

**BOROUGH OF WILMERDING  
MINUTES OF THE MARCH 4, 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, absent; 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.

**REV. D. REEVES / K. PETERSON TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES OF THE FEB. 4, 2014 AND FEB. 18, 2014 MEETINGS AS PRESENTED. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 5-0.**

**PETITIONS & MEMORIALS**

**MR. M. VOLPE, PROPERTY OWNER:** about a month ago I sent a letter asking if you could plow Card Avenue Extension. It is a paper alley but the borough has been maintaining it for thirty some years. There are two houses and eight garages back there. There is a street light back there and also it has been paved. The plow stops at the top of Brown Street.

**MR. S. SHURGOT:** I instructed our public works to do it and also to do part of Lydia Street. I thought it was taken care of.

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**MR. M. VOLPE:** also, why was there a thirty percent increase for an inspection fee on rental property?

**MR. S. SHURGOT:** we were looking for a new firm because the other one was not doing the job that we expected. We have to recover our costs and break even. The new firm is charging us more to do occupancy inspections so we have to pass the costs on. You have to remember that this cost is only when there is a new tenant or owner, this is not a yearly fee.

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**MS. C. SONNIE, PAT MEWS DRIVE:** a couple of months ago you did some tree trimming in the Avenue U playground, but there was one tree that was missed. I do not know if it was included. This is a big tree that is hanging over the fence and touching the houses.

**MR. S. SHURGOT:** we will take a look at it.

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**MS. C. SONNIE:** has the playground issue been resolved.

**MS. K. PETERSON:** I Talked to the Chief and the other boroughs are having the same problems. There really nothing we can do because it is a public park and anyone can utilize it. If someone is in there late at night you should call the police.

**CHIEF V. DICENZO:** you should call the police if you see anything going on there that is suspicious. The playground has been there for twenty-two years, and it was there when you moved there.

**MS. C. SONNIE:** if you close the playground you would eliminate ninety-nine percent of the problems.

**MS. K. PETERSON:** it is a public park and it was put in for the community to use.

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**MR. S. SHURGOT:** years ago there were no issues with the playground and since we upgraded it a few years ago and there are more kids in the area it has become a problem. If we close that playground there will be a vacant lot there and it will be a dark area which may cause more problems.

**MS. S. SMITH:** every year the Y does a program for the kids and it has not been very well attended. This year we are going to move it to the playground and have counselors there. Maybe this may solve some of the problems.

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**MR. A. FRYDRYCK, WELSH AVE.:** when the county was here did anyone mention the tree that is hanging over Fifth Avenue. If that tree comes down then we are going to become isolated.

**MS. K. PETERSON:** I saw the county there last week. They didn't do anything but they are aware of it.

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**MR. A. FRYDRYCK:** Have there been any citations issued for not cleaning their sidewalks after it snows.

**MS. S. SMITH:** no one has been cited. Mike Jakub is handling it now.

**MR. A. FRYDRYCK:** why does a letter have to be sent out when it is the same people who never clean their sidewalk. They should know that it has to be done.

**MR. N. EVASHAVIK:** the Judge always asks if a warning letter was sent.

**MR. A. FRYDRYCK:** who is the guy that is going around checking on code violations.

**MR. S. SHURGOT:** Mike Jakub is going to do it temporarily.

**MR. A. FRYDRYCH:** these are flagrant violators, I don't know why you just can't cite them off the bat.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

1. A resolution for amortization of the Police Pension Fund for ten years to cover the shortfall in the plan.

**J. THOMAS / S. SMITH TO ADOPT THE RESOLUTION FOR THE POLICE PENSION FUND.  
MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL 5-0.**

2. A resolution naming Frank Tylka Tax Collector for the Borough of Wilmerding effective Jan. 1, 2014.

**K. PETERSON / REV. D. REEVES TO ADOPT THE RESOLUTION NAMING FRANK TYLKA TAX  
COLLECTOR. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 5-0.**

3. A resolution to apply for funds for a DCNR grant for the Airbrake Avenue playground.

**K. PETERSON / J. THOMAS TO ADOPT THE RESOLUTION FOR A DCNR GRANT FOR THE  
AIRBRAKE AVENUE PLAYGROUND. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 5-0.**

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**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**PUBLIC SAFETY – K. PETERSON:** for the month of February Eastern Area responded to 48 ambulance calls with 37 transports. Their average response time for emergencies was 7.1 minutes and for non-emergencies it was 7.5 minutes.

The fire department responded to 15 calls for the month of February with 4 calls in town and 11 calls out of town.

**CHIEF V. DiCENZO:** for the month of February there were 140 calls with 3 arrests. A summary of the calls were 4 animal complaints, 12 disorderly conduct, 11 domestics, 6 juvenile related calls, 4 parking complaints, 4 suspicious activities, 1 theft and 3 traffic accidents.

**PUBLIC WORKS – S. SMITH:** Mike Jakub has taken over the code enforcement, does he need a photo id.

**MR. S. SHURGOT:** stop down and see me and I will make him something.

**MS, S, SMITH:** who does he give the reports to and he does he report to.

**MR. S. SHURGOT:** he would give his reports to Louise so she can keep a file on them.

**S. SMITH / J. THOMAS TO HAVE MIKE JAKUB REPORT TO THE CHAIRMAN OF THE PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE IF THERE ARE ANY ISSUES. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 5-0.**

**MS. S. SMITH:** there are a few hand rails that need repaired. I don't know if there is any money in the budget for this. The guys need another push mower and the cost is under \$400. Our committee will handle this. Is there a possibility of sending out a newsletter for street sweeping once the skid steer broom arrives. Maybe we can post "no parking street sweeping" signs.

**S. SMITH / K. PETERSON TO PURCHASE A BOBCAT FROM CLEVELAND BROTHERS FOR \$27,542.00 WITH FINANCING THROUGH CATERPILLAR FOR 60 MONTHS AT 2.25%. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 5-0.**

**S. SMITH:** Mike spoke to Wall Borough about using their brush hog and they said we can borrow it. Joe, can we send a letter to the Y thanking them for the use of their water to fill the barricades.

**COG REPORT – K. PETERSON:** no report.

**BOROUGH PROPERTY – K. PETERSON:** are we going to get applications for the code enforcement.

**MS. S. SMITH:** Mike just started, let's give him a chance to see what he can do.

**MS. S. SMITH:** we had the trees trimmed in the park by Original Tree Service and the job is complete.

**MR. S. SHURGOT:** can borough property take a look at Station Street hill, there are cars parked there and it makes it difficult to get through. There were never that many cars parked on the hill before.

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**UTILITIES – REV. D. REEVES:** the water company is going to start billing monthly.

**PLANNING – REV. D. REEVES:** we discussed the creek and our concern about an Emergency Management Plan.

**MR. S. SHURGOT:** Congressman Doyle gave us a contact number for the creek. The Emergency Management Plan was updated and filed with the County. You can get a copy of the plan from Joe.

**SOLICITOR – N. EVASHAVIK:** we have filed a brief on Altman and so far we have been successful. Right now it is before Commonwealth Court.

**MS. K. PETERSON:** can we ask for our costs back if the court deems it is frivolous.

**MR. N. EVASHAVIK:** unfortunately there is nothing in the law that says he has to repay us for costs but we can ask.

**FINANCE – J. THOMAS:**

**J. THOMAS / K. PETERSON TO PAY ALL THE APPROVED BILLS. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 5-0.**

**RECREATION – S. SMITH:** we are working on the Easter Egg Hunt which will be held on Holy Saturday.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**MS. S. SMITH:** why don't we have a representative from the Daily News here anymore.

**MR. S. SHURGOT:** I am meeting with the Daily News on Thursday and I will ask him.

**MS. S. SMITH:** I gave Don some information on grant money for sidewalks and it has to be work ready by Sept. 2016.

**MAYOR'S REMARKS – J. WRIGHT:** I gave everyone a copy of Ordinance 968 about not having more than two pets. If you have more than two then you have to get a permit from the Chief. There is nothing in there that says how you get the permit. We need to revise this ordinance so it states how you get the permit.

The newsletter is not going out as planned.

Meeting adjourned at 8:10 pm