

**MINUTES OF THE
REGULAR MEETING HELD
November 7, 2016**

The regular meeting of the Butler Township Board of Commissioners was held on November 7, 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. Joe Wiest and Commis. James Lokhaiser, Jr. Commis. Charles M. Nedz 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 Rebecca Black, Chief John Hays and Public Works Superintendent Thomas Knights.

Pres. Zarnick asked if there were any corrections or additions to the minutes of the October 17, 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. Zurzolo wished everyone a Happy Veteran's Day.

Commis. Wiest reminded everyone to go out and vote tomorrow.

Commis. Lokhaiser reported that he attended the Butler Library Board of Directors meeting in October. On Friday, November 18th and Saturday, November 19th the library will be having their annual book sale from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM. The library will be holding their annual light up night on Friday, December 2nd from 6:00 to 8:00 PM. The library will close at 4:00 PM on that day. The next Library Board meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 30th.

Commis. Lokhaiser reported that the Fire Departments were out on October 29th for Trick or Treat. They also assisted in the search for the missing girl last week.

Commis. Lokhaiser reported that there will be a tour of Preston Park on Saturday, November 26th at 10:00 AM. Interested persons should contact the Administration Office to register for this tour.

Commis. Lokhaiser reported that the township received a letter from Lutheran Services thanking the township for allowing them to hold their butterfly release event at Preston Park on September 11th. The event was a huge success and they are interested in holding the event at Preston Park again on September 10, 2017.

Commis. Lokhaiser reported on the annual Appreciation Dinner that was held on October 30th at the American Legion. He stated that he was able to meet Jordan Surkosky, who is the Eagle Scout candidate that completed the picnic shelter at Preston Park. Commis. Lokhaiser thanked Dave Heltzell, who was Jordan's mentor throughout the two year project.

Commis. Zarnick reported that a couple of people were utilizing the new picnic shelter this past week. He also reported that the recent tours of Preston Park have had a great response, with capacity registrations for each tour.

Commis. Zarnick reported that in the past couple of weeks the township has had a budget workshop, police interviews and attended a luncheon and ground breaking at the Gaiser Center. Commis. Lokhaiser and he attended a Township and Borough Association dinner in Slippery Rock. He reminded everyone to get out and vote tomorrow.

Asst. Manager McNeill had nothing to report.

Public Works Superintendent Knights reported on the work of the Road Department during the recent run of good weather.

Chief Hays reported that he, Det. Vensel and Commis. Zarnick attended the Opiate Seminar on October 27th. It was put on as a joint venture of different leaders and agencies in the area.

Chief Hays requested permission to contact VOICE concerning the unclaimed bicycles in the police department storage to be used as possible Christmas presents. The board had previously given the department permission to give the bicycles to another organization and there are still bicycles remaining to be disposed of.

Solicitor Black had nothing to report.

Manager Kirkwood reported that a meeting was held today at the township building with members of the Southwest Pennsylvania Commission (SPC) and Penn Dot in regards to the SPC grant that the township has received for the traffic signals in the Route 356/Route 68 Corridor. The overall project, which includes multiple municipalities, has an estimated completion date in early 2018. Manager Kirkwood stated that he had the opportunity to discuss two additional issues during the meeting. One, concerning the left hand turn onto Whitestown at the Picklegate Viaduct, and the other being the timing of the traffic signals at the Route 68 and 356 intersection. They will also be looking into the traffic signal devices at the VA Building and Hindman Road concerning the amount of time allotted for pedestrian crossing.

Manager Kirkwood reported that West Penn Power will commence the process of changing the street lights to LED lights. There are over two thousand eight hundred lights in the Butler Township/Butler City area that need converted. There will be five crews working on the project with a projected workload of two hundred lights being switched out per day. The anticipated completion date is December 10th.

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

Manager Kirkwood presented the proposed 2017 meeting dates and requested authorization to do the required legal advertisement.

Motion by Commis. Lokhaiser to advertise the 2017 meeting dates, as presented. Seconded by Commis. Zurzolo. The vote was Lokhaiser: Yes; Wiest: Yes; Zurzolo: Yes; and Zarnick: Yes. Motion carried.

Manager Kirkwood recommended the firm of Maher Duessel, be appointed to make an independent examination of all of the accounts and accounting records of Butler Township for fiscal year 2016.

Motion by Commis. Zamick to pass Resolution 16-34, to appoint the firm of Maher Duessel, 503 Martindale Street, Suite 600, Pittsburgh, to make an independent examination of all of the accounts and accounting records of Butler Township for fiscal year 2016. Seconded by Commis. Zurzolo. The vote was Lokhaiser: Yes; Wiest: Yes; Zurzolo: Yes; and Zamick: Yes. Motion carried.

Manager Kirkwood presented the letter received from Flaherty & O'Hara, a law firm representing Giant Eagle, stating that pursuant to the Liquor Code, a public meeting needs to be scheduled regarding Giant Eagle's request to transfer a liquor license into the township. He recommended December 5th at 7:00 PM. A discussion followed.

Motion by Commis. Lokhaiser to set the date and time for a public meeting regarding Giant Eagle's request to transfer a liquor license into the township for December 5, 2016 at 7:00 PM. Seconded by Commis. Wiest. The vote was Lokhaiser: Yes; Wiest: Yes; Zurzolo: Yes; and Zamick: Yes. Motion carried.

Manager Kirkwood presented the resignation letter from Patrolman Ray Kriebel dated October 26, 2016. His last scheduled day of work will be November 13, 2016.

Motion by Commis. Zurzolo to accept the resignation of Patrolman Ray Kriebel. Seconded by Commis. Wiest. The vote was Lokhaiser: Yes; Wiest: Yes; Zurzolo: Yes; and Zamick: Yes. Motion carried.

Manager Kirkwood presented the request from Zoning Officer Jesse Hines to authorize Regulations Inspector Jim Sproat to attend the Building Code Official Certification Academy, December 5th through December 9th in Concordville, PA. The total cost of the training will be \$1,204.30. The township vehicle will be used. The Building Code Official Certification is required for the regulation Inspector position.

Motion by Commis. Zurzolo to authorize Regulations Inspector Jim Sproat to attend the Building Code Official Certification Academy, December 5th through December 9th in Concordville, PA. The total cost of the training will be \$1,204.30. Seconded by Commis. Wiest. The vote was Lokhaiser: Yes; Wiest: Yes; Zurzolo: Yes; and Zamick: Yes. Motion carried.

Manager Kirkwood stated that the percentile distribution of the fire relief funds that was previously approved was incorrect. The previous motion will need to be rescinded and a new motion made for the correct distribution.

Motion by Commis. Lokhaiser to rescind the motion to distribution the fire relief funds equally between the three fire departments. Seconded by Commis. Zurzolo. The vote was Lokhaiser: Yes; Wiest: Yes; Zurzolo: Yes; and Zamick: Yes. Motion carried.

Motion by Commis. Lokhaiser to distribute the fire relief funds to the fire departments as follows: Butler Township Fire District 3 – 50%; Mercer Road VFD – 25%; South Butler VFD – 25%. Seconded by Commis. Zurzolo. The vote was Lokhaiser: Yes; Wiest: Yes; Zurzolo: Yes; and Zamick: Yes. Motion carried.

Manager Kirkwood stated that interviews were conducted for the patrolman position with the police department. He requested permission to offer a conditional offer of appointment to the selected candidate.

Motion by Commis. Zurzolo to offer a conditional offer of appointment to the selected candidate, the conditions being: successful passing of a physical examination, drug screen, psychological testing and a twelve month probationary period during which time the individual will be considered an at will employee. Seconded by Commis. Wiest. The vote was Lokhaiser: Yes; Wiest: Yes; Zurzolo: Yes; and Zarnick: Yes. Motion carried.

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

Mark Krenitsky, 139 Winterwood Drive, asked that the street opening permit fee for his property on Wintergreen Drive be waived. A discussion followed. The request was denied.

Questions were taken from the media.

Motion by Commis. Wiest to adjourn the meeting at 7:12 p.m., seconded by Commis. Zurzolo and carried unanimously.

Theresa Gesler