

**BOROUGH OF CHALFANT – WORK SESSION**

**DECEMBER 13, 2011**

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

ABSENT: None

The work session began at 7:00 pm and ended at 10:16 pm.

**BOROUGH OF CHALFANT - REGULAR MEETING**

**DECEMBER 14, 2011**

PRESENT: Mayor Perry, Ms. Williams, Ms. Simek, Messrs. Sperduto, Swinney, Hoover, Kasardo, Lasser, Solicitor Nick Evashavik

ABSENT: None

Ms. Williams called the meeting to order and led the assemblage in the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Motion by Hoover, seconded by Swinney, to approve the bank balances as read. Motion was unanimous.

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

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

**MAYOR**

For the month of November, there were 43, 911 calls and 184 regular patrols by F.H.P.D. The majority of the 911 calls were:

- 9- Med Unit Assists
- 3- Animal Complaints
- 3- Suspicious Persons
- 2- Burglaries
- 2- Domestic
- 2- Juvenile Complaints
- 2- Suspicious Vehicles
- 2- Information Requests

There were two arrests made which the F.H.P.D. believe were suspects in the recent burglaries. There has been a spike in 911 calls. Following the Crime Watch meeting more residents are responding to sightings in the borough and the two arrests were related to citizen vigilance.

**SOLICITOR**

Solicitor Evashavik reported that he spoke with the owner and manager of Highland Manor and he is receptive to paying more for the units. An agreement will need to be drafted. Mayor Perry noted that the borough should do its due diligence in determining the usage and make the residents of these units have payments similar to the residents of Chalfant.

**FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION**

There were three park rentals and four Community Center rentals in 2011. Total rental income was \$850. Council appreciates Ms. Libell coordinating the rentals.

Motion by Simek, seconded by Hoover, to adopt the 2012 budget. Motion carried.

Motion by Simek, seconded by Sperduto, to adopt Ordinance 410 keeping the 2012 real estate tax millage at 6.9 mills budget. Motion carried.

A link to the borough ordinances will be put on the website and Ms. Simek will inquire as to how many hits the site gets.

Susan Scampone will be the newsletter editor. Ms. Williams will discuss with her about putting advertising in the newsletter.

**PERMITS AND ORDINANCES**

The property at 200 West Street has been cleaned after the owner was sent a letter from the borough.

As of December 1<sup>st</sup>, all new citations will be through Magistrate Caulfield's office. All previous citations will stay with Magistrate Schricker.

Mr. Sperduto attended the planning commission meeting on December 1<sup>st</sup>. Twenty-two residents including three council members attended.

The annual occupancy form will be going out soon.

Mr. Ross Scarcelli sent the borough a donation of \$100. A thank you will be sent and the donation will be put into the Centennial Fund.

Motion by Sperduto, seconded by Swinney, to transfer \$26,500 from the General Fund Money Market to the General Fund Checking. Motion carried.

**ROADS AND PUBLIC WORKS**

Mr. Hoover gave Mr. Swinney information from the ordinance book on the signage required for the speed limits.

There is still no actual contract with Forest Hills for DPW services. Mr. Swinney should have the proposed agreement by December 21<sup>st</sup>. It should be the same contract with an increase of 10%. Motion by Swinney, seconded by Hoover, to enter into a public works contract with Forest Hills borough contingent upon contract language being included to provide an opt out clause for

Chalfant Borough and that the material terms of the agreement are agreed to and approved by council. Mr. Lasser noted that the increase is really about a 14% increase since the 2012 rate already had a 3.8% increase in it. Six yeas, one nay (Lasser), motion carried. Mr. Swinney noted that the borough will also explore private contractors.

#### **HEALTH AND SANITATION**

The ordinance books have been delivered and a link to the ordinances will be placed on the borough website. Mayor Perry complimented Mr. Hoover for completing this task.

Alcosan is raising its rates for 2012 by 7%. There will be no increase in the borough's surcharge.

The EIT code for Chalfant is 721003. Employers are to register their employees.

A storm drain will be repaired on Fairview.

Motion by Hoover, seconded by Kasardo to transfer \$53,360 from the Sewer Line Fund to the General Fund Money Market to cover 2011 paid sewer expenses. Motion carried.

A tree is down in the paper alley behind Mr. Hoover's house. Mr. Hoover is getting bids to have it removed. One bid of \$1,000 has been received. Motion by Hoover, seconded by Kasardo to give Mr. Hoover approval to award the project to the lowest bidder.

Mr. Kasardo noted that Mr. Hoover will put a thank you in the Crime Watch email thanking residents for their vigilance.

#### **PUBLIC SAFETY**

Mr. Kasardo attended the Forest Hills public safety meeting. The police are still watching the borough's stop signs. The Crime Watch messages have not been going out on a timely basis and this will be addressed by the Chief of Police.

There was one alarm and two practices last month. The number of members attending was read.

The VFC profited \$124 at the soup and chili sale on Election Day.

Mr. Kasardo was recertified at CPR and AED usage today.

Mayor Perry stated that he corrected a problem with parking on Brighton and is working on an issue in the 200 block of Wilkins.

#### **BOROUGH PROPERTY**

Michael Connors is preparing a bill for recent maintenance work around the Parkway Steps.

The memorials will be tended to again in the spring unless someone is interested in doing something sooner.

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Mr. Lasser and Mr. Hoover attended the ACBA meeting on December 1<sup>st</sup>. Chalfant donated two \$25.00 gift cards to Children's Hospital.

Mayor Perry asked if the park refreshment stand had been winterized and the response was yes.

Action Housing is proposing to take a few delinquent lots off the borough's tax rolls. Mr. Lasser is preparing a database of vacant, delinquent lots in Chalfant, Braddock Hills, Churchill, Forest Hills and Wilkins as requested by Senator Costa. Something should be finalized by April.

**CITIZEN PARTICIPATION**

Doris Libell, Lynnwood Avenue, received several phone calls following the planning commission meeting. Handicapped parking was discussed at the meeting and it was confirmed that anyone with a handicapped placard can park in any handicapped parking space. Ms. Libell asked Mayor Perry and Mr. Kasardo to make a list of all items that they need to discuss with F.H.P.D. Ms. Libell also asked Mr. Lasser why he sent an email about the Forest Hills recreation center and he said it was just a FYI.

Ed Olen, Lynnwood Avenue, asked if a better set of steps and railing could be put on lower Chalfant Street. Council responded that the recommendation from the engineer is that the borough not do this. A discussion among council ensued and Ms. Williams noted that this would be discussed at the next caucus meeting. Solicitor Evashavik noted that if a risk exists then the borough has to address the issue. If someone slips because it is steep, then that is not something the borough has to address. It has to be caused by the borough or not apparent to someone.

**OLD BUSINESS**

Mr. Ohodnicki was not able to continue to serve on the planning commission so Cindy Roche has replaced him.

Mr. Lasser asked about Mr. Baburich and whether he would continue as the tax collector. Ms. Libell noted he is doing better but that she was not aware of his intentions regarding tax collection.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Motion by Sperduto, seconded by Swinney, to issue a real estate tax refund to Duane and Kimberly Agate in the amount of \$156.26. Motion carried.

Motion by Lasser, seconded by Hoover, to issue a real estate tax refund to Robert Essick in the amount of \$187.51. Motion carried.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Motion by Sperduto, seconded by Kasardo, to adjourn at 8:19 p.m. Motion was unanimous.

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

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Council President