

BOROUGH OF CHURCHILL
2300 WILLIAM PENN HIGHWAY
PITTSBURGH, PA 15235

Minutes of Meeting

September 10, 2013

The regular monthly meeting of the Borough of Churchill was held in the Municipal Building on Tuesday, September 10, 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, Police Chief Park, Daniel R. Duerring and Donna Perry.

MINUTES – There was a motion made by Mr. Lepidi and seconded by Mr. Kline that the minutes of the Regular Meeting held August 13, 2013 be approved as previously presented. The motion was unanimously approved.

MAYOR – Mr. Lepidi discussed the Mayor's Report. School commenced in August and there were two weapons violations the first day. One was a butcher knife and the other a box cutter. Chief Park stated both students claimed they didn't realize they were in their possession. He further advised this is an automatic one year suspension.

Mr. Lepidi questioned Chief Park about the relationship and communication with school officials. Chief Park informed there is not much of a dialogue. He stated there are incidents occurring at the school and we are not being informed. Mr. Lepidi suggested a follow up with school board member Tara Reis to try to improve this situation.

Mr. Lepidi noted that the Police Department has made a major effort to improve traffic violations and there were 76 citations issued. Chief Park stated most of the violators are our own residents.

Numerous school busses have been using Thornberry as a through way and there are only two or three private school busses that pick up students. There were asked to use Lewin Lane since there are only four homes on Lewin Lane and only one stop sign versus three on Thornberry.

There was a motion by Mr. Jurewicz and seconded by Mr. Dworin to accept the report. The motion was unanimously approved.

MANAGER & FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORTS – Mr. Robinson stated the Fire Department responded to 14 alarms for the month of August and the year-to-date total is 127. They responded to some

motor vehicle accidents on the Parkway. There were no significant calls in the Borough. They are planning their Open House for residents this Saturday from Noon-3pm and encouraged everyone to attend.

On the Manager's side, Mr. Robinson reported all sewer work including sanitary sewer televising, lining, repairs and three storm inlets have been completed. We will start planning for next year.

The next newsletter will be coming out within the next week. There is lots of information contained in it and he reminded that with fall approaching leaves should not be raked into the street.

Mr. Lepidi questioned status of the new Municipal Building roof. Mr. Robinson informed replacement should begin with the next week to ten days.

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

REAL ESTATE TAX COLLECTOR – Mr. Duerring reported that the taxes collected at face for the month of August were \$4,374.08, plus penalties of \$429.38, less discounts of \$1.60 for a total of \$4,801.86. The balance collectable is \$143,756.35.

TREASURER'S REPORT – Mr. Duerring read the following report for the month of August, 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	878,815.17	231,840.49	304,941.22	805,714.44
CAPITAL RES. ACCT.	158,498.48	6.52	-0-	158,505.00
ROAD & HIGHWAY	123,416.70	5.03	-0-	123,421.73
SEWAGE AGENCY	171,595.31	129,718.32	137,391.89	163,921.74
SPECIAL ACCT.	11,844.38	84.28	84.00	11,844.66
POLICE PENSION FUND	3,292.05	3,412.55	6,704.60	-0-
EMPL. PENSION FUND	853.36	860.04	1,713.40	-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. Lepidi, seconded by Mr. Jurewicz and unanimously approved by Voice Vote to accept the Tax Collector’s Report and Treasurer’s Report for the month of August 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 \$40,526.80 for the month of August.

Deed Transfer Tax collection totaled \$4,659.90 for the month of August.

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

LISTEN TO VISITORS – Dolores Patterson of 2525 Greensburg Pike thanked everyone for their service to the community. She also requested an update on the Churchill Valley Country Club and Westinghouse properties. Mr. Ferry stated this would be discussed later in the meeting.

Diana Yankes of 2210 William Penn Highway thanked Council for allowing her the opportunity to talk at the Workshop Meeting the prior evening regarding social media.

Dave Riehl of 2015 Hampstead Drive stated he is relatively new to the Borough and is very impressed with the flower gardens when entering and leaving the Borough. He thanked Mayor McKenna for his efforts. He is also pleased with the general overall view of the community. He suggested consideration by Council to install “Welcome to Churchill” signs at strategic locations throughout the Borough to differentiate our boundaries. After some discussion by Council and the Mayor, it was agreed to look further into this matter.

SETTLEMENT OF WESTINGHOUSE TAX ASSESSMENT APPEALS – There was a motion by Mr. Lepidi, seconded by Ms. McAbee and unanimously approved by Roll Call Vote to ratify the settlement of the Westinghouse tax assessment appeals as follows:

	2012	2013
1310 BEULAH ROAD (370-N-350)	\$2,444,444	\$913,500
BEULAH ROAD (370-N-350-B)	\$8,555,556	N/A

Solicitor Robb did state that the services of an appraiser were used to gain the highest possible assessment as possible. He further stated the School Board has also approved the values.

SUMMARY OF WORKSHOP MEETING OF MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2013 – Solicitor Robb explained the status of the Churchill Valley Country Club. As explained last month an auction was scheduled for the end of July, however, it was postponed until August 28 due to bankruptcies that had been filed by the Country Club and Beulah Land Company. Debtors involuntarily forced the County Club into bankruptcy. At the beginning of the August 28 auction, it was discovered that Beulah Land Company is still in bankruptcy so the sale could not proceed. There is currently a settlement in the works to obtain \$2.1 million to retain ownership of the real estate. They have 90 days to secure financing. If they don't secure financing, the real estate itself will be put up for sale via bankruptcy. The personal property such as vehicles, equipment the auction did proceed. The successful bidder was the creditor for both the Country Club and Beulah Land Company. The bid was \$100,000 and what they essentially did was protecting their own interests and making sure they don't get less than what they are owed.

Mr. Ferry stated the monthly property maintenance report was discussed. We are still having to cut grass for some uninhabited properties.

Council was given the first draft for website policies. They will continue to review this.

The budget process will begin next month.

PAY THE BILLS – Mr. Robinson read the bills for the month and they totaled \$311,205.13. There was a motion by Mr. Dworin, seconded by Mr. Lepidi and unanimously approved by Roll Call Vote for the adoption of Resolution No. 4279 to pay the bills.

AROUND THE TABLE – Mrs. Pantlik informed that the Fire Department extended the Open House hours to Noon-4pm.

The Cemetery Tales event presented by the Frick Art & Historical Center Adult Education Program will be held on Friday, October 11 from 2-4pm in the Yagle Center.

Mr. Lepidi would like feedback from people attending the meetings. He would like to receive positive or negative comments.

Ms. McAbee made positive comments about our solicitor attending the proceedings regarding Churchill Valley Country Club.

She also thanked everyone for the outpouring of sympathy during the recent death of her father.

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Mayor McKenna briefly discussed two issues: the weapons event at the high school and the fact that school bus traffic on Thornberry will be substantially reduced. He also stated the police have been very vigilant about enforcing traffic laws.

After some thought, he stated the Churchill Commons site might be a good place for a "Welcome to Churchill" sign. The parkway exit onto Churchill Road is more challenging for sign installation due to the number of vehicle incidents in this area.

Mr. Jurewicz thanked the police for trying to slow down school bus activity on Thornberry Drive.

He reminded that the Workshop Meeting on Monday night is a public meeting and open for attendance by everyone. It, however, has a different set of rules. The agenda for both the workshop and regular meetings are on the website.

Most Council members have an e-mail address available on the website and you can communicate in this manner.

The first health talk series conducted through a partnership with Churchill and Forest Hills Boroughs will be Sunday, October 6 from 2-3:30pm, in the Yagle Community Center, with Dr. Tindle discussing how a positive outlook can transform our health and aging,

Alcosan is having an Open House on Saturday, September 21. A tour of the facility and its operations will be conducted. Details can be viewed on the website. Mr. Lepidi informed he attended one in the past and it was very informative.

Also, all upcoming events are on the website.

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

CRAIG A. ROBINSON
BOROUGH SECRETARY