

**BOROUGH OF WILMERDING  
MINUTES OF THE APRIL 1, 2014 REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL**

The meeting was called to order by President Stephen Shurgot at 7:00 pm.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by the President.

**ROLL CALL: MICHAEL TRKULA, present; REV. DOROTHY REEVES, present; KAREN PETERSON, present; SANDRA SMITH, present; WILLIAM PRICENER, absent; JOHN THOMAS, present; STEPHEN SHURGOT, present. MAYOR JAMES WRIGHT was also present.**

**M. TRKULA / REV. REEVES TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES OF THE MARCH 4, 2014 MEETING AS PRESENTED. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 6-0.**

**PETITIONS & MEMORIALS**

**MRS. S. ZIBRAT, AIRBRAKE AVE.:** what do we have to do to get our own police department? What you are paying North Versailles you should be able to get our own police. We need to have police here full time. Will a petition help get them back. You can even raise taxes if it is necessary.

**MR. G. EVASHAVIK:** you can get a petition to show support that you want the police back, but it is up to Council to make that final decision.

**MRS. S. ZIBRAT:** I think that Council should consider getting our own police department. North Versailles is doing a good job but we need someone here all the time.

**MR. J. THOMAS:** if we are going to do anything then we need to start now.

**MRS. S. ZIBRAT:** a lot of people are leaving Wilmerding, the ones who have been here for years. I know that North Versailles comes as soon as you call them but everyone knows when they are coming and they are gone by the time the police get here.

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**MR. P. LIVERATTI, AIRBRAKE AVE.:** I heard that we now have a new building inspector.

**MR. S. SHURGOT:** yes, we hired a new building inspector and Mike Jakub is going to handle the high grass and weeds.

**MR. P. LIVERATTI:** they are still moving in and out on Middle Avenue and Airbrake Avenue. Did they get an occupancy permit for 608 Airbrake?

**MR. S. SHURGOT:** we will check with Louise. The new inspector is Dave Buskirk.

**MR. P. LIVERATTI:** the whole town needs to be checked.

**MR. S. SHURGOT:** I know he is going around town just give him some time. He started March 1<sup>st</sup>.

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**MR. J. MAURIZI, ANGIE'S RESTAURANT:** is there anything you can do to help landlords. I rent out a place and they have destroyed it three times and the law does nothing to help me. I wish the law was stronger to help the landlords.

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**MS. D. LAGORGA, AIRBRAKE AVE.:** the new inspector, how does he know if someone moves in?

**MR. S. SHURGOT:** the neighbors should keep an eye out on who moves in and out and let us know. It not only helps us but it helps the neighborhood.

**MR. G. EVASHAVIK:** we have ordinances in place that if the rental license is suspended or revoked after three police calls this will help the landlord. If the violation is severe enough you only need one violation. All these laws are civil in nature.

**MS. D. LAGORGA:** one tenant had his gas shut off and tagged. The landlord came in and turned it back on.

**MR. S. SHURGOT:** the same thing happened at the Faller Building. There was a smell of gas in the building and the gas company shut the gas off and tagged the meter. The landlord turned the gas back on and a few days later the pipes were leaking again.

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**MS. C. SONNIE, PAT MEWS DRIVE:** I would like to give you an update on the playground at Pat Mews. Last Thursday my neighbor saw a fire in the trash can and she yelled at them to put it out. She was all shook up that she did not call the police until the next day. It is isolated in that playground and we are taking pictures of the activity back there. Is there any way that you can form a crime watch? We want to work together to make Wilmerding safe again. Take a ride over to the park and see how close our houses are to the playground. Something needs to be done because it is a nuisance playground.

**CORRESPONDENC**

1. The Police Pension CD is up for renewal on April 16<sup>th</sup>. Would like to renew it for another six months. The interest rate has not been determined and the new maturity date would be Oct. 16<sup>th</sup>.

**J. THOMAS / M. TRKULA TO RENEW THE POLICE PENSION CD FOR SIX MONTHS. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 6-0.**

2. Received three proposals for the Wood Street Drainage Project. Lawson Excavating for \$9,900, Soli Construction for \$9,150 and J. L. Urban for \$3,400.

**J. THOMAS / S. SMITH TO AWARD THE WOOD STREET DRAINAGE PROJECT TO THE LOW BIDDER, J. L. URBAN FOR \$3,400. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 6-0**

3. Received a notice that the third option year for rock salt from Cargill is due before May 1<sup>st</sup> if the borough wants to participate in the SHACOG bid.

**J. THOMAS / K. PETERSON TO PARTICIPATE IN THE THIRD OPTION YEAR FOR ROCK SALT FROM CARGILL, INC. AS TO THE SHACOG BID. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 6-0.**

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**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**PUBLIC SAFETY – M. TRKULA:** for the month of March the Fire Department responded to 28 calls for a total of 101 man-hours. There were 11 calls in town and 17 calls out of town.

Eastern Area Pre-Hospital Services responded to 46 calls in March with 29 transports. Their average response time for emergencies was 6.8 minutes and for non-emergencies it was 8.1 minutes. For the first quarter they responded to 146 calls with 103 transports. The average response time for emergencies was 6.9 minutes and for non-emergencies it was 7.5 minutes.

Officer Matrazzo will give the police report. For the month of March we responded to 198 calls and there were 4 arrests. A summary of the calls are: 2 civil complaints, 1 burglary, 1 assault, 10 criminal mischief, 12 domestics, 7 disturbances, 3 drug investigations, 2 gunshots, 10 juvenile complaints, 1 man with a gun, 1 missing person, 2 neighbor dispute, 6 parking complaints, 4 suspicious activities, 4 thefts and 7 traffic accidents.

**MR. M. TRKULA:** the church across from St. Jude's, they park their van in a handicap spot.

**PUBLIC WORKS – S. SMITH:** we are looking at getting signs to post when we do the street sweeping with the bobcat.

Mike is not sure if he should get cold or hot patch to fill the potholes.

**MR. M. TRKULA:** cold is good for now.

**MR. S. SHURGOT:** I think we should go with the hot patch.

Do you want to use North Versailles or COG's vector?

**MR. J. THOMAS:** let me check with Mike on the COG prices.

We should be getting a loaner skid steer on Tuesday and the new one should be here May 16<sup>th</sup>.

We need about 110 American Flags to do all the poles in town.

**MR. S. SHURGOT:** Turtle Creek had banners donated by the businesses for the fall and summer.

**ENGINEER – D. GILLILAND:** report given at the workshop.

**S. SMITH / J. THOMAS TO ADVERTISE FOR BIDS FOR THE PHASE 2 WALKING TRAIL. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 6-0.**

**S. SMITH / K. PETERSON TO HAVE THE ENGINEER GET PROPOSALS FOR THE MANHOLE AT BLUFF AND MARGUERITE. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 6-0.**

**COG REPORT – K. PETERSON:** they are going to have an all day conference on Land Banks.

**BOROUGH PROPERTY**

**MS. S. SMITH:** The county has a program on blight where they would tear down two houses a year. We would have to belong to this and there are certain things we need to do to get started.

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**MR. J. THOMAS:** it would give the neighbors the option to buy the property.

**PLANNING – REV. D. REEVES:** we did not have a meeting.

**UTILITIES – REV. D. REEVES:** there is a new bus, Heritage, that comes into Wilmerding. You would have to sign up for a pass and the fare depends on your income.

**MR. M. TRKULA:** are we going to take out any street lights this year.

**SOLICITOR – G. EVASHAVIK:** we are still defending the borough against Mr. Altman. He has lost all of his appeals but now he is appealing to Commonwealth Court. He is seeking a preliminary injunction to stop any action we would take while he is appealing this.

The Human Relations issue is now finally resolved.

We received a notice of appeal for residential taxes for 664 Airbrake Avenue, owned by West Penn Properties. We will not do anything with this unless council wants us to attend.

**FINANCE – J. THOMAS:**

**J. THOMAS / REV. D. REEVES TO PAY ALL THE APPROVED BILLS. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 6-0.**

**J. THOMAS / S. SMITH TO RAISE THE RATE FOR OUR SUMMER WORKERS FROM \$7.25 AN HOUR TO \$8.00 AN HOUR. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 6-0.**

**MR. J. THOMAS:** we didn't have any problems getting salt this past winter but we spent over \$38,000 for salt.

Since we have had Maiello collecting our delinquents, they have collected over \$53,000 in delinquent garbage and \$110,000 in delinquent real estate at no cost to the borough.

**RECREATION – S. SMITH:** the Easter Egg Hunt is scheduled for Saturday April 19<sup>th</sup> in the park. Registration will begin at 12:30 pm.

Chris, from Allegheny Sign is going to change the dates on the banner for community days.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**MR. S. SHURGOT:** we received two applications for summer work. Are we going to hire them now or wait until next month?

**MS. S. SMITH:** we can do it in May.

Meeting adjourned at 8:03 pm

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