

**Township of Crescent
Board of Commissioners
Monthly Business Meeting
February 14, 2013**

On February 14, 2013 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.

ROLL CALL

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

Secretary/Manager: Patience Eckhardt

Solicitor: Richard Start

Engineer: Kevin Brett

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS

No Comment

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Cook asked if there were comments changes or a motion to approve the minutes of the December 13, 2012 regular business meeting minutes. Commissioner Patton had a correction. She referenced that in the minutes there was a motion for appointments under the Parks Board, the Recreation Board was listed and this should be corrected to read Parks Board. A motion to accept the minutes with this correction was made by Commissioner Patton and seconded by Commissioner Keller. A voice vote found all Commissioners in favor of the motion.

The next item was the motion for the approval of minutes from the Special Meeting of December 27, 2012. A motion to accept the minutes as presented was made by Commissioner Patton and seconded by Commissioner Sabol. A voice vote was taken and all Commissioners were in favor of the motion.

Next, was the motion for the approval of minutes from the Business Meeting of January 10, 2013. A motion to approve the minutes as presented was made by Commissioner Sabol and seconded by Commissioner Keller. A voice vote found all Commissioners in favor of the motion.

A motion to approve the minutes from the Special Meeting of February 5, 2013 as presented was made by Commissioner Sabol and seconded by Commissioner Patton. A voice vote found all Commissioners in favor of the motion.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Commissioner Cook commented that a Treasurer's Report was included in everyone's packet, date December 31, 2012. He asked if there were questions, comments or corrections. Being that there were none, a motion to accept the December 31, 2012 Treasurer's Report as received was made by Commissioner Patton and seconded by Commissioner Sabol. A roll call vote was taken and all Commissioners were in favor of the motion.

The next item was the Treasurer's Report dated January 31, 2013. A motion to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented was made by Commissioner Patton and seconded by Commissioner Sabol. A roll call vote found all Commissioners 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 January were \$151,764.35. The funds removed from the General Fund prior to the monthly meeting were \$19,161.35. Secretary/Manager Eckhardt noted that this amount had changed due to the payment of a bill as instructed by Commissioner Patton prior to the meeting. Invoices due total \$28,058.78 and the estimated payroll for February is \$42,000.00. Total disbursements from State Liquid Fuels Fund: \$3,960.48, which brings the total estimated bills for February to \$93,180.61. A motion to pay the bills was made by Commissioner Patton 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 January the Crescent Township Secretary/Manager's Office received the following correspondence. We received the Creswell Heights Joint Authority meeting minutes, the Moon Township Municipal Authority board of directors minutes, the Char-West COG board of directors minutes, as well as summary of accomplishments for the 2012 year from the Char-West COG. We received the October, November and December newsletter from the Allegheny County Council and a report prepared by the Crescent Township auditor, Mark Turnley, pertaining to his review of the Township accounts in order to address the concerns of the board relative to the changes made to the Township's chart of accounts.

SECRETARY/MANAGER'S REPORT

In the month of January the Township Office completed the following work. We prepared several legal notices for the adoption of various Ordinances, and completed the required FEMA Flood

change notification to the residents within the flood zone. The office also worked together with the emergency management personnel to include an informational letter of do's and don'ts in the event of a flood. We complied with Act 166 of 1978's annual requirements by filing our annual report of development occurring in floodplain areas. The office also worked with our Engineer in order to complete the required zoning survey and questionnaire relative to Act 167. We completed all of the required DCED reports as well as the reports with PennDOT relative to our liquid fuel allocation.

We reviewed the amended and restated Municipal Employers Insurance Trust agreement, reviewed the loss run activity report from MRM, completed the benefit amendment with MEIT, as well as worked with the Insurance provider of the Township and the Township Solicitor on various items required for binding our 2013 coverage. A notice was sent to the provider indicating that we would comply with the requirements set forth within their timeframe of 120 days. The office completed the certification of the elections for the 2013 year; we reviewed the 2011 and 2012 UCC quarterly reports as well as filed any quarterly payroll reports necessary. We worked with the Solicitor to ensure our compliance with the provisions set forth in Act 166 and 188 as well as engaged in conversation with the Township's elected Treasurer relative to this matter. We reviewed and submitted a letter of objection for the sale of a bankrupt property; we researched various delinquent tax collection agencies for service information, contacted several agencies relative to the transfer of billing services for refuse collection, as well as worked with the insurance adjuster relative to the water damage reported at the fire department.

We maintained contact with the DCED and Township engineer relative to the CITF Grant, reviewed the application from PennDOT for the stabilization project on Bocktown Road, reviewed the recommendations pertaining to our floodplain ordinance, worked with the Township building inspector on several residential complaints.

Lastly, we worked extensively with the Township auditor to address the concerns raised over the corruption of Township accounts. The auditor confirmed that these changes were in agreement with the account numbers utilized by the DCED. He also confirmed that the changes made by the Township Office to the chart of accounts did not in any way corrupt prior year files. Relative to the audit adjustments referenced in his correspondence a full and complete report has been prepared by the Township Office and is available for review by the Township Commissioners, should they require any further confirmation to the integrity of the Township's accounting system.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Solicitor Start reported that for the month of January, his office completed negotiation and execution of easement and right of way documents which allow the Township to enter upon property owned by CSX to access the Salt Storage Facility. This item has been finalized and signed by both parties so this matter is now resolved. Regarding McCutcheon Way, his office has reviewed project construction documents pertaining to the repair and are currently working with the Township Engineer to acquire a Construction, Grading and Drainage Easement with the Glenwillard Boat Club. Most recently they have prepared an easement which is necessary to

have this project performed. The Glenwillard Boat Club has discussed the matter and it is his understanding that they are willing to grant us this easement in exchange for two truckloads of gravel which is estimated to cost \$1,000.00, which can be rolled into the project cost. This cost is far less than what the Township would incur if it were to take the property through eminent domain, which is the only alternative. He therefore asks that at tonight's meeting a motion is made which authorizes the easement in exchange for the purchase of gravel. His office also attended a meeting with Township officials and representative from Teamster's regarding a grievance filed by the street department. The official response to this Grievance should be on the agenda this evening. Relative to Bocktown Road, his office reviewed documents regarding the repair for stabilization and they have also prepared the necessary ordinance establishing compensation for the Tax Collector pursuant to Act 166 and Act 188 of 2012. His office reviewed the legal aspects of the Referendum associated with Fire Department expenses and they have also reviewed documents regarding Township insurance, Flood Insurance, the CITF Grant, Municipal Elections and Tax Appeals.

ENGINEER'S REPORT

Kevin Brett reported that two of the items on his report were on the agenda, so we would discuss them further at that time. He also reported that relative to MS4, the PaDEP sent a letter dated December 12, 2012 indicating the submittal was Administratively Complete. They are awaiting technical comments on the permit submitted. The permits are due to be issued by March and most of the comments can be responded to within a few days so he would expect it to be complete by March. He also reported that next month he will have a presentation for MS4 and he will go over all of the requirements so that the Board understands the requirements. He indicated that the next five years is very record keeping intensive and they want the information to be presented so we are prepared.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Commissioner Cook reported that we had met in an executive session regarding personnel from 7:10 p.m. until 7:28 p.m.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Commissioner Sabol reported that during the month of January there were 89 calls for service, 93 total complaints for the month, 3 calls to assist other police departments and 5 medical calls. They issued 10 warnings for traffic offenses, 1 non-traffic citation was issued, 6 traffic citations, and 0 parking citations/warnings were issued. This brings the total citations/warning issued for the month to 17. He reported that there were three arrests for the month. The arrests were for a DUI; reckless driving; illegal use of a solvent, another was a DUI, and the last was a bench warrant. The vehicles travelled a total of 2,542 miles in the month. Car #105 had its annual safety/emissions inspection; oil & filter replaced; metal bracket riveted in rear bumper to repair crack. All of the work was completed by Grady's. He presented the following statistics that were compiled by Captain Longerman for 2012. Total traffic warnings were 246, with 200 of these warnings being issued on McGovern Blvd. He reported that there were 235 traffic citations issued, with 229 of these citations being issued on McGovern Blvd. He also reported that there

were 26 DUI arrests for the year, with 22 of these arrests occurring on McGovern Blvd. Relative to the DUI Task Force, he reported that on Saturday, January 19, 2013 from 11:00 p.m. until 4:00 a.m., Officer Zurynski participated in a DUI roving patrol in Crescent Township as part of the West hills DUI task force. Five traffic stops were made for various traffic offenses and warnings were issued. There were no DUI arrests.

PUBLIC WORKS

Commissioner Cook reported that during the month of January 2013, the public works department performed the following tasks: They received and stocked the combustible materials storage cabinet in the tool room. The parks rounds were completed when weather permitted. The Port-a-john is working out nicely at the hockey deck, but there are a couple issues with the door. One issue is the top hinge needs riveted onto the frame and the second issue is that the door is difficult to latch, which should be corrected when the hinge is repaired. This has been reported to the rental company and they are going to correct it. Repairs were made to the police department furnace; the condensation drain tubes were rotted causing flooding on the floor. The drain lines were replaced. The catch basins were cleared in between storms when the snow was melting, four PA one calls were responded to, two of which were routine and two were emergency calls. The annual member database verification update for the PA One Call System was completed. Snow removal has been the basis for the majority of their workload. There has been an estimated 33 inches of snowfall to date. The routes have been adjusted according to storm conditions. Routine vehicle and equipment maintenance is performed after each operation. Re-grading of fire hall and municipal building parking lots is done when weather permits to spread the limestone chips back on the lots. 200 tons of salt have been ordered and received. He also reported that our newest public works employee, Shawn Collins, has acquired his Class B CDL license.

FINANCE

Commissioner Patton reported that January starts the new year and a new budget for the Township. You may have noticed in this packet that there were two months of financial reports. The Board of Commissioners had concerns with their 2012 year end financials and consulted with their auditor for his advice prior to approval of these reports. Again, our concerns were that the chart of accounts line items for 2012's budget were changed to the DCED budget chart of accounts and this was to take place in the January 2013 Budget. All detailed information was provided to the auditor after changing the chart of accounts back to their original state. On February 3, 2013, a letter was sent to the Board of Commissioners from the auditor with his findings and detail procedures for any future changes with the chart of accounts. We closed our 2012 year end on December 27, with a zero balance with the original chart of accounts. January 1, 2013 the DCED chart of accounts was implemented for the new year. We have already spent \$116,437 of our \$300,000 Tax Anticipation Loan. This includes monthly bills, payrolls and our yearly insurance package policies.

PARKS AND RECREATION

Secretary/Manager Eckhardt reported on behalf of the Recreation Board that The Parks Board met on Tuesday, February 12, 2013.

The first item on their agenda was to determine what fundraisers they would undertake for 2013. After a presentation by Avon representative, Marta Franc, the board voted to sell Avon products as its first fundraiser. They will be getting Avon brochures from her at their April meeting and will have almost the entire month to sell to interested buyers. The board also voted to once again hold their annual Pancake Breakfast. December 7 was picked as the date for this event pending approval from the Crescent Township Volunteer Fire Department for use of their facility.

Next the board discussed possible projects for this year. The board decided that their first priority this year would be improvements at Shouse Park since this is our premier facility. Noreen Brennan will contact Recreation Creations, Inc. to obtain pricing and the feasibility of installing a new play structure, and possibly a new teeter totter. This would be installed once McCutcheon Road is re-opened. Also discussed was possibly installing a canopy over the picnic table at Huntsridge Park.

Noreen Brennan and Judy Cook reported on a meeting earlier this month, when they met with Lance Welliver, Director of Moon Parks. Discussion pertained to putting in a sand volleyball court at Shouse Park. It was determined; this will have to wait until they have access to Shouse Park, so that they could best determine where it could be installed. In the meantime, they will be obtaining pricing for parts and labor costs. Judy Cook reported on her discussion with the Parks Department in Aspinwall regarding a bocce ball court they installed in their park. The board voted to purchase a picnic table from Boy Scout troop 198. It is yet to be determined where it will be installed. Their next regular meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 12, 2013, at 7:00 p.m., in the Multi-Purpose Room. All are welcome to attend.

Secretary/Manager Eckhardt reported that the Recreation Board will meet on February 18th at 7:30 PM in the Multi-Purpose Room; it will be the re-organization meeting. The January meeting was cancelled due to the weather.

The board will be setting dates for this year's events and planning the Easter Egg Hunt.

CRESCENT TOWNSHIP VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

Chief Scott reported that the fire department has remained very active. He informed the Board that this coming Saturday, they are attending a county-wide drill at McKeesport. They are currently awaiting paperwork for state accreditation for type 3 SWIFT water certification. He also wanted to thank Commissioner Sabol for the donation he had given the fire department. He stated that it would hang proudly in their department.

VALLEY AMBULANCE AUHORITY

Wendy Schulenburg reported on behalf of Valley Ambulance. She had mentioned before that Valley was changing their subscription year, and March 1 will be the beginning of the new subscription year. She indicated that anyone who was a member last year will be kept on until the new subscription year starts. She also reported that the information should be going out within the next week or so. The biggest different people will see is that Valley will only pay 50% of out of pocket expenses to subscribers, when in the past they have paid 100%. She also reported that the new wheel chair van has been received.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT REPORT

Patience Eckhardt reported on behalf of Denny Lewis. On January 26, 2013 the Crescent Emergency management team hosted a seminar on Grief and the First Responder. This seminar was attended by several agencies and ministers from the local churches. Jerry Keller put this event together and had a professor who conducted this program. Those who attended from this township were the Police Chief, Fire Chief, Asst. Fire Chief, and a representative from Valley Ambulance. We sometimes forget how a death or injury can have an effect on 1st responders. He thanked the township for the use of the multi-purpose room and thanked Commissioner Keller for his time and effort on putting this program on. We look forward to having more programs in the future. The Township was notified by FEMA to send a letter out informing residents of the change of the Flood Insurance Rate Map. This letter was sent out only to those residents in the Flood Zone. The Emergency Management team thought this would be a great time to inform the residents what help they could expect from the township and things they should do on their own. With the help of Kellie, Patience, and Dan Muller a letter was drafted and sent out with the FEMA letter. According to state law it is illegal to throw snow back on to the road. After the last few snow falls, some residents of this township are not playing by the rules. It was asked what we could do about this problem? Lastly, his report indicated that due to a schedule change he will no longer be able to attend the meetings.

OLD BUSINESS

A motion to accept amended Ordinance 206, which if adopted will amend the Ordinance to include the west side section of Crescent Blvd from the intersection of Ridge Ave through the dead end as no parking and also serves to update the provisions of the violation and the fines imposed. A motion to approve this Ordinance was made by Commissioner Sabol and seconded by Commissioner Patton. A roll call vote was taken and all Commissioners were in favor of the motion.

Next, was the motion to accept Ordinance 544 which establishes the offices of Tax Collector and Treasurer pursuant to Act 166 of 2012 and Act 188 of 2012. A motion to accept Ordinance 544 was made by Commissioner Sabol and seconded by Commissioner Patton. Commissioner Patton

asked whether or not we have received a response from Debra Garrucio as to whether or not she was interested in the position of Treasurer. Secretary/Manager Eckhardt responded that Debra Garuccio had indicated she would be contacting the Commissioners to let them know her decision. It was reported that no Commissioner had heard from her. A roll call vote was taken and all Commissioners were in favor of the motion.

NEW BUSINESS

Commissioner Cook asked for a motion to make an addition to the agenda regarding the motion to approve the purchase of the gravel for the Crescent Township Boat Club. This motion was made by Commissioner Sabol and seconded by Commissioner Patton. A voice vote found all Commissioners in favor of the motion.

Commissioner Cook asked for another motion to be made to make an addition to the agenda regarding the motion to resolve or deny the public works grievance. The motion to allow this agenda was made by Commissioner Patton and seconded by Commissioner Sabol. A voice vote found all Commissioners in favor of the motion.

A motion to approve the purchase of two truckloads of gravel for the Boat Club in exchange for the easement required for the repair of McCutcheon Way. A motion to approve this purchase was made by Commissioner Patton and seconded by Commissioner Keller. A roll call vote found all Commissioners in favor of the motion.

A motion to deny the grievance filed by the public works department was made by Commissioner Patton. This motion was seconded by Commissioner Sabol. A roll call vote found all Commissioners in favor of the motion.

A motion to approve the advertisement to receive bids for the McCutcheon Way Road Way Slide Repairs in accordance with the CITF requirements was made by Commissioner Sabol and seconded by Commissioner Patton. A roll call vote was taken and all Commissioners were in favor of the motion.

The next item was the discussion and motion on the 2013 Road Program. At this point Engineer Kevin Brett provided handouts on information gathered relative to the 2013 road program. He reported that they prepared several different options and he reviewed the options at this time with the Board. He indicated some options included the road repairs, while other options included storm sewers as well. He stated that in the past, the Township has not completed storm sewer repairs because the Township has always concentrated on paving as much as they could. However, this year the storm drains were looked at because these streets have storm water issues. The board can determine if they wanted to add storm water management. If they do, the cost would be significantly higher. He indicated that if we did not do the storm water on the streets, they would not last as long. Commissioner Patton asked about the cost of the permitting being included in the provided estimates. Kevin stated that the cost is not included in the cost of the street but he had included those prices in the contingency portion. Secretary/Manager Eckhardt asked if the bid packages were going to be prepared to include the storm repair work by the

contractor, or if the Township would be completing this work themselves. Kevin reported that in the past, dependant on the quantity of storm sewers, public works has completed the work, but he indicated that it would be dependent upon which road program was picked. Commissioner Cook asked about Division Avenue and whether or not Kevin felt our public works department could complete the work. Kevin indicated that due to the flatness of the road, it may be difficult to tackle this project in house. Commissioner Cook asked when we should look to bid this project, and Kevin indicated that we should not go past May due to the size of the project. Some more questions were posed as to the timing of the project and discussion was held as to which project would be best for 2013. Commissioner Cook referenced that he would like to start with Division, but if we do not address the roads we previously started, the repairs could end up being more costly. Kevin indicated that it would be good to finish the segments previously started and schedule Division for next year. Some more discussion was held on the permitting requirements for Division and discussion was held on if we were to choose option three, whether we would be able to complete both Huntsridge and Sautter or if we would have to pick one. Kevin indicated that he would recommend bidding it as a base bid and an add alternate to see how the prices came in, because asphalt has actually been decreasing so the numbers could go down. A motion was made to authorize the engineering to prepare the bids for option three was made by Commissioner Sabol and seconded by Commissioner Keller. A roll call vote was taken and all Commissioners were in favor of the motion.

A motion to pay Invoice No. 11068D from Garvin Boward Beitko in the amount of \$7,567.40 to be paid from the Crescent Township McCutcheon Way Slide Repair Fund was made by Commissioner Patton and seconded by Commissioner Sabol. A roll call vote found all Commissioners in favor of the motion.

Next, was the discussion and motion on the options provided to rectify the lighting issue on the corner of McGovern Blvd and Harper Road. Commissioner Cook asked for some detail on this item. Chief Zimmel reported that he and Public Works Supervisor, Tim Palko had gone down to look at the site and one of the options being considered was to add another street light to provide more illumination on the cross walk. He provided some more information on the other options being considered including a flashing light, and LED crossing warning system and crosswalk signs. Secretary/Manager Eckhardt reported that there were many options that could be considered for this item and the Board had been given some cost estimates on the various options. Commissioner Cook asked if we had looked into any grants to have something LED placed here. He thought there might be some grant money available. Secretary/Manager Eckhardt responded that we could continue looking into grant opportunities, and we could also install the street light for a very minimal cost in the meantime. Commissioner Cook asked what kind of light this street light would produce and what result we would see from placing this street light there. Chief Zimmel responded that we had not, but he thought it would be similar to the other street lights within the Township. Commissioner Cook stated that he is fine with installing a street light, but he did not know if that would solve the problem and he would like to see us go after some grant money. Commissioner Cook stated that we need to do better than a street light down there for our children. Chief Scott asked if we had contacted the state to see about having a traffic study completed. A motion to approve the installation of a street light and also to continue the search of grant money was made by Commissioner Sabol and seconded by Commissioner Patton. A roll call vote was taken and all Commissioners were in favor of the motion.

Discussion was held on the possible utilization of MTMA for the billing of refuse collection of Crescent residents. Secretary/Manager Eckhardt stated that the Township Office is not satisfied with the service being provided by our current refuse bill collector. The office has explored various options and companies in an effort to find an alternative. She indicated that some discussion has been held with MTMA, and she believed they could be a good alternative. She indicated that prior to going any further she wanted some input from the Board as to what direction they were looking to take. Commissioner Keller responded that he feels the service we are currently receiving is not up to par with other companies, so he thought it would be a good idea to contact other companies. Secretary/Manager Eckhardt provided more information on the agencies contacted and the variety of ways that other municipalities are billing for reuse services. Commissioner Cook indicated that Creswell Heights would have been a good alternative because of their ability to shut off water, but they were not interested in billing for us at this time. Lynda Jones, an employee of MTMA, indicated that MTMA had the capability as well. Some more discussion was held. A motion was made to continue our talk with MTMA, obtain definitive numbers, look at other options and provide more detailed information to the board as to the comparisons of services was made by Commissioner Cook and seconded by Commissioner Keller. A roll call vote found all Commissioners in favor of the motion.

Next was the discussion and motion on the transfer of appointment to Portnoff Law Associates, LTD., as the Delinquent Liened Property Tax Collector for Crescent Township. Commissioner Patton asked if the office had contacted the delinquent collector of school taxes. Secretary/Manager Eckhardt indicated that she would need to verify with Assistant Secretary Kellie Crago as to whether or not they were contacted. Commissioner Patton thought we should contact them as they are already collecting delinquent taxes for the school. Commissioner Cook asked what the cost was to lien the properties in comparison to Portnoff. Secretary/Manager Eckhardt indicated that Andrews and Price was currently charging \$93.50 plus an additional \$11.00 per named defendant. Commissioner Cook wanted to know what these properties cost the Township to have the lien placed on them. Secretary/Manager Eckhardt responded that the costs are charged to the property account and Andrews and Price charges 7% from what they successfully collect. The Township pays Andrews and Price upon collection. Secretary/Manager Eckhardt stated that since we are going to look into other agencies she suggested we table this item until we have more information. A motion to table this item until we have more information and the Board is more prepared was made by Commissioner Cook and seconded by Commissioner Patton. A roll call vote was taken and all Commissioners were in favor of the motion.

A motion to direct Secretary/Manager to make monthly Business Meeting minutes available to the public after Board of Commissioner's approval of minutes was made by Commissioner Patton and seconded by Commissioner Sabol. A roll call vote was taken and all Commissioners were in favor of the motion.

Lastly, was the discussion regarding the Volunteer Fire Departments 1/2 mil Fire Referendum Tax. Commissioner Cook referenced that Commissioner's Patton and Sabol had a meeting with representative of the fire department about what they are allowed to use their ½ mil in taxes for. This is the money that they get every year based on the taxes the Township collects.

Commissioner Patton provided some more information on the meeting that was held, the information included on the referendum, and the Ordinances as adopted by the Township. She indicated that the fire department is having issues over what they are allowed to use the taxes for. She indicated that our Solicitor has spoken with the President of the fire department and what it comes down to is the interpretation of what was placed on the referendum. Commissioner Sabol added that they are running into situations where they are requesting to use these funds to pay some of their utilities at the fire department. He stated that the referendum could be interpreted two different ways. Solicitor Start added that in taking a closer look at the wording, perhaps it should have been worded differently when originally placed on the ballot. The first class township code authorizes a referendum that would have been broader in scope, but the language that was placed on the referendum is very narrow. Solicitor Start stated "The language specifically states purchase, maintain and operate firefighting apparatus, and suitable housing of firefighting apparatus." He referenced that when he spoke with Nancy Mallinder, he indicated that the portion of the fire facility that houses or garages the apparatus would be the only area eligible for utility reimbursement. He indicated that the fire department could get someone in for a reasonable cost, who can estimate what the costs of the utilities are for a certain area, even if it is not separately metered. Commissioner Patton provided information on the amount of taxes received and the expenses that were paid for fire apparatus. She also indicated that they would be seeing a slight increase this year due to the reassessment, providing everyone pays their taxes. Commissioner Cook indicated that our hands were tied and there was not anything more we could do. Secretary/Manager Eckhardt asked if this question could be placed on the ballot again with less narrow language that would allow the fire department to utilize the funds for utilities. Solicitor Start indicated it could be placed on the ballot again, but he believed that the time to do so had already passed. Commissioner Patton asked who would provide the estimate of usage of the utilities, and Solicitor Start referenced that he believed the utility company provided someone to conduct this service.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Marguerite Schofield of 183 McGovern Blvd commented on the street light that the board has discussed. She indicated that a street light had been there at one point in time. She also indicated that there was another one located in another area. She believed that the residents had them removed.

Kevin Scott, Fire Chief of the Crescent Township Volunteer Fire Department wanted to clarify some of the statements made by the Board of Commissioner and Solicitor pertaining to the interpretation of the referendum. He referenced that they needed to heat the building in order to store the apparatus appropriately. Solicitor Start responded that we can spend the referendum money on the areas associated with the storage, but not on the area of the social hall. Kevin stated that when this referendum was written and voted on overwhelmingly by Township residents, it never needed to go this far. He stated that the legislative intent of that referendum was for the sustainability of the fire department, in order to make sure that the fire department could fulfill its duties to the residents of this Township. Chief Scott referenced that they would have to get three meters to be allowed to use the referendum funds for payment of their gas and electric. Solicitor Start referenced that he cannot discern the legislative intent, he is duty bound to look at the letter of the law. Commissioner Cook stated that he thinks what has been done in

the past is taking the square footage of the separate areas and estimate the cost of the utilities for each area. Chief Scott referenced all of the uses of the social hall for emergency services stating that they provide cooling centers, warming centers and emergency generators in times of need. Commissioner Cook stated that we are all here to help each other but the referendum is very specific and housing people when it's hot and cold doesn't have anything to do with storing fire apparatus. He stated that this is our guide and what the people have agreed to pay for and we cannot vary from that. He believes that we need to look at the option of the percentage of square footage being used for storage of fire apparatus.

Eric Lineberry of 1358 Front Street asked what we could do to change the issue with the fire department. Commissioner Cook stated that it would have to go on the ballot. Secretary/Manager Eckhardt indicated that she would contact the Allegheny County Elections Office to determine if this could be placed on the ballot for this year in order to move forward with amending the referendum to have less strict language as to the usage of funds if the Board so wished. In the interim she indicated that she would look into the estimation of square footage to allow for more funding at this time.

COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS

Commissioner Keller wanted to thank our Emergency Management Coordinator, Denny Lewis, for his efforts in helping hold a class on Saturday, 26 January for First Responders. With Denny's help we had participants from Valley Ambulance, the Port Authority, CTVFD, CTPD, several lay-leaders from religious groups and two pastors. The class involved dealing with grief at the time of tragedy or loss. He also attended a class in Harrisburg on Friday, 1 February hosted by the PA Municipal League. The class started with a Legislative Update and had 4 other sections, the largest and most interesting by far was titled "Risky Behavior" on the part of municipal leaders and the things they do. He indicated that it was very informative and covered a lot of issues from municipal insurance coverage to how to deal with employees in the workplace environment. They also gave us a list of expert contacts to talk with and who will help move issues forward when we see violations occurring. He mentioned that the local Military Affairs Council expects to hear from the Pentagon and Military Affairs in DC within the next week to two weeks regarding their decision on the future of our local 911th Air Force Airlift Wing. There is a lot of speculation and maybe some relatively probable information coming from within the DC group but nothing will be entirely factual until they issue the decision. He also mentioned that he was in a meeting with Grady Alexander earlier this week and they talked about the fact his granddaughter is on the next series of Survivor on TV. He was excited and could not wait to watch the different episodes. If you get a chance, tune in and watch. He stated that if anyone is interested in hearing more about any of these three items, he will be around for a few minutes after the meeting and will be glad to answer any questions he is capable of answering.

Commissioner Sabol asked if there was any way we could help the fire department obtain the information for the referendum and the estimation of utilities. Secretary/Manager Eckhardt indicated that she would work with the fire department and do what she could to resolve the issue.

Commissioner Cook added that Lauren was on Survivor last night and she made it through the first episode.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Commissioner Patton and seconded by Commissioner Keller. A voice vote was taken and all commissioners were in favor of the motion. The meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Certified as a true and correct copy.

Respectfully Submitted,

Patience Eckhardt
Secretary/Manager

(Seal)