

**Township of Crescent  
Board of Commissioners  
Monthly Business Meeting  
August 23, 2012**

On August 23, 2012 the monthly meeting of the Crescent Township Board of Commissioners was called to order at 7:30 p.m. in the Crescent Township Municipal Building. 225 Spring Run Road, Crescent, Allegheny County, Pennsylvania.

Commissioner Cvengros announced that she would be recording the meeting.

**ROLL CALL**

Those present: Commissioners: President Bill Cook, Vice President Karen Patton, Commissioners Diane Cvengros, Jerry Keller and Joe Sabol

Secretary/Manager: Patience Eckhardt

Solicitor: Richard Start

**PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS**

None

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A motion to approve the minutes of the July 17, 2012 Regular Business meeting minutes was made by Commissioner Patton and seconded by Commissioner Cvengros. A roll call vote was taken and all Commissioners were in favor of the motion with Commissioner Cook abstaining from the vote due to his absence from the meeting.

**TREASURER'S REPORT**

A motion to accept the July 31, 2012 Treasurer's Report as received was made by Commissioner Cvengros and seconded by Commissioner Patton. A roll call vote was taken and found all Commissioners were in favor of the motion.

**LIST OF BILLS**

The list of bills was presented. The funds removed from the General Fund for the month of July were \$78,903.57. The funds removed from the General Fund prior to the monthly meeting were \$50,612.53. Invoices due total \$1,203.50 and the estimated Payroll for August is \$51,000.00. Total disbursements from State Liquid Fuels Fund: \$3,943.09. Total estimated bills for August are \$106,759.12. A motion to pay the bills was made by Commissioner Cvengros and seconded

by Commissioner Sabol. A roll call vote was taken and found all Commissioners in favor of the motion.

## **CORRESPONDENCE**

During the month of July the Crescent Township Secretary/Manager's Office received the following correspondence. We received the Moon Township Municipal Authority Minutes, the Creswell Heights Joint Authority Meeting Minutes, an invitation to a meeting and luncheon being hosted by Allegheny County Representative Jan Rea and County Executive Rich Fitzgerald. We received correspondence from Allegheny County pertaining to rabies-infected wild animals, Allegheny Grows grant application, and an invitation to the Allegheny County and Western Pennsylvania Association of Township Commissioners Fall Conference. We received information from the Pennsylvania Municipal League relevant to recently enacted legislation, a quarterly newsletter from the Allegheny County Department of Emergency Services and a notification from MRM Worker's Compensation Trust pertaining to the workers' compensation coverage of fire departments. Lastly, we received a note from the Crescent Township Senior Citizens thanking us for our donation and continued generosity to their club.

## **SECRETARY/MANAGER'S REPORT**

During the month of July the Crescent Township Secretary/Manager's Office completed the following: Worked with Allegheny County on the proposed updates to our Floodplain Ordinance, dealt with several resident issues pertaining to garbage collection, delinquent billing and also received several complaints regarding properties in violation of the Crescent Township Property Maintenance Code. The office worked with the building inspector and the police department in beginning the process of addressing the property maintenance violations. Dealt with several personnel matters related to policies and necessary grievance responses, contacted several contractors relevant to work that needed to be completed within the Township, scheduled for work to be completed by the Public works Department as per our agility agreement with PennDOT, worked with the emergency management coordinator on identifying areas within the Township that are referred to as High Consequence Areas on the natural gas transmission system, began working with vendors to put together a cost estimate for the sign management plan, prepared a review of the proposed public works contract negotiations for the Board of Commissioners, received bid information from several payroll service providers, began providing a welcome packet to new residents, worked with the post office on several address issues as well as completed the payment of all bills, payroll and oversaw the day to day activities of the Township Office.

## **SOLICITOR'S REPORT**

Solicitor Start reported that for the month of July his office worked on several matters. Relevant to the McCutcheon Way Slide matter, his office will be attending a meeting with Township and County officials at the end of the month to discuss the status of the project. In regards to the Floodplain Ordinance his office has reviewed documents and will be working on the new Floodplain Ordinance to comply with Federal and State mandates. They have continues to work on several pending Grievances filed by the Police Department and that their work on the pending

demolition project has been completed. His office has prepared and submitted their Solicitor's Opinion to the Auditor relevant to the annual audit and there were no items of interest upon his review.

## **ENGINEER'S REPORT**

Commissioner Cook reported on behalf of LSSE that in regards to MS4 that the Year 9 annual Report was submitted to the DEP on June 8, 2012. The NPDES GP-13 Permit Renewal Form is due September 15, 2012. Relevant to the McCutcheon Way Slide there have been updates as to the repairs for both the cost and the type of repairs which would be a rock buttress embankment. In regards to the CDBG Year 38 Demolition project, the bids are being opened on August 22, 2012 at the Char-West COG Office and the final application was submitted to the Char-West Cog on July 20, 2012 in regards to CDBG Year 39, which is for the Municipal office Building ADA Doorways. Finally, LSSE is reviewing the roads list and will include recommended storm sewer improvements cost over next 30 days. A road tour will be planned for the late August or early September. Plan to be reviewed with the Board at the September or October meeting.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **PUBLIC SAFETY**

Commissioner Sabol reported that during the month of July there were 186 calls for service, 193 total complaints for the month, 5 calls to assist other police departments and 4 medical calls. They issued 12 warnings for traffic offenses, 1 non-traffic citation was issued, 31 traffic citations, which brings the total citations/warning issued for the month to 44. He reported that there were 8 arrests for the month, one probation violation, six DUI's and one attachment order-runaway. The vehicles travelled a total of 3,722 miles with car #105 having its annual safety/emissions inspection completed by Grady's and car #106 having the air filter replaced due to the check engine light display for air restriction. This work was also completed by Grady's. He reported that on July 7, 2012, from 11 p.m. – 4 a.m. Captain Longerman participated in a roving DUI patrol in Crescent Township as part of the West Hills DUI task force. Five traffic stops were made for various traffic offenses. Two warnings and two citations were issued and two DUI arrests were made. On July 13, 2012 from 10:30 p.m. – 3:30 a.m. Officer Suder participated in a DUI checkpoint located in Sewickley Borough as part of the West Hills DUI task force.

### **PUBLIC WORKS**

Commissioner Cook reported that July started with the typical work load with weed and brush control along Prospect St, School St, Crescent Blvd, Riverview Rd & the Huntsridge entrance. Nuisance properties were cut on McGovern Blvd, Spring Run Rd & Crescent Blvd Ext as well as regular inspections of the Parks and responded to PA One Calls.

On July 25, Tim Palko started as the new hire Public works Supervisor. Tim would like to thank the Board for this opportunity, and looks forward to many years of service and commitment to the community. He has been getting oriented and acclimated to all aspects of the position, along with documenting observations of the operations and work habits of the laborers. During the remaining days of July, the Public Works Dept cleaned up the landscape beds in front of the Municipal Bldg as well as resumed the MS-4 required cleaning and inspection of the Storm Water Catch Basins/System. They changed the oil in the 2008 GMC Pickup, cleaned the area thru the Tunnel including removing low hanging branches, and patched potholes on Riverview Rd, Crescent Blvd & Boat way. They removed dilapidated picnic table from the Hockey Rink, moved to Salt Storage area to be repaired, removed a downed tree from Purdy Rd and cleaned the area around the dumpsters.

Commissioner Cook then took the opportunity to introduce Tim Palko to everyone. He brought a matter to the Board that he wished to have discussed. He stated that in the job description it states that a Class A CDL is a requirement for the position, but that we have no need for this type of license. He stated that the Township only requires a Class B CDL. Both of our current township employees have their Class B CDL, which they acquired by taking the test in one of our Township vehicles and the Township paid to have them licensed. He wants to have the Board approve changing the requirement to a Class B CDL, rather than a Class A.

Commissioner Cook made the motion to add this item to the agenda for discussion. This motion was seconded by Commissioner Patton. A voice vote was taken and found all Commissioners in favor of the motion.

Commissioner Cook then put a motion on the table to approve Tim Palko obtaining a Class B CDL that would enable him to operate the Peterbuilt 10 ton public works vehicle rather than the Class A CDL that was listed in the job description. This motion was seconded by Commissioner Sabol. Commissioner Keller asked if this was a permanent change or something we were doing for one person. Commissioner Cook stated that he felt this needed to be a permanent change. Commissioner Patton said that we would be changing this in the job description. A question was posed to Sam Tranter the previous Public Works Supervisor as to when this requirement had been changed and he stated that it was a requirement for him to apply to the position as a mandatory requirement even though he had worked for the Township for 30 years. Commissioner Cook stated we have nothing here that requires a Class A. A roll call vote was taken and found all Commissioners in favor of the motion.

Tim Palko took the opportunity to thank the Board personally for the opportunity and he looks forward to many years with the Township.

## **FINANCE**

Commissioner Patton reported we are again half way through another year. July is our 6<sup>th</sup> month marker in our budget. She reported that the good news is that we have received 97% of our projected current real estate taxes which is pretty good considering the state of the economy. Thus far we have received 87.89% of our revenues and spent 66.42% of our expenditures. To date our expenditures are exactly the same as we were in 2011. Currently every department's

total bottom line is within their budget. Thank you for doing your best at holding your budgets in line. However, we still have 6 more months left in the year. With a healthy fund balance of \$202,000.00 in the General fund and \$100,000.00 in the Taxpayer's account we still have some hefty bills to pay. In addition to day to day expenses we still have approximately \$100,000.00 of employee's benefits that still need to be paid by the end of the year. She wanted to remind everyone that our money has to get us to the end of the year. The money is now slowly trickling in so we need to spend it cautiously.

Also, just another reminder the office has started to prepare for our 2013 budget and she is encouraging all Board members and Department heads to put together their 2013 budgets. She is requesting everyone to have this information for our September 13<sup>th</sup> meeting so we can be prepared to have a tentative budget for our October meeting and a preliminary in November and a final budget at our December meeting.

## **PARKS AND RECREATION**

Commissioner Cvengros reported that neither the Crescent Township Parks Board nor Crescent Township Recreation Board met during the month of July. The Parks Board will have their next meeting September 11, 2012 at 7:00 p.m. in the multi-purpose room and all are welcome to attend. The Recreation Board will also meet next month at their scheduled time.

## **CRESCENT TOWNSHIP VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT**

Kevin Scott reported that on July 28, 2012 the fire department attended a water rescue drill on the Allegheny River and on August 2, 2012 they participated in the FAA triennial disaster drill at the International Airport. To date they have responded to 40 incidents this year. Most importantly, they have entered into an agreement with the other fire departments in our COG area which includes nineteen municipalities. What they have done is organized a spin-off of the municipal COG's and all of the fire departments within these municipalities are participating. They are asking that the Board of Commissioner allow them to continue in their endeavors and show their support to the Char-West COG. They are attempting to consolidate the efforts being made by the fire departments and allow them to make larger purchases which would result in savings. Overall, it is something that could be beneficial to all of the fire departments including our own. He referenced that there would also be additional training opportunities through this program. He came here tonight to ask the Board of Commissioners to support this endeavor.

Commissioner Patton asked if when they had these meetings, will they be conducted in a specific place and time. Kevin responded that they are rotating the meetings throughout the various fire departments that are participating in this program and that their meetings were being held at a scheduled time every month.

## **VALLEY AMBULANCE AUTHORITY**

Wendy Schulenburg reported that we did not receive any Valley Ambulance Meeting minutes for July because there was no meeting held. They have sent out their requests for the annual fund drive so people can expect to see those. Judy Withee also reported that they just took possession of two new ambulances that were demonstrator models.

## **EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT REPORT**

Denny Lewis reported that on September 13, 2012 there is an Ethanol Seminar that is going to be attended by the police, fire department and himself at Allegheny County. The other item that he wanted to discuss is his wanting to implement a program that he had discussed with Chief Scott which is called adopt a plug. He stated that in the winter months, when we get snow, the plugs are covered, and are hard to locate. He explained that this program would allow individual residents to "adopt" a plug and become responsible for the snow removal in front of the designated plug. He is going to be working with the office in notifying the public of this program and hopefully getting involvement from the community.

Commissioner Cook wanted to commend the fire department for their service during the bad snow storm several years ago. He stated that they did a great job of making sure all of the plugs were clean. Denny Lewis wanted to state that they did do a good job, but by completing this work it took them away from other things they could have been focusing on, so community involvement is really important.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

No Old Business

## **NEW BUSINESS**

The first item under new business was the motion to ratify the rescheduling of the August 2012 Monthly Business Meeting to be held on August 23, 2012. The motion to ratify was made by Commissioner Cvengros and seconded by Commissioner Sabol. A roll call vote was taken and found all Commissioners in favor of the motion.

A motion to ratify the rescheduling of the 2012 Regular Monthly Business Meetings to be held on the second Thursday of each month was made by Commissioner Patton and seconded by Commissioner Sabol. A roll call vote found all of the Commissioners in favor of the motion.

Next was the motion to advertise Ordinance 538 amending the established day of the Regular Monthly Business Meeting. The motion to approve the advertisement was made by Commissioner Patton and seconded by Commissioner Cvengros. A roll call vote was taken and all Commissioners were in favor of the motion.

A motion to accept the resignation of part time police officer Willis McConnell was made by Commissioner Cvengros and seconded by Commissioner Sabol. A roll call vote was taken and found all of the Commissioners in favor of the motion.

A motion to accept the audit for the year ending December 31, 2011 as received by the Township appointed auditor, Mark C. Turnley was made by Commissioner Patton and seconded by Commissioner Cvengros. A roll call vote was taken and all Commissioners were in favor of the motion.

Next was the discussion and motion to approve the purchase of three new computers for the Crescent Township Police Department in the amount of \$3,060.00. After Commissioner Patton stated that the money for this purchase was budgeted she made the motion to approve the purchase of the computers. This motion was seconded by Commissioner Keller. A roll call vote was taken and found the Commissioner in favor of the motion.

There was discussion on the proposed motor vehicle record checks policy as recommended by the Township's loss control auditor. After some discussion it was recommended that the Solicitor review this policy and make any recommendations before proceeding with it. A motion to table the policy until the Solicitor reviewed it was made by Commissioner Cook and seconded by Commissioner Patton. A roll call vote was taken and found all Commissioners in favor of the motion.

The next item on the agenda was the discussion on the transfer of our fire department's workers compensation coverage through MRM. Secretary/Manager Eckhardt explained that the Township has received notice that MRM need to transfer coverage for volunteer fire departments. MRM Trust Workers Comp Pool is discontinuing Class 994 coverage for all fire departments and they are recommending that the governing body take immediate action to transfer our liability for workers compensation for coverage to an appropriate insurance carrier of our choosing, of to the state fund (SWIF) for the effective date of October 1, 2012. Per the Commissioner's request, the office has been in the process of attempting to obtain quotes from other providers, to enable the Board to make the best decision for the Township. To date, we have been unable to obtain any other quotes but we will continue to work on this to hopefully provide additional quotes to the Board of Commissioners at the September meeting.

Commissioner Cook stated that we have \$24,000 budgeted in our line item for workers compensation coverage and the quote that we have received from SWIF is about \$43,000, which is considerably higher than what we paid last year. He stated that we need to deal with this but we need to consider as many options as possible. We need to reach out and see what we can find. Commissioner Patton stated that it is a short period of time. Secretary/Manager Eckhardt stated that the office has already contact several departments and many are indicating that they are no longer offering the coverage as well. It appears that several insurance carriers are opting to move away from this coverage due to the uncertainty of benefits payable for volunteer fire departments Members' development of cancer. Commissioner Patton questioned whether or not we could call a special meeting should the need arise due to the timing of this matter. Solicitor Start stated that it would be allowable so long as it was properly advertised.

The next item was the discussion and motion on the utilization of a payroll company as proposed through Paychex. Commissioner Patton referenced that several years ago utilizing a payroll company for the Township's payroll needs had been discussed. She stated that what triggered this was the employee's desire for direct deposit to be offered. There are two companies that were found offering these services, which were ADP and Paychex. Paychex specializes in smaller organizations as well as provided the lower cost. She referenced that the Commissioners were provided information via email in regards to this. Secretary/Manager Eckhardt and she attended a meeting with their representatives. She provided the figures to the Commissioners and referenced the cost and time savings that could be found through utilizing a payroll company. Not only will the company complete the biweekly payroll, but they would also provide the services of completing all of our quarterly and annual reporting requirements. She also referenced that we could utilize a time clock which would be an additional charge, but annually we would be paying an estimated \$3,293.08. She provided the information from our bank to simply offer direct deposit and not cover any of the payroll services. That cost would be around \$1,116.00, but we would continue to be responsible for the completion of payroll as well as all of the quarterly and annual reports. She stated that in the long run this would be beneficial to the Township and also referenced that she had verified with several municipalities who are utilizing Paychex that they are satisfied with the service they are receiving. Commissioner Cook referenced how much time this would free up in the office to allow those employees to concentrate on other matters. Upon mentioning other municipalities, Sam Tranter wanted to make the Board aware that his current municipality is utilizing Paychex and while they are happy with the payroll portion, they do not recommend the time clock aspect. He recommended that someone speak to his municipality prior to making the decision. After some more discussion a motion to table this item for further review was made by Commissioner Cvengros and seconded by Commissioner Keller. A roll call vote was taken and found all Commissioners in favor of the motion.

Next, was the discussion on Crescent Township endorsing the establishment of a COG Member Communities Volunteer Fire Department Joint Effort. Commissioner Cook stated that this was the item that Kevin Scott had referenced previously and based on the information provided a motion to offer our support in the establishment of this effort was made by Commissioner Cvengros and seconded by Commissioner Sabol. A roll call vote found all Commissioners in favor of the motion.

Last was the discussion on Crescent Township Police Department due to budgetary reasons. Commissioner Patton handed out some informational packets pertaining to the rumor that has circulated the Township that the Board of Commissioners has a plan to disband the current police department. The packet included information that provided the facts as to the sequence of events, as well as some financial information pertaining to the police departments budget including the current information for 2012, the total expenses for the 2011 year and the total expenses for the 2004 fiscal year. Commissioner Cook stated that to date the Township has not received any response from Moon Township and there is no current plan to disband the police department. Commissioner Cook stated that all decisions on this matter will be done publicly and with transparency and no one will hide behind closed doors to make these decisions. They encourage the public to remain involved as the Commissioners will do their best to keep everyone informed as the information is made available. They estimated a possible 2 or more mil tax increase in

order to maintain the current level of service provided by the Township. Commissioner Cook referenced that the residents of Crescent Township have not seen a tax increase since 2005, which at that time the residents received a 67% increase on their property taxes and the Board has held the line on taxes since that time. They wanted the public to consider that we work with Moon already. They informed the residents that Moon responds to 9 out of 10 current police calls as either back up or first responders to Crescent calls and we provide the same services for Moon. He referenced the fact that we just saw a 20% increase with the Allegheny County reassessment and that the taxes have also increased with Moon Area School District building their schools.

Commissioner Patton stated that she was glad to see this many people come out and she wished to see this many people attend the meeting on a regular basis. She stated that every meeting is advertised at the beginning of the year and that is all that we are legally bound to do because we cannot advertise every time the Board has something to discuss. She referenced that there are flyers and rumors circulating that they are disbanding the police department and that is untrue. Right now, all they are doing is looking at their options and Crescent Township is not the only community looking at other options. People are making changes in their household to save money and the Township needs to do the same thing during hard times. She hopes that everyone walks out of this meeting being more educated and to not view the board poorly as they are not looking to disband the police department. She does not want to see taxes go up but they need to be financially responsible. There are a lot of expenses involved in funding this Township and right now there is more money going out than there is coming in.

Commissioner Cook stated that they are trying to be proactive. He provided information as to the current needs that the police department has and referenced the budget and how sometimes the items we budget for, depending on the actual revenues, we do not always see the full amounts received. He stated that we currently have a 92% collection rate on our real estate taxes. They are trying to keep the Township a float and maintain the taxes. He stated that the numbers provided in the information packet are as accurate as they can get. No one is threatening to take the police department away; they are giving the residents options. Commissioner Cook stated that he is good at answering and returning phone calls and he encourages people to call him. He said that he has only had one person approach him on this subject, but his door is open at all times. He will be very forthcoming and truthful. All people have to do is ask.

Commissioner Cvengros wanted to know why the entire Board wasn't informed that this meeting was going to take place. Commissioner Cook stated that this just really came to a head. The meeting happened while he was out of town and no one has any facts on any of it. There was no plan for Moon Township to be patrolling Crescent Township. All that has happened was an informal meeting between Moon Township and two of our committee heads, which they are allowed to do. The situation has been blown out of proportion. Commissioner Patton referenced that this came up as she started preparing for the budget and wanted to figure out the options. The meeting was private but for some reason people felt it necessary to let the information out. Once they hear back from Moon Township, as to what our options may be, she was going to present it to the Board in a public meeting. Because rumors started getting out of control, they thought it was time to put the facts on the table.

Commissioner Sabol wanted to reiterate that they have not received any information from Moon Township at all and in the future if they want any information they will have to go see Moon Township Board.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Natalie Shoupe of 1272 Needham Street stated that she did not know what events led up to this situation but she knows that in the past she has had the same complaint as others have made in regards to having information provided. She stated that she called today and specifically asked if there would be discussion at tonight's meeting on the police department and she was told that the agenda can be changed at any time before the meeting starts. She wanted to know what the reason is as to why the agenda cannot be placed on the website so that taxpayers can view what is going to be discussed. She can determine whether or not she feels there is a need for her to attend the meeting and make it her business.

Commissioner Cook stated that until the gavel hits the table the agenda is not a public document and is not public information. Normally every month the agenda changes before the meeting.

Judy Withee of 500 Crescent Blvd Ext wanted to reference the threat of dissolving our police department and replacing it with Moon Township, whom we have enjoyed a wonderful relationship with throughout the years. We share a school system and in past we have relied on Moon to provide service to us on the weekends. Through hard work by previous commissioners we were able to offer seven day a week police service to our residents and that her husband, who was a previous commissioner, was able to find a way to have this service provided 24 hours a day without having to raise taxes. By going behind backs and meeting with their police without the knowledge of their Supervisors and without exploring alternatives to retaining our police department and their independents is a travesty. Something of this magnitude, which affects every citizen and taxpayer of this community, needs to be brought to the residents to be voted on. She stated that the threats of dissolving the police department to keep them in check during contract negotiations is strong arming them and is appalled that the Commissioners have lowered themselves to this. The police department is vital to our safety and residents should remember that if the police department is dissolved it will never come back again. She also referenced McCutcheon Way and stated her displeasure of the Township allowing \$250,000, which would have repaired the road, to be thrown out of window all because of a conflict between the Board of Commissioners and the Army Corps of Engineers is mind boggling. She was basing this viewpoint on information provided by the Post Gazette. The park has been closed for over a year and is probably in disrepair from lack of use. We put out thousands of dollars to put in bathrooms and now they remain unused. She asked various questions as to how the road remaining closed would impact the Township, the river traffic and the community as a whole. She feels that if the Army Corps is willing to make the repairs they should be allowed to.

Solicitor Start responded the questions relating to the Army Corps and the Township and begged to differ on the Post Gazettes interpretation of happenings and stated that he hoped people did not believe everything that they read in the paper because they quoted someone who had no

knowledge of the affairs. He hoped that in the near future everything would be cleared up but that anyone who implied that these Commissioners had anything to do with the travesty of the road remaining closed, because he agrees it is a travesty, is wrong. Commissioner Cook stated that we have over \$50,000 invested in this road already and we have another \$50,000 put away, which is our share we are responsible for should we obtain the grant we have applied for. He asked that everyone watch this and see how it plays out and after it is resolved come back with any concerns.

Commissioner Cook wanted to also reference that the meeting date was changed because of a conflict on our Solicitor's schedule and the Board determined to change the date in order to accommodate him.

Richard McClellan of 20 McGovern Blvd wanted to know who authorized the Board of Commissioners to meet with Moon Township. He would think that if there was a budgetary problem you would figure it out in house and explore all of your options before going to see another municipality. He wanted to know why they had gone behind everyone's backs.

Commissioner Patton responded that she can meet with anyone that she wants and it was a private meeting that was supposed to stay private until Moon Township told one of our Township employees and the rumors went out of control.

Richard McClellan stated that as far as he was concerned, they had no business to take Township Business out of the Township without first trying to deal with it in house.

Marguerite Schofield of 183 McGovern Boulevard thought that this situation should call for a town hall meeting. She did not even know that this was going on and she lives right down the street.

Commissioner Cook responded they cannot do that. He indicated by law, they cannot put this item on a referendum. Fire equipment has to be done that way but it is against the law to put this on the ballot. The Board wanted to get details but at this time they do not have any information to provide and if they do obtain any information the public will be informed.

Marguerite Schofield stated that there does not seem to be any communication with the public and Commissioner Cook responded that there is nothing to communicate.

Commissioner Cook asked if anyone present at this meeting had come to any of the Commissioners to ask what was going on. A resident responded that Moon Township did and the Township had responded no comment. Commissioner Cook stated that they never contacted him.

Dorothy Shutka of 721 Pine Street stated that she agreed with Judy Withee. She stated that she does not know all of the facts but if there were funds that we turned down, she is upset about the park remaining closed.

Commissioner Cook responded that the park is maintained and everything is in repair there. Zoe Shutka responded that she was more concerned by the fact that she could not enjoy the park. She

does not like the fact that the Board went to the police. She stated that she is a 26 year resident and has never had Moon respond to one call. She does not like the idea of Moon taking over and referenced how when Moon took over other items her bill doubled and she had to have items installed by Moon Township which cost money. She stated that her taxes have not gotten any better since Moon has taken over anything and she does not see how Moon taking over our police would be beneficial. She stated that she lives in Crescent and if she wanted Moon to police her area she would live in Moon. She thinks it is important that we maintain what we have and wanted to know what had happened to, “we the people”, making the decisions and the government is serving the public. Commissioner Cook responded that they are giving the residents options and have made no decisions. Zoe Shutka referenced that even by them withholding the agenda it does not provide the necessary information to the public. She then referenced different issues that she has had in regards to her road and water problems that the Township has never addressed.

Commissioner Cook stated that he puts a lot of hours into this community and he does not feel that this Board has done anything wrong because there is no information to give. The Board works very hard for this community.

Mary Ann Lineberry of 1358 Front Street wanted to thank the Board for looking out for the people and looking into options. She stated that we elect these people and we depend on them to take care of these matters and she is grateful that someone is looking out for the residents. She loves the police department but sometimes you have to make cuts.

Julie Dyson of 463 Crescent Blvd Ext stated that she understood that the Board was looking for ways to save money but was questioning why all of the financials and expenses were not being provided for all of the departments. Commissioner Cook stated that she could make that request as it was public information and it would be provided to her.

Todd Miller of 117 McGovern Blvd stated that he understand that the Board members are providing facts here but he stated that they need to make sure that their facts are accurate. He referenced that Moon police are not responding to nine out of ten calls in Crescent Township. Commissioner Patton responded that Chief McCarthy provided that information to them.

Fred Taylor of 1180 Cambon Drive referenced that his road needs to be paved as well. He questioned whether or not we needed a payroll company and questioned whether or not we could put the money we are looking to spend on that and put it towards our police department. He stated that we have a good police department and he is pleased with the service that is being provided.

Jack Ranick of 1278 Hindmarch Street referenced how the Crescent residents already pay more for services through Moon Township. We are discriminated against by Moon Township and all of the money we pay is going into their pocket.

Commissioner Cook stated that we have nothing to do with the school district as they are completely independent from the Township.

Joe Swadlo of 1326 Main Street wanted to know if we have looked into our health benefits as a way to cut costs within the Township. Solicitor Start responded that we do look into health benefits and this is something that we attempt to negotiate with every collective bargaining unit. Joe Swadlo also wanted to raise the concern on the fact that there is no bathroom available at Riverview Park and it is being used by children frequently.

Rich Withee of 267 Spring Run Road stated that other cost cutting measures need to be looked into prior to looking into Moon police patrolling for us. He indicated that we could look at our scheduling and whether or not we could have 3 shifts running every 24 hours rather than the 4 we have now. He also indicated that we currently pay Moon Township to dispatch for us, but Allegheny County is free.

Commissioner Cook indicated that at one time they looked at Allegheny County's 911 response time was horrible. Rich Withee responded that he works with Allegheny County 911 through his employer and their response time is astounding.

Marguerite Schofield of 183 McGovern wanted clarification as to which number residents were supposed to call in a time of emergency. Commissioner Cook responded that she should contact Moon Township Dispatch.

Dorothy Shutka of 721 Pine Street asked why we didn't hire our own dispatcher for our own police department. Commissioner Cook stated that we would need three shifts round the clock and our budget would not allow it. She is concerned that Crescent residents will be less of a priority than Moon residents. She asked if it would be cheaper to hire someone compared to what we are paying Moon Township. It was indicated by the Board, it would be more expensive to hire someone. Dorothy Shutka referenced how the Township is outsourcing and at what point will the Township eventually dissolve. Commissioner Cook responded that we cannot dictate anything over the authorities.

Denny Lewis of 492 Crescent Blvd Ext wanted to recommend that in an emergency, everyone call 911. He stated that in the time of an emergency you are not going to remember Moon Township's phone number, which is why 911, exists. He also stated that as the emergency management coordinator and a township resident for 61 years, if we ever lose our police department we will not get it back. He indicated that the service that has been provided to the residents and his family has been exceptional and we are not going to see the same services from Moon Township.

George Birocco of 223 Jackson Street asked for some information as to how you know who owns what property and what is township property. Solicitor Start indicated that the Allegheny County Recorder of Deeds would have the information. George Birocco indicated a problem that he was having with the location of a road that the Township paved. He needs to know who owns the street. Commissioner Cook indicated that the Board would put this on the next month's agenda to determine if this was something that the Township would authorize the Solicitor to look into further.

Anita Lasek of 1361 Front Street stated that the Board mentioned that once a year they make an announcement as to the schedule of the meetings, but they just changed the meeting date midyear. She hoped that the information gets on the website. It was indicated that it is already on the website. She wanted to comment that years ago Moon Township supported our police department on the weekends and she ran into issues where the Moon police officers were not familiar with our Township. She was concerned as to what amount they would actually be patrolling. She referenced that once word got around that we no longer had a police department, this could result in more crimes.

Anita Lasek asked for clarification as to whether or not this could be voted on by the residents. Commissioner Cook and Solicitor Start stated that it could not be placed on the ballot as a referendum. That is not to say that the Board would not consider hosting an open meeting to hear everyone's opinions. There may be differing opinions on the issues within this room, but it is apparent that no one thinks lowly of our police department. All the Commissioners are doing is exploring options and then providing this information to the residents to gauge their feelings on the matter.

Dorothy Cardimen of 534 Henggi Drive wanted to commend that Board of Commissioners for holding our taxes to a minimum. She stated that due to the fact of diminishing returns, everyone should come to terms with the fact that there may be a day where we cannot handle everything that we currently have. She also wanted to reference that if the Commissioners had to call every time they needed to conduct business it would be impossible and the residents have elected them to do so.

Brian Morrow of 315 Shady Drive wanted to indicate that he is in full support of our Board and he likes the job they are doing. He thinks that the meeting they had was informational and for our benefit as they attempted to explore all of the options. He stated that he has lived in Crescent for 25 years and it would be cheaper for him to live in Moon Township. Crescent Township does not have sustainability. He referenced that former Governor Rendell and Dan Onorato called for consolidation in the state of Pennsylvania of municipalities and school districts because the cost of maintaining is becoming prohibitive. He thinks that this Board is doing a great job and it has never been better than it is right now and let the Board continue to do their jobs.

Jan Nemeyer of 17 McGovern Blvd stated that it is great to see this many people here and everyone needs to continue to attend. She stated that in order to give the Board guidance we have to attend the meetings.

Judy Nuegent of 1274 Needham Street asked for better communication. She had asked for the agenda prior to the meeting, something so that she would know what was happening and it was denied to her. Commissioner Cook indicated that the agenda was not final until the meeting begins. He referenced all of the items for which the Township Office is responsible. He then referenced that in regards to trimming fat out of the budget, the Secretary/Manager's salary was less than what was budgeted in 2004. This Board has done everything to hold the costs down and the biggest expense that the Township has is what everyone is discussing tonight. In order to keep the services that the Township is currently providing, our residents are going to have to pay more. He stated as soon as we have the numbers from Moon they will provide them to the

residents. He stated that whether or not the agenda appeared on the website would be up to the Board of Commissioners. He indicated that everyone has personal responsibilities and that he does a lot for very minimal pay for the Township. We could inform you more if we increased our staff in the office because they are already putting in a long eight hour day, but it all comes back to how much we can afford to spend. Commissioner Patton stressed that we have cut out as much fat out of our budget as we can. After some more discussion regarding the communication between the Township and public, it was stated that we were unable to provide the agenda prior to the meeting.

Dorothy Shutka of 721 Pine Street stated that she would not be here if she did not believe in her Commissioners. She really feels that it is important to try to keep things within our community rather than sending them to Moon Township. She also requested an update on a complaint that she had made to the Board of Commissioners several months ago. It was recommended that she speak with Interim Chief Zimmel. Commissioner Cook stated they had completed the measurements on the road that she had requested.

Brian Morrow of 315 Shady Drive questioned how Moon Area School District can put their agenda online prior to the meeting, but Crescent Township cannot and wondered where the misinterpretation is. He agreed that there is no reason why we cannot have the information prior to the meetings.

## **COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS**

Commissioner Keller wanted to report that the groundbreaking for the new commissary has taken place and they are hoping to cut the ribbon on this in November of next year.

Commissioner Cvangros wanted to thank everyone for coming and thought it would be nice if this many people always showed up.

Commissioner Sabol thought it would be nice to have this many people who up all of the time, but hoped they would not come as angry. He stated that the Board is not the enemy and he thinks that we need to have the agenda on the website if possible. Commissioner Cook referenced that the agenda is subject to change.

Commissioner Patton wanted to remind the Board that the Township would be hosting the COG meeting next month and all of the Commissioners are welcome to attend. She noted that it will be on September 20, 2012 at 7:15, at the Crescent Township Volunteer Fire Department.

Commissioner Cook wanted to thank everyone for coming and having an interest in our community. He stated that we have no information and the Board has provided the public with all of the information that they have. He stated that where they go from here, will be done publicly. Ask questions and you will get the answers. They could have refused to talk about it, but nobody did and they are here to serve the public.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Commissioner Sabol and seconded by Commissioner Patton. A voice vote was taken and all commissioners were in favor of the motion. The meeting adjourned at 9:49 p.m.

Certified as a true and correct copy.

Respectfully Submitted,

Patience Eckhardt  
Secretary/Manager

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(Seal)