter and to possibly have the police put a notice on the blue bin as to the guidelines.

She also informed that she received a wonderful thank you card from the last Churchill Area Environmental Council scholarship winner, Regina Sakas, who is from Rankin. She stated it was written in perfect grammar and beautifully stated. Regina will be attending Duquesne University and enter into the early childhood education program. Mrs. Gottlieb particularly liked her last comment where she wrote "throughout my career at Duquesne, and for the rest of my life, I plan to continue to stay active in my community and at bettering the environment".

Milton Gottlieb of 2310 Marbury Road reminded everyone that he is still showing up at Bullock Pens Park every Thursday morning at 9 a.m. for a "walk in the woods".

AWARD MUNICIPAL BUILDING ROOF BID – There was a motion by Mr. Kline, seconded by Ms. McAbee and unanimously approved by Roll Call Vote to award the bid to G & W Roofing in the amount of \$45,140. for replacement of the Municipal Building roof.

ADVERTISE SALE OF A 2007 CHEVROLET IMPALA POLICE CAR – There was a motion by Mr. Dworin, seconded by Mr. Jurewicz and unanimously approved by Roll Call Vote to authorize the Borough Secretary to advertise the sale of a 2007 Chevrolet Impala police car.

WORKSHOP MEETING SUMMARY – Mr. Ferry summarized some of the discussion points from the Monday, August 12, 2013 Workshop Meeting as follows:

A new logo for the borough was selected. This project was spearheaded by Bonnie Pantlik. Designs were submitted by Borough residents.

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A Community Day is scheduled for Woodland Hills School District on Saturday, August 24 from 11a.m-3pm. The Recreation Board will have a table set up. Some work has been done on the Administration Building. Mr. Ferry stated that we need to be on the forefront of the possible closure of Shaffer School.

Solicitor Robb reported on the status of Churchill Valley Country Club. A public auction was scheduled for July 29. Prior to this, multiple bankruptcy filings occurred and until this is resolved there is a stay on the proceedings. The lien holder has confirmed that any real estate taxes owed to the Borough and school district will be satisfied when the sale is completed.

Mr. Ferry stated that we are working to update our pension plan ordinances to comply with state requirements.

Discussion ensued about properties in violation of maintenance codes.

An Executive Session was held to discuss the Westinghouse Property.

PAY THE BILLS – Mr. Robinson read the bills for the month and they totaled \$209,663.42. There was a motion by Mr. Dworin, seconded by Mr. Jurewicz and unanimously approved by Roll Call Vote for the adoption of Resolution No. 4278 to pay the bills.

AROUND THE TABLE – Mrs. Pantlik stated the Churchill Volunteer Fire Department will hold an Open House on Saturday, September 14 between the hours of 12-3pm.

Mr. Lepidi stated it is good that we have had improved attendance at both the Workshop and Regular Meetings. He would like to get some feedback about the summary report of the Workshop Meeting to see if the residents feel it's a useful feature.

He also thanked everyone who has been volunteering for various things throughout the Borough.

Cheryl McAbee discussed the Parkway East traffic flow study being conducted by PennDot.

Mr. Dworin thanked the Police Department for stepping up the traffic enforcement. During the block party held on Garrick Drive he stated this was a main topic of discussion.

Since the only elementary school the children of Churchill attend is Shaffer, he felt it was very important to keep it open. In the future, he hopes the school board will keep Council involved with information on this issue.

He discussed the facebook issue and stated an organization, such as the Recreation Board, wants to have many "likes" versus the option of having friends. He stated that perhaps down the

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road as we attract younger residents who are more into social media that the option of having “friends” is a good thing. He does support it, but there are concerns.

He thanked Ms. Pantlik, the Recreation Board and anyone involved in any capacity with creating the environment here in the Borough. While his schedule prevents him from attending many events, he does appreciate that the options are out there.

Mr. Jurewicz stated the property maintenance report is extensive and he thanked Craig and the road crew for trying to stay on top of everything that needs done.

He also thanked Mrs. Pantlik and the committee for coming up with the new logo.

ADJOURN – There was a motion duly made and seconded to adjourn the meeting until Monday, September 9, 2013 at 7:00 p.m.

CRAIG A. ROBINSON  
BOROUGH SECRETARY