

**BOROUGH OF CHALFANT – WORK SESSION**

**MARCH 12, 2013**

PRESENT: Mayor Perry, Ms. Simek, Messrs. Sperduto, Swinney, Hoover, Lasser, Kasardo

ABSENT: Ms. Williams

The work session began at 7:00 pm and ended at 8:40 pm.

**BOROUGH OF CHALFANT - REGULAR MEETING**

**MARCH 13, 2013**

PRESENT: Mayor Perry, Ms. Simek, Messrs., Swinney, Lasser, Kasardo, Solicitor Evashavik

ABSENT: Ms. Williams, Mr. Sperduto, Mr. Hoover

Mr. Swinney called the meeting to order and led the assemblage in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Motion by Simek, seconded by Kasardo, to approve the minutes of the last regular meeting. Motion was unanimous.

Motion by Kasardo, seconded by Lasser, to approve the bank balances as read. Motion was unanimous.

Motion by Simek, seconded by Lasser, to approve for payment the bills for the month after being properly countersigned. Motion was unanimous.

Motion by Lasser, seconded by Kasardo, to approve the Tax Collection report as read. Motion was unanimous.

**MAYOR**

For the month of February there were 25, 911 calls and 164 regular patrols by F.H.P.D. The majority of the 911 calls were:

- 4-Ordinance Violations
- 3-Alarm Calls
- 3-Animal Complaints
- 3-Parking Violations
- 2-Disabled Vehicles

There were also five traffic stops and two extra patrols to monitor drug activity in the 100 block of Fairview Avenue. The drug task force has been monitoring the area. No arrests have been made but license plate numbers and identification of people is occurring. Residents are asked to call 911 if they notice any unusual activity.

**SOLICITOR**

No report

**FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION**

The website has been updated.

There are no new Community Center rentals to report. The July event has been cancelled.

The tax office will be open on March 14<sup>th</sup> from 7 to 8 pm. It will also be open every Wednesday and Thursday from the same time except if there is a council meeting.

Ms. Simek and Ms. Wroblewski discussed scheduling the annual VFC audit for April.

**PERMITS AND ORDINANCES**

Ms. Simek read Mr. Sperduto's report in his absence:

Mr. Dodge checked the property at 240 Greenfield and is satisfied with the clean up.

There is another vehicle to be removed from 109 Shadeland (rear).

A letter was received from Building Inspection Underwriters regarding the back porch and garage problems at 162 Brighton Street. A notice of condemnation has been sent to the owner and the borough is waiting for a response.

There were two occupancy inspections completed.

The annual occupancy reports are coming in slowly. To date there are 24 outstanding Landlord Tenant reports due. If a response is not received by March 18<sup>th</sup> a second request letter will be mailed.

Motion by Simek, seconded by Lasser, to transfer \$29,000 from the General Fund Money Market to the General Fund Checking. Motion carried.

**ROADS AND PUBLIC WORKS**

There are two areas being looked into by the DPW. One is a manhole cover on Elizabeth that needs to be repaired and the other is a sidewalk/manhole on West Street.

The recent COG dinner was well attended. District Attorney Steven Zappala gave a very interesting speech which covered issues such as texting while driving and gun violence.

**HEALTH AND SANITATION**

Mr. Kasardo read Mr. Hoover's report in his absence. Mr. Hoover is attending a class for his fire certification.

The issue with rats behind the 300 block of Elizabeth is being addressed. Forest Hills will do some cleanup work and trappers will come in. Baiting cannot be done due to the number of pets in the area. Mayor Perry inquired about the borough doing work on private property. A discussion ensued and Solicitor Evashavik advised if the area is on an easement due to

underground property lines then the borough can do what is necessary but if the easement is not for this purpose then public funds should not be used. The property owners creating the problem should resolve and if they do not, they can be cited for creating a nuisance/pest situation.

The telephone line at the Community Center will be checked.

The lease agreement for the VFC is complete. Motion by Kasardo, seconded by Lasser to accept the lease agreement pending one change being made by the solicitor. Motion carried.

The initial meeting for the 100 year anniversary committee was held. Additional help is welcome as the event moves forward.

### **PUBLIC SAFETY**

Mr. Kasardo attended the Forest Hills crime watch meeting. Forest Hills made the decision to make Crime Watch a part of their operating budget so that funding will now come from their budget and Chalfant's budget. This will help keep the program viable without having to depend on outside funding. The delivery process is going to expand to include email and text messages.

Mr. Kasardo attended the Forest Hills public safety meeting. The police department has a new car which is a Ford Explorer.

For the VFC there were two alarms and two practices held last month. The number of members attending each was read.

The squad is scheduled for inspection on Tuesday morning.

### **BOROUGH PROPERTY**

There is a bad ballast in the ladies room at the Community Center.

Mr. Kasardo replaced the park's tattered flag with the help of Mr. Suvak's truck. Mr. Sperduto acquired a new flag and Mr. Hoover is having the broken pulley system replaced.

Mr. Lasser attended a blight workshop on February 25<sup>th</sup>. The meeting dealt with Land Banks and Land Banking, acquiring blighted property using municipal/entrepreneurial partnerships and accessing government grants.

Mr. Lasser attended the Woodland Hills School District Community Municipal meeting hosted by acting superintendent Alan Johnson. Future plans for the school district were discussed and the high school's remodeled library was unveiled.

Mr. Lasser attended a meeting hosted by Mr. Gary Silversmith of P&L Investments at Tugboats. Mr. Lasser gave an overview of the number of apartments/buildings that may be built depending on what occurs with the atom smasher at the Westinghouse site.

Mr. Lasser attended the 100 anniversary meeting on March 4<sup>th</sup>.

Redd-Up Day will be April 6<sup>th</sup> from 12:30 to 4:00.

**CITIZEN PARTICIPATION**

Joanne Baburich, Brighton Street, reported a street light out at the corner of Brighton and Greenfield. The secretary will report to Duquesne Light.

Doris Libell, Lynnwood Avenue, came to the Community Center three times on a Saturday to turn the alarm off and she asked if she could provide renters with the code. Mr. Swinney indicated that would be okay and that she could change her code once the alarm problem is rectified. Ms. Libell reported that the VFC pasta dinner is this Saturday. The VFC will set up Friday and clean up Sunday.

Alia Pustorino-Clevenger, Wilkins Avenue, reported that a red band is around a pole by her house and the pole is in bad condition. Mr. Kasardo indicated that he is going to follow up on this with Duquesne Light as he has been dealing with them on another issue. Mr. Kasardo also stated that refrigerators must be in working order if a pickup is requested.

**OLD BUSINESS**

Mr. Lasser noted that April 1<sup>st</sup> is the deadline to appeal the 2013 assessment.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Mr. Kasardo met with the Chalfant Athletic Association and there is a drainage issue at the ball field. The CAA received two or three bids, the lowest which is \$6,345. The bid was to grade the field and correct the drainage issue. The CAA has raised \$3,200 and is asking council to cover the balance. Motion by Kasardo to proceed with this pending approval of the plans by the engineer. Mayor Perry stated that he understands the urgency but would have liked council to have been alerted earlier. Solicitor Evashavik noted that the exact amount must be made a part of the motion and if any changes were then needed, the motion would not hold. Mr. Swinney suggested that the motion be tabled.

Motion by Swinney, seconded by Simek, to exonerate the real estate tax collector in the amount of \$12,878.30 for uncollected 2012 real estate taxes. Motion carried.

Motion by Swinney, seconded by Lasser, to issue a real estate tax refund in the amount of \$200.83 for the property at 937 Greensburg Pike. Motion carried.

Motion by Swinney, seconded by Kasardo, to issue a real estate tax refund in the amount of \$163.64 for the property at 235 Elizabeth. Motion carried.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Motion by Kasardo, seconded by Simek, to adjourn at 8:29 p.m. Motion was unanimous.

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
Borough Secretary

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Council President