

**MINUTES OF THE
REGULAR MEETING HELD
July 6, 2016**

The regular meeting of the Butler Township Board of Commissioners was held on July 6, 2016 at 6:30 p.m. at the Butler Township Municipal Building, 290 S. Duffy Road, Butler, PA 16001. The following Commissioners were present: Pres. Dave Zarnick, Vice-Pres. Sam Zurzolo, Commis. Charles M. Nedz, and Commis. James Lokhaiser, Jr. Commis. Joe Wiest was absent. Pres. Zarnick called the meeting to order followed by a moment of silence and the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

Also present were Manager Ed Kirkwood, Assistant Manager Cheryl McNeill, Solicitor Larry Lutz, Chief John Hays and Public Works Superintendent Thomas Knights.

Pres. Zarnick asked if there were any corrections or additions to the minutes of the June 20, 2016 meeting, there being none the minutes will stand as presented.

Commis. Zarnick noted receipt of the monthly reports for the Treasurer, Police and Road Departments.

Commis. Nedz had nothing to report.

Commis. Lokhaiser reported on the progress of the new picnic shelter scheduled to be constructed at Preston Park as part of an Eagle Scout project. He stated that anyone interested in helping fund this project can make tax-deductible donations to Butler Township, noting the project in the memo line of the check.

Commis. Zurzolo reported on the Recycling Event scheduled for Saturday, July 9th from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM.

Commis. Zurzolo commented on an incident along McCalmont Road at the railroad crossing. He requested that the railroad company or Armco be contacted to make sure the train does not stop in a way that partially blocks the railroad crossing. Chief Hays will be looking into the situation.

Commis. Zurzolo requested an update on the Highfield Road median beautification. The Road Department is looking into the project.

Commis. Zurzolo commented on the resignation of Officer Tom Palla and requested that the interview process begin.

Commis. Zarnick wished the Butler Township twelve year old baseball team good luck in their tournament.

Asst. Manager McNeill had nothing to report.

Chief Hays reported on the complaints concerning White Oak Drive and Bluegrass Drive in the Meadow Wood area. Residents have issued some complaints about traffic and requested a yield sign to be installed. As a result of his investigation, he cannot

recommend that a yield sign be installed at this time, but he will continue to monitor the area.

Chief Hays reported that Camp Cadet is coming up in August and he has receive a request from the State Police to have one of the township officer participate in this event. He is requesting that Patrolman Max Wittlinger be permitted to participate in this event.

Chief Hays commended Facilities Manager Eric Heltzell and his crew for their work on the shooting range. He also thanked the Road Department for their help with the project.

Chief Hays reported that an Aggressive Driving Program will start July 7th and run through August 28th. The township officers will be participating in this program throughout the township.

Chief Hays gave an update on the switch to twelve hour shifts in the department. The first three months show an increase in response statistics. Overall, the department has adjusted well to the switch, with a majority of the officer preferring the change. He will continue to monitor the effects of the shift change throughout the year.

Commis. Zarnick commented on the need to make repairs to the wall at the shooting range. Manager Kirkwood stated that Facilities Manager Heltzell has been given approval to purchase the necessary supplies and make any necessary repairs.

Public Works Superintendent Knights reported that the Road Paving and Seal Coating projects are scheduled to start July 18th. A schedule of the projects will be acquired from the contractors and distributed to the media.

Solicitor Lutz had nothing to report.

Manager Kirkwood reported that interviews will be conducted on Tuesday of next week for the Regulations Inspector position. Three individuals will be given a second interview with the hopes of having someone in the position by the end of the month. Commis. Zarnick will be sitting in on the second round of interviews.

Manager Kirkwood reported that he received notification from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania in regards to the remediation at the Road Department Building as a result of the fuel tank failure. The letter stated that everything that the township has done has met their satisfaction. We have met all of the standards set by the Environmental Protection Agency and the Department of Environmental Protection. As a result, our monitoring is no longer required.

Commis. Zarnick asked for public comment on agenda items, there was none.

Manager Kirkwood presented a letter from Patrolman Thomas Palla, received on June 27, 2016, stating his resignation from the Butler Township Police Department. Officer Palla has served Butler Township for over twenty-five years.

Motion by Commis. Zurzolo to accept the resignation of Patrolman Thomas Palla. Seconded by Commis. Nedz. The vote was Lokhaiser: Yes; Nedz: Yes; Zurzolo: Yes; and Zarnick: Yes. Motion carried.

Manager Kirkwood presented information on the Penn Dot Green-Light-Go Program, a fifty percent matching grant award that the township has received to refurbish the traffic control devices at the intersections along Whitestown Road at South Duffy Road, Eberhart Road and Meridian Road in the amount of \$43,880.00. The planned completion date for this program is June 2017. He stated that the following items need to be completed for the program to move forward. First, a letter of acceptance needs to be sent advising them that the township is willing and capable of proceeding with the grant. Second, the board needs to designate an individual who is authorized to execute all of the documents associated with this grant. Third, the township needs to identify its funding source. He further explained that the township has been awarded two matching funds grants in 2016. Monies were appropriated in the 2016 budget in anticipation of receiving one grant. Funding our share for both grants would exceed our budget appropriation. The board will need to make a determination on how to proceed on funding these matching funds.

Motion by Commis. Zarnick to accept the Penn Dot Green-Light-Go Program Grant in the amount of \$43,880.00. Seconded by Commis. Nedz. The vote was Lokhaiser: Yes; Nedz: Yes; Zurzolo: Yes; and Zarnick: Yes. Motion carried.

Motion by Commis. Zarnick to pass Resolution 16-24, naming and authorizing the township manager to execute all documents associated with the Penn Dot Green-Light-Go Program Grant. Seconded by Commis. Nedz. The vote was Lokhaiser: Yes; Nedz: Yes; Zurzolo: Yes; and Zarnick: Yes. Motion carried.

Motion by Commis. Zarnick to designate the funding source for the Penn Dot Green-Light-Go Program Grant to come from the General Fund. Seconded by Commis. Nedz. The vote was Lokhaiser: Yes; Nedz: Yes; Zurzolo: Yes; and Zarnick: Yes. Motion carried.

Commis. Lokhaiser presented the recommendation from Mercer Road Volunteer Fire Department to appoint Alan Paul as Fire Commission Primary Representative for their department.

Motion by Commis. Lokhaiser to appoint Alan Paul as Fire Commission Primary Representative for Mercer Road Volunteer Fire Department. Seconded by Commis. Nedz. The vote was Lokhaiser: Yes; Nedz: Yes; Zurzolo: Yes; and Zarnick: Yes. Motion carried.

Manager Kirkwood presented information on the Butler Transit Local Match pass through for Care, Inc.

Motion by Commis. Zarnick to pass Resolution 16-25, authorizing Butler Township to act as a pass through agent for Care, Inc. for their share of the Butler Transit Local Match. Seconded by Commis. Nedz. The vote was Lokhaiser: Yes; Nedz: Yes; Zurzolo: Yes; and Zarnick: Yes. Motion carried.

Manager Kirkwood presented the request by Larry Sommers to permit the closure of Woodbury Road on August 6, 2016 from 3:00 PM to 11:00 PM for a neighborhood block party. This is an annual event. The Road Department will need to supply the road closure signs for this event.

Motion by Commis. Zarnick to authorize the closure of Woodbury Road on August 6, 2016 between the hours of 3:00 PM and 11:00 PM for a neighborhood block party. Seconded by Commis. Nedz. The vote was Lokhaiser: Yes; Nedz: Yes; Zurzolo: Yes; and Zarnick: Yes. Motion carried.

Commis. Zurzolo made a request to begin the interview process for a patrolman to replace Patrolman Thomas Palla. A discussion followed.

Motion by Commis. Zurzolo to commence the interview process for a Police Department patrolman. Seconded by Commis. Nedz. A discussion followed. Manager Kirkwood recommended that the decision be tabled until the next meeting to have time to gather information concerning Civil Service Commission statutes and to create a report on the payroll implications.

Commis. Zurzolo withdrew his motion. Commis. Nedz withdrew his second to the motion. The decision will be tabled until the next meeting.

Commis Zarnick requested that Manager Kirkwood arrange for a representative from the Butler Area Sewer Authority to attend the next meeting to report on the rate increase.

Commis. Zarnick asked for public comment on any item of concern.

Russ McCombs, 219 Pinewood Drive, requested to be exempt from the mandatory trash service because he recycles all of his trash and does not put trash out for disposal. Commis. Zarnick responded that the township ordinance states that all residents are required to have trash service through the contracted service provider. Residents cannot opt out of the service, so his request is denied.

Questions were taken from the media.

Motion by Commis. Wiest to adjourn the meeting at 7:19 p.m., seconded by Commis. Nedz and carried unanimously.
