

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

On March 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, Joe Sabol and Diane Cvengros

Secretary/Manager: Patience Eckhardt

Solicitor: Richard Start

Engineer: Kevin Brett

Commissioners Patton and Cvengros announced that they would be recording the meeting.

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 February 23, 2013 regular business meeting minutes. A motion to accept the minutes as presented was made by Commissioner Patton and seconded by Commissioner Sabol. A roll call vote found all Commissioners in favor of the motion.

TREASURER'S REPORT

The Treasurer's Report dated February 28, 2013 was presented to the Board for their approval. A motion to accept the February 28, 2013 Treasurer's Report as received 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.

LIST OF BILLS

The list of bills was presented. The funds removed from the General Fund for the month of February were \$115,122.29. The funds removed from the General Fund prior to the monthly meeting were \$13,669.73. Invoices due total \$32,402.76 and the estimated payroll for March is \$42,000.00. Total disbursements from the Highway Fund for street lights is \$3,960.48, which brings the total estimated bills for March to \$92,032.97. 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 February the Crescent Township Secretary/Manager's Office received the following correspondence. We received the Moon Township Municipal Authority Minutes and the November edition of the Allegheny County Recycling Newsletter. We received the Char-West COG Board of Directors Meeting Minutes as well as the January edition of the Legislative Locator. The office received correspondence from the Moon Area School District relative to the compensation plans for the school district's elected real estate tax collectors for years 2014 through 2018. We received a correspondence from the Moon Township Municipal Authority regarding their consideration of solid waste customer billing for Crescent Township. They have indicated that at this point in time they are not willing to perform this service. Lastly, we received a correspondence from Debra Garuccio the elected Tax Collector of Crescent Township, indicating that she is not interested in the appointed position of Treasurer for the 2014 year and informing the Board that she would not be seeking re-election for the four year term and position of Tax Collector/Treasurer for Crescent Township. She expressed that it has been her pleasure serving the Community of Crescent for the past eight years.

SECRETARY/MANAGER'S REPORT

During the month of February the Crescent Township Secretary/Manager's Office completed the following work. We gathered information pertaining to the collection of Delinquent Liened Property Taxes for the Township, prepared the advertisement and required notifications for the McCutcheon Way Slide Repairs in accordance with the provisions outlined. We reviewed grant information pertaining to the crosswalk issue on McGovern and have contacted PennDOT requesting assistance for the design of the installation and associated engineering studies related to this matter. We handled several matters involving the residents of the Township as well as contacted the auditor to begin the process of conducting the 2012 audit. We completed all of the changes in the chart of accounts per DCED standards as well as reviewed and prepared information for the Board of Commissioners review pertaining to the delinquent tax accounts as reported by Debra Garuccio.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Solicitor Start reported that for the month of February, his office reviewed bidding documents regarding the repairs to be performed on McCutcheon Way. His office has also reviewed

documents and issued correspondence regarding a pending grievance in the Public Works Department. They have reviewed documents relevant to the placement of a referendum question on the General Election Ballot concerning financial support for the Fire Department as well as documents related to an insurance claim for damages at the Fire Department. They reviewed document and performed legal services attendant to a claim that has been filed with the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, reviewed document relating to the advertisement for the collection of garbage refuse as well as reviewed a number of documents pertaining to real estate tax appeals that have been filed for property located in the Township.

ENGINEER'S REPORT

Robert Firek reported the following report on behalf of Lennon, Smith, Souleret Engineering, Inc. He reported that relative to MS4, there have been no changes this month. The permit should be issued in March of 2013 and the service order for 2013 is to be reviewed at the March BOC meeting. He stated that we should expect to receive ours relatively soon. He informed the Board that they would be hosting an informational seminar pertaining to MS4 on March 28 at the Neville Island Sports Arena from 11:30 until 1:00 p.m. where they will be going over the new regulations and requirements and what we will need to do to keep ourselves compliant. Regarding the McCutcheon Way Slide, the bids were opened yesterday, March 13, 2013 and he has prepared and brought with him bid reports. He stated that they are recommending award to Mountain Top Excavating LLC, which was the low bidder in the amount of \$207,664.00. The bid seems to be in accordance with the requirements. They have discussed this with the CITF grant administrator and we are able to proceed with the award of this contract. Commissioner Patton wanted to make everyone aware that the grant we received from the County was only for \$200,000.00, so we will be using taxpayers' money to fund the rest of this project. Commissioner Cook responded that we do have \$50,000.00 set aside for this project, but it was also reported that there is an estimated \$40,000.00 left after engineering invoices have been paid. Lastly, it was reported that regarding the 2013 road project, they have sent out the utility notifications informing them of the roads that were determined. He reported that he did receive a response today from Moon Township Municipal Authority, and they have indicated that they would like to complete sewer upgrades on Sautter, but they did not have the funds, nor would they be able to get out a bid package in order to complete the work this year. They would like to complete the work next year. Mr. Firek informed them that he would discuss this with the Board. Moon Township Municipal Authority is requesting that we delay the project until 2014 so they can complete all of the necessary work on that roadway section. Some discussion was held as to what the Board wished to do, and there were also some questions posed as to what other roads could possibly be completed and how much of the sewer work would be contained under our roadway. It was ultimately determined that the Board wished to find out what Moon Township Municipal Authority's project would entail prior to making a decision.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

PUBLIC SAFETY

Commissioner Sabol reported that during the month of February there were 98 calls for service, 101 total complaints for the month, 9 calls to assist other police departments and 6 medical calls. They issued 10 warnings for traffic offenses, 2 non-traffic citations were issued, 2 traffic citations, and 0 parking citations/warnings were issued. This brings the total citations/warning issued for the month to 14. He reported that there were six arrests for the month. The arrests were for criminal mischief; loitering/prowling at night; harassment; possessing instruments of crime, simple assault; harassment; recklessly endangering another person, two DUI's, disorderly conduct; public intoxication, and burglary; theft; receiving stolen property; former convict not to possess a firearm; criminal mischief. The vehicles travelled a total of 2,840 miles in the month. Car #107 had the radiator fan and module replaced as well as the left rear turn signal bulb replaced. All the work was completed by Grady's. He reported that the police department investigated a theft of a \$2,800.00 insurance check from a Crescent resident. A suspect was identified, and restitution was made to the victim in lieu of prosecution, as agreed by the victim and their power of attorney. The police department also investigated a burglary and theft of firearms from a Crescent residence. A suspect was identified and arrested. With the assistance of the Aliquippa Police Department, further investigation resulted in the recovery of the firearms in Aliquippa. Additional information from this investigation resulted in the identification and arrest of a suspect accused of aggravated assault in Hopewell Township. The victim was an elderly man who is expected to lose his vision in one eye from the assault. Relative to schooling and seminars, Officers Lopata and Hale attended mandatory legal updated. Officer Lopata also participated in a DUI roving patrol in Crescent Township on Friday, February 22, 2013 from 11:00 p.m. until 4:00 a.m., as part of the West hills DUI Task Force. Four traffic stops were made for various traffic offences and warnings were issued. A fifth traffic stop resulted in a DUI arrest.

PUBLIC WORKS

Commissioner Cook reported that during the month of February 2013 the public works department completed the following work. They completed four Pa Once Calls which included one routine, two emergencies and one final design. Employee, Shawn Collins, attended a PA One Call locator Class. The SCHACOG Spring Commodities survey was completed for supplies and material quantities for this year's anticipated projects. MS4 annual inspections were performed on all catch basins in the 300 (Huntsridge) and 400 (Harper Village) sections of the Township. Additional mapping components were added to the MS4 map as per LSSE's requests as these additions were not previously requested. Treatment of the roadways during snow and ice storms has been ongoing throughout the month. With the season's total material usage at approximately 600 tons, we are well below the average of 1500 tons, which in turn will afford us the opportunity to purchase additional road materials for various projects we would like to complete this year. In conjunction with the snow removal, routine cleaning and maintenance is always performed on the trucks, equipment and garage areas. Pothole patching is a routine task performed as the potholes develop. Allegheny County Public Works has been contacted on

various occasions concerning the deteriorating condition of a particular portion road surface on Spring Run Road and the guide rail that had sunk below a safe level. A crew was dispatched to raise the guide rail as a temporary precaution with the understanding that they have scheduled to properly repair the roadway with some kind of retaining wall in the spring of 2013. Our public works department assisted the office in grant research and alternative for the McGovern crosswalk site, along with contacting Penn DOT regarding the Engineering studies and installation process of the same. Lastly, all of the light fixtures in the front lobby have been replaced.

FINANCE

Commissioner Patton reported that our revenues for February continue to come in slow, but this is normal for this time of year. She wanted to remind everyone again that we are living on our Tax Anticipation Loan. Our revenues and our expenditures are on track with our budget. She cautioned the department heads, that until we start seeing our revenues increase, we need to be very cautious about our spending. Everyone should have received their real estate tax bills recently and she stated that the Township is asking that the residents take advantage of this discount period for remittance of your payment as soon as possible. She referenced that later in the meeting, Debra Garuccio has asked for the Board to exonerate her for the 2012 unpaid tax balance. The exonerated balance for 2012 is \$53,770.41. The exonerated amount just keeps escalating from one year to another. She referenced how the amount has increased every year and stated that it was due to the times and the state of the economy.

PARKS AND RECREATION

Commissioner Cvengros reported that the Parks Board met on Tuesday, March 12, 2013. This meeting was devoted primarily to the discussion of the purchase of new playground equipment for Shouse Park and the construction of a shelter for Huntsridge Park. Tim Palko did a preliminary estimate for the construction of a shelter at Huntsridge if they were to purchase the necessary parts and build it themselves. Tim is going to check with Ken Barrick of Recreation Creations regarding the cost of purchasing a structure from them. The board will then decide which option is more cost effective and proceed from there. The board then picked out two possible play structures to be purchased for Shouse Park. Recreation Creations is to get back to them with an "out the door" cost for each of these and the board voted to purchase the one that best fits our current budget. The Parks Board would like to remind you that they will be selling Avon products from April 9 thru April 26 as a fundraiser. Please contact any board member if you would be interested in purchasing any Avon products. You will be able to choose your items from the booklet that is current at that time. Their next regular meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 9, 2013, at 7:00 p.m., in the Multi-Purpose Room. All are welcome to attend.

Commissioner Cvengros reported on behalf of the recreation board the Recreation Board will meet on March 18th at 7:30 PM in the Multi-Purpose Room, this will be their re-organization meeting. They will be preparing for the Easter Event at this meeting. The Easter Event will be March 30th at 1:00 PM.

CRESCENT TOWNSHIP VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

Glen Kriger reported on behalf of the fire department that since the last meeting they have answered six fire calls. He reported that they have had 20 hours of in house training. The fire department has had three men complete training that was required at the Allegheny County Fire Academy. Relative to fundraising, their fund drive is out and inside the fund drive there is information pertaining to another fundraiser which involves a program to save the residents money on their electrical bills. He stated that if the residents were to chose to switch their electricity, this company is offering a discount and money to the fire department for new accounts. The information is in the fund drive packet and he wanted people to review it. Their bingo has been every Sunday night, and so far it is helping to keep them going. Nancy Mallinder shared that during the winter months they slow down, and now with the bridge being out they may see more of an impact. She referenced that they are usually seeing anywhere from 70 to 100 people in attendance. The fire department is also selling tickets for a gun raffle. They provided some information on the raffle and indicated that anyone who is interested in purchasing a ticket can contact any fire department member.

VALLEY AMBULANCE AUHORITY

Wendy Schulenburg reported that the Valley Ambulance Authority new subscription started March 1, 2013 and they have gone out. She reported that they have had several calls regarding this change, but overall they seem be having a good response. She also reported that they have re-done their website, which is valleyamb.org, and she indicated that you can now subscribe and pay online.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT REPORT

Secretary/Manager Eckhardt reported on behalf of the emergency manger, Denny Lewis. He reported that he was contacted by Allegheny County on March 5, 2013 for a severe winter storm warning. He was on vacation and worked with the Township Office on contacting his deputies and the police department. Arrangements were made to handle any problems which included the preparations for a warming shelter at the Crescent Township Volunteer Fire Department. That evening, he personally spoke to Danny Muller and Officer Leo Laffey and confirmed that all the necessary preparations had been made. He also spoke with Valley Ambulance and provided them with contact numbers in case they were to have any problems responding to calls in the Township. The storm passed through and was not as severe as they predicted, but Crescent Township was prepared anyway. This spring, we are not expecting to have any major problems with flooding, barring unforeseen major snow storms in the next few weeks. The next item that the emergency management team will be working on is the severe spring storms. We have been very lucky the past several years, but we know we will be prepared for anything that happens. He wanted to assure all of the residents of the Township that with Valley Ambulance Authority, the police and public works department, as well as the continuous volunteer efforts of the Crescent Fire Department, any situation will be handled promptly and professionally.

OLD BUSINESS

The first item under Old Business was the discussion and motion on the appointed Delinquent Liened Property Tax Collector for Crescent Township. Commissioner Cook referenced that a lot of information was provided in the packets and he opened the floor for discussion.

Commissioner Patton indicated that they had discussed this last month, and the office had put together a chart in order to review the information. She had previously indicated her interest in utilizing Ira Weiss as a collector, since they are the current collector for the school district. She referenced how we are continuously seeing an increase in delinquent taxes every year. After more discussion Commissioner Patton stated that she believed that we should choose the same collector as Moon Area School District. She also referenced that Ira Weiss had recommended the Township adopt a Resolution in accordance with Act 20, which would allow us to recover our fees associated with collection. Commissioner Cvengros posed a few questions relative to the costs associated with the collection. Secretary/Manager Eckhardt stated that she believed Ira Weiss and Portnoff were very comparable in their costs, but the potential to see a greater return by utilizing Ira Weiss was an additional benefit. Commissioner Patton made the motion to make Ira Weiss the collector of the Liened Property Tax for Crescent Township. This motion was 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 on the bids received relative to the McCutcheon Way Road Slide Repairs Engineer, Robert Firek, had made the recommendation earlier that we award the bid to the lowest bidder, which was Mountain Top Excavation, LLC, for the bid amount of \$207,664.00. A motion to award the bid as recommended to Mountain Top Excavation was made by Commissioner Sabol and seconded by Commissioner Cvengros. A roll call vote found all Commissioners in favor of the motion.

The board then had discussion and motion regarding the drafting of an ordinance to address the Volunteer Fire Departments ½ mil Fire Tax. Commissioner Cook stated that a fire referendum had previously been passed that limited the fire department as to what they could use the money for. He referenced that they are unable to use these funds for the portions of the building that are not utilized for the storage of fire apparatus and they want to have the option to use the funds for this purpose. He stated that the Board can not approve this and their hands are tied. He stated that the only way to address this was to place it back on the referendum. Commissioner Patton wanted clarification on why we had to draft an ordinance. Secretary/Manager Eckhardt responded that an ordinance is required by the Allegheny County Election Board. A motion to approve the draft of an ordinance to place this subject on the ballot as a referendum 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.

NEW BUSINESS

The first item under New Business was the discussion and motion on the payment out of the Fire Department's Referendum Account for the deductible involved in the Crescent Township Volunteer Fire Department Claim for repairs to the building due to water damage. Commissioner Cook provided some information on the damage incurred and he asked Solicitor Start to provide a recommendation. Solicitor Start stated that upon his review of the bill it appeared that a portion of the work was for remediation for mold that needed to be rectified. He stated that if his reading of the bill was correct then the building could not be safely used until the mold had been removed. He thought it would be justified to pay the deductible from the referendum account. A motion to approve the payment of the deductible 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 to extend the contract with Portnoff Law Associates for delinquent garbage collection claims until February 16, 2016 per the terms of the amended contract. A motion to approve the contract was made by Commissioner Keller and seconded by Commissioner Sabol. A roll call vote found all Commissioners in favor of the motion.

The next item was the discussion and motion on the request for permission to conduct a three-dimensional seismic survey from Seitel. Commissioner Cook referenced that this pertains to gas drilling as they do seismic testing to find out where the Marcellus shale is. He indicated that this testing would be conducted in a small portion of Huntsridge Park. A motion to approve the seismic survey was made by Commissioner Keller 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 exonerate Debra Garuccio of the unpaid 2012 tax balance which has been turned over the Andrew's & Price in the amount of \$53,770.41. Commissioner Patton asked about the information that was included in the packet pertaining to vacant land that we are looking into removing from the delinquent list. The total amount of these properties was \$3,639.81. She stated that they had never received this list before and Secretary/Manager Eckhardt responded that the office had never prepared a list like this before to present. Commissioner Patton asked who determined to take these accounts off of the list and who was going to be responsible for the maintenance of these properties. Secretary/Manager Eckhardt responded that removing these accounts for collection was in no way taking on the maintenance of the properties. She indicated that the Township would simply not be attempting collection on the accounts referenced on the list due to their minimal amount due, being vacant land, as well as the perception that they were not likely to be purchased and developed in the future. She referenced that for most of them the cost of collection would be greater than the taxes owed. Commissioner Patton clarified that the property owner would still be responsible for the maintenance, and Secretary/Manager Eckhardt indicated that the properties would be treated the same as all others in regards to property maintenance. Commissioner Cook asked if this list was compiled by the office and Secretary/Manager Eckhardt confirmed that it was. Commissioner Cook asked about a specific property that he believed to be developable. He stated that he believes there has been inquires on this property and he recommended that we eliminate that property from this list and we attempt collection. Secretary/Manager Eckhardt indicated that the property would be removed prior to being submitted to the delinquent tax collector. After some more discussion a motion to exonerate Debbie Garuccio for the 2012 unpaid tax balance in the

amount of \$53,770.41 was made by Commissioner Cvengros and seconded by Commissioner Sabol. A roll call vote was taken and all Commissioners were in favor of the motion.

Lastly, was the discussion and motion for replacing the video system and enacting a sign in sheet in the office. Commissioner Cook stated that we have had video cameras in the office for a long time and we have stripped it to keep the ones in the police department going. He indicated that in the past we have installed these cameras ourselves and we could get an eight camera system that would cover our interior offices, our lobby and probably even a few in the garage. He also thought that we should enact a sign in sheet so that we will know who is coming and going in the building, how long they are here and what their business is. Commissioner Cook made the motion to approve the replacement of the video system and the enactment of a sign in sheet. Commissioner Keller stated that as it was mentioned earlier we are living on our tax anticipation loan, and Commissioner Cook responded that the taxes are out and are starting to come in. Commissioner Keller stated that he would prefer that we wait. Commissioner Patton indicated that she believed this was a good idea as this is a government office and we have people walking in that we do not know who they are. She stated that for the safety, we should know who is in this building. Commissioner Cook stated that he had a motion on the table and asked for a second. Commissioner Patton seconded it. During the roll call vote, Commissioner Cvengros asked Commissioner Patton if this would be an issue due to our fund availability. Secretary/Manager Eckhardt asked for clarification as to whether the board was looking for estimates, or simply to purchase it. Commissioner Cook stated that he wants it to be purchased up to \$1,500 for an eight camera system. Commissioner Cvengros again wanted to ensure that the funds were available and that we get the best system we can. The roll call vote found Commissioners Cook, Patton, Sabol and Cvengros in favor of the motion with Commissioner Keller opposed. The motion carried 4-1.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Lauren Schukart of 962 Harper Road stated that in regards to the Seitel issue, she asked if the Board had seen the article in the Times and that South Heights and Hopewell had meetings on the subject. She indicated that if they cause damage to the pipes, the property owners would be responsible for it and she indicated that some of the information the company is providing is inaccurate. She stated other municipalities are having huge meetings on this subject and she did not know if the board had researched this topic enough. She thought that the board should put this item back on the agenda and take it off because they could be causing damage to the homes in the Township and we are going to be responsible for it.

Wendy Schulenburg of 683 Crescent Blvd referenced that she had the same reaction as Lauren to the seismic testing. She said that when someone says seismic they are rattling our ground, and the Township has wells. She asked if we knew what we were saying yes to. She was surprised that the Board agreed without enough information and she did not think it was a good idea.

Judy Withee of 500 Crescent Blvd Ext referenced that a few months ago we were in correspondence with Moon Township regarding a meeting for sharing services and Moon had invited Crescent to come and discuss this subject. She asked if the Crescent Board has met with Moon Township at all. Commissioner Sabol and Patton responded that they have not.

Judy Withee then wanted to express her disappointment over the expense of the repairs to McCutcheon Way when the Army Corps of Engineers was willing to fix it for no cost and this was a waste of Township money. Commissioner Cook responded that it was not Township money, that it was a grant we were utilizing. Judy Withee commented that the grant only gave us \$200,000 and the Board just approved bidding out another \$207,000, which she understands to be in addition to what the Township is giving us. The Board clarified that this was not in addition to the grant funds. Judy Withee responded that this was her mistake, referencing that was how it had come across to her. Commissioner Cook stated that the Army Corps was not going to just come in and fix the road for the use of our park. He stated that we were giving up rights to our park for over the next twenty years and this board as a whole researched it and voted against it. He indicated that we had no idea when they were going to come in and we were giving them all rights to our park. He indicated that we had worked very hard on this grant and at the time they made their offer, we were very confident that we were going to get this grant but it had to play out. He is very happy that we are able to do this as we control and own our park. He also stated that the parks board just the other night allotted between \$15,000 and \$20,000 to put in a new play area and equipment in the park that is handicap accessible. He is looking forward to opening the park to the residents. Commissioner Patton indicated we are very pleased as to where the bids came in.

Some discussion was held between the Commissioners and the Solicitors as to how they could address this issue of the seismic survey and Commissioner Cook indicated that he wanted to get through public comment and address this under Commissioner comments.

Glen Kriger, the Assistant Chief of the Crescent Township Fire Department stated that at the last meeting, their Chief was here and he was not happy with the way the meeting went. He indicated that the fire department had a meeting with Commissioners Patton and Sabol where they discussed the issue and they thought it had gone very well. He then referenced that at the meeting, the board let the Solicitor be the word and the law of the Township Commissioners. He provided information to the Commissioners on the definition of apparatus. He indicated that the issue was the maintenance of the building. He also did not believe that another referendum was necessary. He believes that the definition of apparatus allows for the payment of the bills as the fire department is requesting. He provided information on the referendum that was approved by the Commissioners and sent to the residents of the Township. He questioned how it was allowed to pay a deductible in a section of the building that the Township indicated they cannot pay the utilities on. Mr. Kriger indicated that in the past, the Township has paid for utilities and now they are indicating they cannot. He indicated that the entire fire department is storing fire apparatus and we are picking something apart that does not need to be. Mr. Kriger asked if the Solicitor's opinion has changed, and Solicitor Start indicated that it had not. Commissioner Cook asked Mr. Kriger if the fire department had a Solicitor, and Mr. Kriger indicated that they did not but they could obtain one if necessary. Commissioner Cook stated that he would like their opinion on it, and he continued to state that the prior occurrences referenced were entirely different boards and different operations than what we have now. He read some information from the referendum and indicated that he was against placing this on a referendum again because he is afraid that at this time, it would not be approved and the fire department would lose the referendum that we already have in place. He referenced that our Solicitor keeps us out of trouble and tells what we

can legally do and not do and it is his opinion that we cannot use the money as the fire department is requesting. After more discussion, it was determined that the Solicitor would visit the fire department to determine if his opinion would be changed, but his opinion of apparatus had not been changed. Commissioner Cook stated that we have to do this to the legal limits of the law and our hands are bound but we are trying to help. Mr. Kriger stated his surprise that it even came to this and he doubted that the residents would be concerned with their using these funds to pay their gas and electric bills. He said that the fire department does not want to come to the residents for more taxes and they use these funds to host events to offset the costs associated with the functions of the fire department. Mr. Kriger indicated that the Chief did not feel that he was treated fairly at the last meeting and that if this had to back on the ballot, it should be as an amendment to the referendum. Some more discussion was held between the Commissioners and members of the public and Solicitor Start indicated that he would tour the building and provide an answer.

Judy Withee asked if copies of the minutes were available and it was indicated that they were.

COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS

Commissioner Sabol stated that he does not think there is any member of this board that does not want the fire department to use that money for what they need it for and he is not opposed to it. He referenced that it was how the referendum was written and they cannot do anything about it.

Commissioner Patton wanted to comment that in regards to the fire Chief feeling as he was treated unfairly, she strongly disagrees with him on that comment. She thinks that last month, they explained what happened at the meeting and she thinks what happened was that discussion was held and Kevin was upset because he was not hearing or getting the answers that he would have liked. She then wanted to make the recommendation that in regards to the request for the minutes, that right after the board approves the minutes, the Secretary/Manager will have the minutes with her and place them on the table for the residents so people will not have to wait until after the meeting to receive them.

Commissioner Cvengros reported on the Ohio River Trail Council meeting that she and Secretary/Manager Eckhardt attended. She stated that they are moving along and Coraopolis is on board with the project. Some brownstone studies are being conducted and funding is being provided for these projects. She stated that there are substantial gains from participating in this project. She thinks that it will be beneficial for our Township. She stated that there is another meeting later this month that she and Secretary/Manager Eckhardt will be attending and they will provide more information at that time.

Commissioner Keller reported that information was recently received that the 911th will remain open through 2014 or until a BRAC in early 2015. He reported that Congressman Tim Murphy stated all of the base jobs were secure, as are the planes and everything will run as normal. The sequester that we are going through will cause military personnel pay to be cut 20%, which could be the only item that has an effect. He reported that the super bowl of hockey, the USA Hockey National Championships, is being held at Consol Energy next month.

Commissioner Cook asked for a motion to add a motion to the agenda. A motion to allow the addition was made by Commissioner Patton and seconded by Commissioner Cvengros. A voice vote found all Commissioners in favor of the motion.

A motion to reconsider the Seitel seismic survey until it is reviewed by the Township Engineer, Lennon, Smith and Souleret was made by Commissioner Cook and seconded by Commissioner Patton. A roll call vote found all Commissioners in favor of the motion.

Commissioner Sabol asked to put a motion on the table to remove the fire referendum. Commissioner Cook stated that we needed a motion to add a motion to the agenda first. Commissioner Sabol then made a motion to add this item to the agenda. This motion was seconded by Commissioner Cook.

Commissioner Sabol then asked that we retract the motion that had been previously made regarding the fire referendum. Some discussion was held as to whether we should not move forward with changing the referendum as previously approved. Solicitor Start provided some information on his opinion regarding the referendum. He explained that our referendum was drafted too narrowly but he was willing to look at the facility and keep an open mind.

Harriet Lewis stated that they never intended for the referendum to limit the usage, the intent was for the fire department to use the money for whatever they needed. Solicitor Start responded that the referendum was drafted too narrowly for that. Some more discussion was held between the Commissioners, the Solicitor and members of the public pertaining to the referendum.

Noreen Brennan of 570 Sautter asked if the Easter Party and Pancake Breakfast were still being held hostage by the fire department. Mr. Kriger indicated that he would have to speak to the membership. He indicated that they had to look at their side on this, that if they cannot turn on the electricity they cannot host Township events there. They have to be able to pay their utilities. Noreen asked how long it would be before they had an answer. Commissioner Keller indicated that he understood that someone had stepped forward and indicated they would rent the fire hall if need be. The Easter Party would be able to be held there.

Commissioner Cook asked if Commissioner Patton had numbers on how much money the Township contributes to the fire department annually. Commissioner Patton estimated that \$97,000 is contributed annually. Commissioner Cook indicated that this is taxpayer's money so it is not as if the Township is not supporting the fire department. Commissioner Patton provided some more information on the specific bills paid on behalf of the fire department. Mr. Kriger responded that by law they have to pay these bills to support the fire department. Commissioner Patton indicated that she was not saying they did not have to pay it, but it is taxpayers' money supporting the fire department. Commissioner Cook referenced that he did not want to see this come between the Township and fire department and we need to stay on good terms. He indicated that we try to give them as much as we can, but our hands are bound as to what we can allow them to use it for. Discussion continued on this topic.

Cindy Fetscher of 972 Glen Hays Drive stated that she was support for the fire department. She indicated that with our efforts of changing the language on the referendum and the Solicitor meeting with Mr. Kriger, if we could determine what needed to be done within the next month

that would be great. She referenced that this would be a lot of hard work. This does not drag on need to drag on, because right now the Township is dragging this on. She stated that everyone is saying the same thing. She questioned why we could not just do it and get it over with.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Commissioner Patton and seconded by Commissioner Cvengros. A voice vote was taken and all commissioners were in favor of the motion. The meeting adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

Certified as a true and correct copy.

Respectfully Submitted,

Patience Eckhardt
Secretary/Manager

(Seal)