

**MINUTES OF THE
REGULAR MEETING HELD
November 20, 2017**

The regular meeting of the Butler Township Board of Commissioners was held on November 20, 2017 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. Jim Lokhaiser, Jr. Commis. Charles M. Nedz was absent.

Also present were Manager Edward Kirkwood, Asst. Manager Cheryl McNeill, Solicitor Larry Lutz, and Fire Marshal Larry Christy.

Pres. Zarnick called the meeting to order followed by a moment of silence and the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

Pres. Zarnick stated that anyone taping the meeting is required to state their name and address at the beginning of the meeting. There was none.

Pres. Zarnick asked if there were any corrections or additions to the minutes of the November 6, 2017 meeting. There being none, the minutes will stand as presented.

Pres. Zarnick noted receipt of the monthly Fire/Zoning report.

Commis. Wiest had nothing to report.

Commis. Zurzolo congratulated the newly elected commissioner who will take office in the beginning of the year.

Commis. Zurzolo gave condolences to the family of the New Kensington police officer who died in the line of duty.

Commis. Zurzolo commented on leaf burning in the township.

Commis. Zurzolo wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving and congratulated all of the winners of the poster contest.

Commis. Zurzolo reported that he attended the dedication of the Sergeant Joseph George Kusick VA Community Living Center.

Commis. Lokhaiser wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

Comms. Lokhaiser reported that he and Commis. Zarnick will be participating in the Christmas Parade on Saturday evening at 5:30 p.m. in Butler. He thanked Butler Radio for sponsoring the parade this year.

Asst. Manager McNeill reported on the meeting that was held for the Preston Park Restroom Grant Application.

Fire Marshal Christy thanked all of the poster contest participants and congratulated them on their excellent work. He asked all the children in attendance to come up after the award ceremony to get a fire helmet and goodie bag.

Commis. Zarnick reported that in the past two weeks he attended a Penn State Extension meeting and participated in a two day seminar put on by the Butler Area School District for strategic planning held at the Township Recreation Building.

Manager Kirkwood had nothing to report.

Solicitor Lutz had nothing to report.

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

Commis. Lokhaiser presented the awards to the winners of the 2017 Fire Prevention Week Poster Contest. This year's theme was: "Every Second Counts – Find 2 Ways Out!" The participation trophy went to McQuistion Elementary School.

Kindergarten: Caroline Cosgrove – Connoquenessing Elementary School
 First Grade: Mason Heltzell – Connoquenessing Elementary School
 Second Grade: Eliana Norton – McQuistion Elementary School
 Third Grade: Sydney O'Donnell – Northwest Elementary School
 Fourth Grade: Julia Neff – McQuistion Elementary School
 Fifth Grade: Alexa Geibel – Butler Middle School
 Sixth Grade: Ava Brewster – Butler Middle School

Manager Kirkwood presented the proposed 2018 Budget Ordinance. It will be introduced at tonight's meeting and will be finalized on December 18th. The required legal advertisement will be in the Butler Eagle on Friday. The budget, as presented, does not require a tax increase for 2018. Manager Kirkwood highlighted the proposed budget, stating that the township is ramping up on street paving and Stormwater management projects. No services have been reduced, but services have been enhanced for the township residents. The Township will once again be purchasing two new police cruisers and will continue with the truck replacement program in the Public Works Department.

Motion by Commis. Zurzolo to introduce the 2018 Budget Ordinance, as presented. Seconded by Commis. Lokhaiser.

Commis. Zarnick commended the Manager and the Township Staff for their efforts in creating this budget with a zero tax increase to the residents. Commis. Wiest commented that a homeowner with an assessed value of \$14,667.00 (\$152,827.00 market value) pays \$ 165.04 to Butler Township. Commis. Zurzolo commented on the excellent services that the township residents receive. He thanked the manager and the staff for their efforts.

The vote was Lokhaiser: Yes; Wiest: Yes; Zurzolo: Yes; and Zarnick: Yes. Motion carried.

Manager Kirkwood presented the proposed 2018 Real Property Tax Ordinance. The proposed Tax Rate for Real Estate is 11.25 mills designated as follows: General Township Purposes - 7.493 mills; Fire Protection Services - 2.747 mills; Debt Services - 1.01 mills.

Motion by Commis. Lokhaiser to introduce the 2018 Real Property Tax Ordinance, as presented. Seconded by Commis. Wiest. The vote was Lokhaiser: Yes; Wiest: Yes; Zurzolo: Yes; and Zarnick: Yes. Motion carried.

Manager Kirkwood presented the proposed meeting dates for 2018 for the Board of Commissioners, Planning Commission, Fire Commission and Fire Chiefs.

Motion by Commis. Lokhaiser to approve the meeting dates for the Board of Commissioners, Planning Commission, Fire Commission and Fire Chiefs, 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 2017.

Motion by Commis. Zurzolo to pass Resolution 17-23, 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 2017. Seconded by Commis. Lokhaiser. The vote was Lokhaiser: Yes; Wiest: Yes; Zurzolo: Yes; and Zarnick: Yes. Motion carried.

Manager Kirkwood presented the request by John Whittington, 1025 East Brady Street Extension, to have a street light installed near his home. Based on Manager Kirkwood's investigation in to the issue he believes the request is warranted.

Motion by Commis. Lokhaiser to authorize the installation of a street light at 1025 East Brady Street Extension. Seconded by Commis. Wiest. The vote was Lokhaiser: Yes; Wiest: Yes; Zurzolo: Yes; and Zarnick: Yes. Motion carried.

Manager Kirkwood reviewed the bills report and the following totals were noted: General Fund - \$152,542.80; Stormwater Capital Fund - \$1,407.00; Highway Aid Fund - \$15,772.05; General Fund (added after October Bills Report) - \$385,479.69; Highway Aid Fund (added after October Bills Report) - \$1,437.07; Payroll Fund (prior month) - \$249,782.51.

Motion by Commis. Lokhaiser to pay the bills as per the bills report. Seconded by Commis. Wiest. The vote was Lokhaiser: Yes; Wiest: Yes; Zurzolo: Yes; and Zarnick: Yes. Motion carried.

There was no correspondence.

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

Mark Krenitsky, 139 Winterwood Drive, thanked the commissioners for not increasing taxes for 2018. He commented on secondary structures and over regulation in the township. He commented on the vacant houses at 108 and 312 Bessemer Avenue and possibly having them demolished. He also commented on the picture of the Butler Township Fire Truck that is displayed at Firehouse Subs.

Questions were taken from the media.

Motion was made by Commis. Lokhaiser to adjourn the meeting at 7:02 p.m. Seconded by Commis. Wiest and carried unanimously.
