

**Township of Crescent  
Board of Commissioners  
Monthly Business Meeting  
April 11, 2013**

On April 11, 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 Diane Cvengros, Joe Sabol and Jerry Keller via teleconference

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**

Judy Nugent of 1274 Needham Street asked for information on the seismic survey item on the agenda. She asked what the agenda item was about. Commissioner Cook responded that it would be addressed and if she had anything to state about she could, that they do not answer questions at this time. Judy responded that she would need to know what it is about and asked if it was about fracking within our Township. Commissioner Cook responded that it was about seismic surveys. Solicitor Start responded that a company has been soliciting a lot of properties in the Township to perform tests on their property. They can use either explosives or sound waves and we have had our engineer look into it. He has presented a proposed ordinance as a way to control the testing.

Commission Cook wanted to clarify to everyone that item four on the agenda was public comment on agenda items. It is the publics' opportunity to stand up and state that they are against something and ask the Board not authorize it or govern it. He stated that it is not the time for questions and answers; it is the time for the public to state their opinion.

Sam Tranter of 340 Hart Drive wanted to comment on the subject of seismic testing that there are two types of testing, being the thumper trucks and the explosives. Everyone is concerned about the explosives, but actually this method is less intrusive than the thumper trucks. He stated that he has personal experience that the thumper trucks do a lot more damage.

Harriet Lewis of 222 Jackson Street asked what the Ordinance changing the eighty foot section on McGovern was about. Commissioner Cook stated that this is supposed to be public comment. Secretary/Manager Eckhardt responded that we are looking to amend that Ordinance to include a section on McGovern that was just made no parking.

Lauren Schukart of 962 Harper Road wanted to comment on item number six under new business, which is the transfer of garbage billing service collection. She wanted to comment that she hoped the Board changed billing services. She relayed that Secretary/Manager Eckhardt and herself had an issue with them several years ago, where her property was going to be Liened after they had been mailing the bill to a completely different address after they had lived there for many years. She commented that Secretary/Manager Eckhardt sorted the situation, but she feels that we need to change billing services.

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Commissioner Cook asked if there were comments changes or a motion to approve the minutes of the March 14, 2013 regular business meeting minutes. Commissioner Patton had two corrections that she would like to add. She commented that under roll call, Commissioner Cvengros was present at the meeting and she is not listed. Some discussion was held as to whether or not Commissioner Cvengros was in attendance. It was determined that she was and the minutes would be changed to reflect this accordingly. The second item that Commissioner Patton wanted corrected was that under public comment, she wanted a section added under Mrs. Withee's comments expressing her disappointment over the expense of the repairs to McCutcheon Way. Commissioner Patton wanted it added that Mrs. Withee had commented that she thought we were adding an additional \$207,000 out of our budget, she did apologize to the Board and quoted that it was her mistake. She asked that this be reflected in the minutes. Commissioner Cook wanted a correction to be made, and that was under the exoneration of Debbie Garuccio and the comments that were made there. He said that when referencing the list of properties that were taken off of the lien list because they were not worthy of the money that it costs to lien them. He stated that he had asked Secretary/Manager Eckhardt who was responsible for compiling this list and that she had responded that the office chose and picked who came off the list and he would like that added. A motion to approve the minutes with these changes was made by Commissioner Patton and seconded by Commissioners Cvengros. A roll call vote found all Commissioners in favor of the motion.

## **TREASURER'S REPORT**

The Treasurer's Report dated March 31, 2013 was presented to the Board for their approval. A motion to accept the March 31, 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 March were \$104,937.05. The funds removed from the General Fund prior to the monthly meeting were \$22,124.42. Invoices due total \$39,507.37 and the estimated payroll for April is \$42,000.00. Total disbursements from the Highway Fund for street lights are \$3,978.94, which brings the total estimated bills for April to \$107,610.73. 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 March the Crescent Township Office received the following correspondence. We received the Char West COG Board of Directors meeting minutes, the February and March editions of the legislative locator, the 2013 Spring Conference Tentative agenda and the minutes from the homeless education network meeting. We also received the February/March edition of the MRM Trustnotes and a notice of a special 2013 dividend to PLT Members.

Commissioner Cook asked Secretary/Manager Eckhardt: "Have we heard from the State as to when they are coming in to sweep our streets." Secretary/Manager Eckhardt responded "We have not; we do not have a work schedule in place. We are waiting for them to provide some numbers." Commissioner Cook asked "Do we have a time projection, can we maybe call them because we are getting into the time." Secretary/Manager Eckhardt responded "I think we have been in contact with them at least once a week trying to get those numbers to us but I will contact them again."

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

During the month of March the Secretary/Managers office completed the following work. We began updating the proposed garbage contract that will go out to bid for the 2014 year. At this time the Board should start considering whether they wish to include a provision for recycling in these bid specifications. The office worked on the sidewalk cleanliness reminder letters as well as drafted a new letter for several residences that have low hanging trees affecting the safe passage of vehicles within the Township. We attended the annual MS-4 training and began working on several matters that will need to be addressed with the new requirements. We attended the McCutcheon Way pre-bid and bid opening meetings, worked with the auditor on the completion of our 2012 audit, reviewed and prepared several resolutions and ordinances for the board's review, as well as contacted several agencies in order to provide information to the Board of Commissioners for the change of our garbage billing service provider. We completed our update with general code for the Township's Codified Ordinances, completed several audit reports for various vendors the Township utilizes, handled several employee issues pertaining to previous year's payroll taxes as well as handled several residential issues with the 2012 and 2013 garbage bill collection.

## **SOLICITOR'S REPORT**

Solicitor Start reported that for the month of March his office continues to review miscellaneous documents pertaining to the repair project on McCutcheon Way, plus continues to monitor legal pleadings associated with various real estate tax appeals pending in Allegheny County. He reported that he toured the fire department building on March 18, 2013 and confirmed that firefighting apparatus is being stored and maintained in every room of the building; therefore utility bills for the entire building can be lawfully paid from the Referendum tax fund. On garbage collection, they have reviewed various documents associated with the contract for unpaid garbage bills, and they have reviewed various documents, contracts, ordinances and policies regarding employee compensation. He also stated that it should be noted for the record that they met in an executive session this evening from 7:00 p.m. until 7:30 p.m. to discuss this issue.

## **ENGINEER'S REPORT**

Robert Firek reported the following report on behalf of Lennon, Smith, Souleret Engineering, Inc. He reported that relative to MS-4, later in the meeting he is going to conduct a short presentation for everyone. He stated that he had handed out a long power point presentation with more information. They also provided a service order authorization which is on the agenda later in the meeting. For the McCutcheon Way Slide, the project was awarded to Mountain Top Excavation, LLC in the total amount of \$207,664.00. The pre-construction meeting was scheduled for April 10, 2013 at 11:00 a.m. The County will also be present to review the CITF Grant requirements with the contractor. For the 2013 roads, he has the advertisement, if the Board so chooses to put the base bid and add alternate out for bid. They started preparing the plans and specifications after the February meeting and they wanted to double check this evening whether or not the Board wished to put this project out to bid. The project would not start until mid summer.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **PUBLIC SAFETY**

Commissioner Sabol reported that during the month of March there were 136 calls for service, 137 total complaints for the month, 3 calls to assist other police departments and 1 medical call. They issued 22 warnings for traffic offenses, 1 non-traffic citation was issued, 20 traffic citations, and 6 parking citations/warnings were issued. This brings the total citations/warning issued for the month to 49. He reported that there were three arrests for the month. The arrests were for aggravated assault; resisting arrest and public drunkenness, with the other two being for habitual offender; driving under suspension. The vehicles travelled a total of 3,469 miles for the month. Car #106 had the passenger side air bag switch oil and filter replaced by Grady's. Car #107 had the intake manifold; thermostat; eight spark plugs; two coils and the oil and filter replaced by Grady's as well. For correspondence, they received a thank you card from a Crescent resident expressing appreciation for the police department's response offered upon the death of their

spouse. Relative to schooling and seminars, Chief Zimmel, Captain Longerman, and Officers Laffey, Zurynski, Brooks, Smailbegovic, and Suder attended mandatory legal updates.

## **PUBLIC WORKS**

Commissioner Cook reported that during the month of March 2013 the Public Works Department completed the following; Shawn Collins attended Flagger Safety Training class presented by Risk Management. Crescent was also represented at a Salt Brine Demonstration sponsored by North Fayette. Also in attendance was John Scott of Moon Township Public Works who relayed that Moon is going to purchase this system and will be approaching Crescent with an offer to participate in a joint venture to share costs. Several new Street signs were replaced in Wireton, Reynard Drive, Crest Drive and on Harper Road. The podium in the Multipurpose Room was re-wired, a downed tree blocking Sugar Grove Rd was removed and properly disposed, as well as "NO PARKING" signs were installed on McGovern Blvd as requested by Chief Zimmel. Snow removal and vehicle maintenance continued through the entire month March. The front parking lot was cleaned to present respectable appearance prior to the Easter Party. A total of 10 PA-One calls were responded to in the month of March which included seven routine responses, one emergency response and two final design requests.

Our Annual MS-4 training provided by LSSE was attended by all Public Works employees. The Bi-annual inspections of the 100,200 & 500 sections of the MS-4 storm drain system were completed. Replacement of the frame and grate of catch basin #402 on Crest Drive was performed utilizing stock materials. The curbing at 1035 Crest Drive was built up with asphalt to prevent storm water from flooding the residents' yard. As of April 2, 2013, the Public Works department has switched to the summer hours of 7-3:30.

Commissioner Patton wanted to add for the residents that live on Sautter drive, is that MTMA has started their storm sewer upgrades. They started about a week and a half ago and it has been a mess up there. She knows that they ran into a little bit of trouble in the park area when they ran into slag. She spoke to one of the managers there the other day and they said that they will be up there for about two and a half weeks and they should be out of there soon.

## **FINANCE**

Commissioner Patton reported that we have just completed the first quarter of the year. Our anticipated revenues are slightly lower this quarter at 33.97% then in 2012. The expenditures are very similar to 2012's as well. Our 1% Sales Tax Allocation revenue has also a slight increase this quarter which tells us that people are spending their money. We just started receiving some of our current Real Estate taxes as well as the garbage revenue. She reported that you may have noticed when you received your garbage bill this year from Berkheimer there was a rate increase for garbage service. This was an item for discussion back at our November 8<sup>th</sup> meeting. The office provided the board information on current status of collection and the loss on refuse services over the last three years. Unfortunately, after the information was reviewed and discussed by the Board, this increase was deemed necessary due to the amount that the township is obligated to pay Waste Management for services on a monthly basis.

Commissioner Patton also wanted to add that due to the reassessment, we have already received the property tax appeals that are starting to come in. She reported that we have already had to pay out \$12,000 refunds back on these appeals from the assessment and this is just the beginning. She stated that we are already starting to see from the assessment, people appealing their taxes. Commissioner Cook stated that this is double what we have budgeted. Commissioner Patton confirmed that was the amount budget and referenced that this is just the beginning.

## **PARKS AND RECREATION**

Commissioner Cvangros reported that the Parks Board met on Tuesday, April 9, 2013. The Parks Board has purchased a new play structure with money raised during our many fundraising activities. This structure will be erected in Shouse Park sometime this summer after work is completed on McCutcheon Way. Also going in at Shouse will be two new spring toys previously purchased by the board. In conjunction with the installation of this new equipment for Shouse, the board would like to hold a "Grand Re-opening" celebration at Shouse with free food and beverages for the township residents; possibly in conjunction with the Recreation Board sponsored Youth/Police softball game. Time and date for this event would depend on the completion of work on McCutcheon Way. She reported that in the meantime, the board received estimates on the purchase of a shelter for Huntsridge Park. The board will wait for a more definitive estimate on the cost of purchasing and constructing such a structure ourselves with the possibility of some of the materials and labor being donated. As their current fundraising activity, the Parks Board is selling Avon products from now until April 26. If interested in purchasing anything and helping them refurbish our parks, a booklet and order forms will be in the township office for you to look at or you can contact any board member. She stated that they appreciate any support the township residents give them in these endeavors. Their next regular meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 14, 2013, at 7:00 p.m., in the Multi-Purpose Room. All are welcome to attend.

Commissioner Cook asked if we are going to start the softball games again, because we actually stopped those prior to closing the park and he was surprised when he saw that on the report. He stated that it was a nice event for the kids and he asked if there has been any talk on this.

The Recreation Board met on March 18th, it was the reorganization meeting and planning for the Easter Event. The Easter Event on March 30th went very well, the children enjoyed the crafts, balloon guy and the Easter Bunny. A good time was had by all and special thanks to all volunteers that help the Recreation Board make it possible. The Recreation Board will not meet in April.

Commissioner Cook asked what the count on the kids was for this year and Lynda Jones reported that it was somewhere around sixty.

## **CRESCENT TOWNSHIP VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT**

Commissioner Cook asked if Denny Lewis had a report for the fire department. He reported that there were a couple of calls.

## **VALLEY AMBULANCE AUTHORITY**

No report

## **EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT REPORT**

Denny Lewis reported that two weeks ago he and Marty were going to attend a course on crisis management that the Township had approved. It was a twelve hour course and he thanked the board for approving them to go. He stated that the problem was it was oversold and they were unable to attend the class. They are going to have another one in the fall, which they will be attending. He then reported that he had attended a computer class at the emergency operations center along with Leo Laffey. He stated that it was a good class and he is going to meet with Secretary/Manager Eckhardt to input different information into the computer on what resources are available for when we have an emergency. Usually this time of year we are talking about flooding, but this year we are in good shape. He also asked that in the event of an emergency, if the Township were to utilize equipment that was privately owned, if any damage were to occur, what liability the Township would have. He asked if it would fall under the Township Insurance policy, or if the liability would be the owners. Solicitor Start responded that if the Township was using it, in response to an emergency, then the Township is responsible for repair and replacement. He stated that most policies, under a permissive user provision, contemplate this kind of use but it would be good for us to check that.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

Commissioner Cook stated that before we go into the first item under old business, he wanted to make a motion to make an addition to the agenda. He stated that it was pertaining to our road program as it was not on the agenda. Commissioner Cook made this motion and Commissioner Cvengros seconded the motion. A roll call vote found all Commissioners in favor of the motion.

Commissioner Cook then made a motion to put an item on the table of discussion and motion on our 2013 road program. This motion was seconded by Commissioner Sabol. A roll call vote found all Commissioners in favor of the motion.

Kevin Brett reported that there are two roads to be considered and they are Sautter Drive from house number 605 to 576 as the base bid, and the add alternate was Huntsridge Drive from house number 1126 to Marble Street. He stated that the total for these two roads was \$124,000, split evenly. He stated that the bids would open in May and the Board would not have to make a decision until our July meeting. Commissioner Patton made the motion to move ahead with our

2013 road program and this motion was seconded by Commissioner Cvengros. A roll call vote found all Commissioners in favor of the motion.

The last item under old business is the discussion and motion relative to the sign in sheet. Commissioner Cook stated that we had discussion at our last meeting and we had a motion on the table to do the security cameras and do a sign in sheet for everyone that came in during business hours. Commissioner Cook asked if anyone had anything to add or if there was a motion on the table. Commissioner Cvengros asked, about the post man and delivery man, and wondered if they should be required to sign in and out. Commissioner Cook stated that in his opinion was that anyone that comes into the building should be signing in. Commissioner Cvengros asked if this would include commissioners. Commissioner Cook stated that they are no different than our taxpayers, and there should be a record of them coming to the building. Commissioner Patton agreed and referenced the discussion at last month's meeting and some clarification that was needed by Secretary/Manager Eckhardt via email correspondence. She stated that an email had come out from Commissioner Cvengros, where she had felt that the Commissioners did not need to sign in. Commissioner Patton stated that she agreed with Commissioner Cook and did not think that they were any different from anyone else walking in. Commissioner Patton referenced that Commissioner Cvengros had asked if there was cash in the building, and she responded that yes, there was petty cash as well as important files kept in the building. Commissioner Patton stated that she was against having the residents sign in for the monthly meeting, but she knows that Commissioner Keller had recommended it. Commissioner Keller asked for clarification on what Commissioner Patton had said and Commissioner Cook responded that Commissioner Keller had at one time sent out an email referencing that when we have controversial meetings, we should implement a sign in sheet as a method to control things. Commissioner Patton referenced that while we have the cameras in place, the sign in sheet would be a back up. Providing the example that if something were to happen to the cameras and we were to have an incident, they would be able to have a back up to say that something happened, and without a sign in sheet they would have no idea who had been in the building as a reference. Commissioner Patton referenced an incident with missing money in the office. She stated that we are a government building and there are some places that have a requirement of being buzzed into the building, but we cannot afford that. In this day and age, this is with the times. Commissioner Cook referenced other municipalities that have buzz in systems and sign in sheets and he thinks that it is good security and makes us more professional. Commissioner Keller stated that he cannot see where this would improve security. He stated that if we are requiring people to sign in, they are already inside the building and to say that it is for security, he does not think it provides any security at all. He thinks that it would be good for tracking traffic in and out of the office and the work load that might be associated with people coming in to ask questions, fill out forms and all of that, but as far as security he does not think it will be any value. He also thinks that our commissioners should not be required to sign in. If the residents of the Township cannot trust them now, they will never be able to. Commissioners Cvengros stated that sometimes the Commissioners come in very quickly and leave, and she thinks it is odd to have to sign in, when they also have keys to the building and access 24/7 to this building. Some discussion was held as to the implementation of the sign in sheet at the last meeting and Commissioner Cvengros stated that it was determined that visitors would sign in. She stated that she is not a visitor to this building as she was elected to her position and she does not feel that she should be required to sign in, in order for her to do her job.



After some more discussion, Commissioner Patton made a motion to establish a policy regarding visitors who enter the Crescent Township Administrative Office and Public Meeting Room areas. The policy shall require all visitors, including elected officials, to sign a visitor's sheet that includes the following information: a. date of visit; b. time entering the building; c. time leaving the building; d. brief statement of purpose of the visit. The policy shall be applicable to all visitors who enter the area during normal office hours and it shall be the responsibility of the Administrative office employees to enforce this policy. Anyone who refuses to comply with the policy shall be removed from the building. Commissioner Cook seconded the motion. A roll call vote found Commissioners Cook and Patton in favor of the motion and Commissioners Sabol, Keller and Cvengros opposed. The motion did not carry 3 to 2.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

The first item under New Business was a presentation on the Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems (MS4) by Lennon Smith Souleret Engineering, Inc. Kevin Brett referenced the two handouts that he had passed to the Board and provided some background information on the MS4 permit issued by the DEP. He explained that it was originally supposed to be a five year permit, but was extended to a nine year permit, which expired in mid March of 2013. The Township has submitted for its permit renewal, and if we have not received it yet, we should be receiving it in the next few weeks. The second round of permitting is coming out and there are new requirements. He continued on to highlight the new requirements in the presentation. Background information on the implementation of this program was provided and he explained the need for permitting for storm water management. He stated that they want to remove the pollutants and they want the communities to clean the streets and the outfalls to eliminate any contaminations. He explained that this round of permit has a total maximum daily loads, which is in essence the diet of the stream. Due to Crescent's location, the Ohio River as a T.M.D.L. and they want to ensure that there are not chemicals going into the river. This comes with requirements for ordinances that will be implemented in the future. He explained that what this causes is that when someone does a new housing plan, or redevelopment plan, they do a storm management report, and in the post storm management report, there will be some type of improvement to treat water. He stated that now they will have to do a third report where they have to do something to address the T.M.D.L. ordinance requirements. He continued the new requirements in order to maintain compliance and then provided information on the list of changes this time around. He stated that this time around there is a need to have written policies for multiple items. He provided the example that if someone is obtaining a building permit the building inspector will provide information outlining that we are a MS4 community and provide information for them to help us ensure compliance. He then stated that tonight's authorization would allow them to provide a written plan and complete the first year's testing. He referenced that the nice thing about this project was that they have a lot of clients that have to do this so they are writing a public education plan for everyone and we will see savings because of this.

Being that there were no further questions for the engineer a motion to approve the service order authorization which authorizes LSSE to provide support to Municipal Staff for the onetime fee in 2013 of \$2,879.00, and the annual cost for the 1<sup>st</sup> of 5 years of permit cycle to be \$5,460.00 was made by Commissioner Patton and seconded by Commissioners Cvengros. A roll call vote found

all Commissioners in favor of the motion. Kevin Brett pointed out that if the Board referenced the service order authorization and the items described in the presentation, additional information was provided. He also stated that he would send the presentation to Secretary/Manager Eckhardt and it could be linked to the website and this would count towards part of our public education for next year.

Commissioner Cook asked if there were any objections to moving Item seven up on the agenda in order to discuss this item with Kevin still in attendance. Being that no one objected the Board then discussed the matter of three-dimensional seismic surveys being conducted within the Township and motion to authorize the preparation of an ordinance to address this issue. Commissioner Cook referenced that since last month's discussion on this topic we have received an email from Lennon, Smith, and Souleret regarding an ordinance on this subject. He stated that LSSE started to draft an ordinance that was sent out to us and forwarded to Solicitor Start and they were asking that the Board authorize moving ahead with this ordinance. Kevin Brett reported that he has an update to the Ordinance that had been previously sent to Solicitor Start and he would forward that over to him. Commissioner Patton asked if any municipalities have created an ordinance like this in Allegheny County, and Kevin responded back that there have been. Commissioner Cook asked if he had information on the difference between the charge and the thumping. Kevin responded that he has spoken with some people regarding this and he stated that the thumper literally puts a vibration through the ground and they take a reading from this. The other option is they drill a hole to a certain depth that they put a charge off of it. He stated that the areas where they have problems are where there are any water lines, which the ordinance addresses. It requires them to stay certain distances from water lines. Some more information on provided on the ordinance and the issues that it attempts to address. Commissioner Patton asked if there was noise involved in this testing and Kevin responded that there was. She then referenced that the Ordinance does not restrict testing during specific times, like our previous drilling ordinance had done. Kevin responded that we can make any changes we wish to include noise restrictions for our municipality. Solicitor Start recommended that we take a look at the final revised draft and fine tune it to our municipality. Commissioner Keller wanted to clarify that what we authorizing was the preparation of an ordinance, which would still have to be voted on. He was informed that this was correct.

Judy Nugent asked why we were doing the seismic testing and asked if this meant they were going to start fracking. Kevin Brett indicated that they conduct these surveys to determine where the gas is, the quality, and whether it is worth going after. He regarded the wells that we have in the area, and the closest they have been to our area so far is Washington.

Lauren Schukart asked why they were attempting to survey private properties and Kevin responded that they are in the area and a lot of times they have to survey private properties. She asked if this ordinance was going to protect the residents in order to make sure that no damage was done to private property. It was responded that the Township Ordinance was for Township facilities, such as our roads. In a private property they would have to deal with the company one on one. Kevin Brett recommended that if a resident receives a request to complete a survey; they have their own council look at it. He stated that the Township cannot step over the line for private properties, as the Township does not own them. Lauren referenced the meetings that were held on this subject at other municipalities and she thought that our Township needs to do that in

order to let our residents know what this means. She stated that if this Ordinance just protects the Township, they need to make the residents aware because this can affect a lot of people.

Some more discussion was held on the requirements for Marcellus shale drilling and the Township's ordinance that was in place. Solicitor Start responded that every resident has the right to tell these companies no. Commissioner Keller asked about the zoning requirements on the surveys. Solicitor Start responded that whether or not this survey is conducted is up to the property owner, but what our ordinance seeks to do is protect all public interests such as the roadways and water lines. A motion to move ahead with the ordinance was made by Commissioner Cven gros and seconded by Commissioner Sabol. A roll call vote found all Commissioners in favor of the motion.

Anita Lasek asked for clarification from the engineer about the MS4 requirements on residences. She asked if it was going to impact a home owner who chooses to tear down a house and rebuild, or build a new house. She wanted to know if these requirements were going to impact the cost of new construction. Kevin indicated that the current regulations have requirements, such as the treatment for pollutants. For smaller developments, the costs associated with the requirements are not very significant. He then provided several examples of requirements, specifying that a lot of the requirements are already being done and they are trying to make it as simple on the homeowners as possible.

The next item was the motion to approve the advertisement of the amended Ordinance 206, which if adopted will amend the Ordinance to include the west side of McGovern Blvd extending approximately 80 feet from house number 181 McGovern Blvd to 183 McGovern Blvd. Commissioner Cook stated that this pertains to the no parking area on McGovern that was recommended by our Chief of Police. A motion to approve the advertisement 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.

Next was the motion to approve Resolution R-4-2013 which establishes the fees, deposits and other amounts required by the Codified Ordinances. Commissioner Cook explained that under our Codified Ordinances, everything has a fee and every so often we need to update this. A motion to approve this Resolution R-4-13 was made by Commissioner Patton and seconded by Commissioner Keller. A roll call vote found all Commissioners in favor of the motion.

The board then discussed resolution R-5-13, which approves the collection procedures and adopts a schedule of attorney fees in connection with the collection of the delinquent real estate taxes and other municipal claims pursuant to Act 20 of 2003. A motion to approve Ordinance R-5-13 was made by Commissioner Patton and seconded by Commissioner Cven gros. A roll call vote found all Commissioners in favor of the motion.

Next was the discussion and motion on the transfer of garbage billing services beginning in the year 2014. Commissioner Cook opened the table for discussion based on the information that was provided in the packets. Secretary/Manager Eckhardt provided some information on the information as received and indicated that the change is needed from the services currently being provided. The office has contacted various agencies and they have provided information on the

options to the Board. She referenced that Jordan Tax Service is a company that the Township is already utilizing and is the most comparable to the services currently being provided. She referred to the other two options, outlining that one was a software program where the office would be generating the bills and be responsible for the account maintenance. The last option Munibilling came with several options that the Board would have to consider. Commissioner Patton stated that most of the prices were very comparable to what we are currently paying and she asked for some clarification on the information on the report. Commissioner Patton then asked if the options came with contract requirements. Secretary/Manager Eckhardt responded that the office had not obtained contract information; all they had obtained at this point in time was pricing information. Commissioner Patton made a motion to table this item pending further information on contract requirements from all of the options specified. This motion was seconded by Commissioner Cvengros. A roll call vote was taken and all Commissioners were in favor of the motion.

Lastly, was the discussion and motion to approve the purchase of two X26p Taser's and the necessary components in the amount of \$2,653.16. A motion to approve this purchase was made by Commissioner Sabol and seconded by Commissioner Cvengros. A roll call vote found all Commissioners in favor of the motion.

## **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Marguerite Schofield of 183 McGovern Blvd asked questions pertaining to the fracking. She wanted to know if it was going to include the Duquesne Light Mountain that was located behind her property. Commissioner Cook responded that we do not know anything about the fracking. He stated that what they are talking about now is just the seismic testing. We do not have any permits anywhere in the Township. Ms. Schofield provided information on that piece of land and stated that it would be disastrous if they drilled it. Commissioner Cook stated that it depends on the zoning of the property and referenced some of the details of the Ordinance. Secretary/Manager Eckhardt responded that she believed drilling was restricted in the conservation district, and the area that Ms. Schofield was referencing was zoned for conservation. Commissioner Cook stated that we did not know if we were going to be able to uphold our ordinance because there is a law in the state right now as to who is going to have control of the drilling. He stated that if the state takes that away from us, we will have no control of it at all. He said that right now we have an ordinance in place that we can enforce, but the state can override us.

Noreen Brennan of 570 Sautter Drive asked if we still had a township website and if the Easter Egg Hunt had been posted on it. Secretary/Manager Eckhardt responded that it had been placed on the website, but it had only been posted several days prior to the event, because without knowing where the event was going to be held, we did not have the information to post. She apologized on behalf of her grandchild for not volunteering because she referenced that they had checked the website and did not think that we were having the event because no information was posted. She also wanted to reference that she had just thought about the safety of the office staff. She remembered an incident when some money went missing out of the office. Commissioner Cook referenced that they installed these Dutch doors to protect the employees and they

encourage them to keep them closed. Noreen responded that even at schools you have to get buzzed in and sign in. Commissioner Cook stated that at this time the Board wished not to do it. Some more discussion was held on safety concerns of the office staff.

Natalie Nobile Shoop of 1272 Needham Street stated that if someone has an inkling to come in to the office and do something, they are not going to sign their name first.

Jan Niemeyer of 73 McGovern Blvd stated that in relation to the sign in sheet, she does security for her company. She said that a sign in sheet is not necessary to protect you, but it is a log to reference. It is not a punishment to make someone sign in, but just a record and she thinks that records are very good. She referenced that we have cameras, but they go down and you want to be able to see what has happened. Commissioner Cook added that it makes it professional.

Judy Withee of 500 Crescent Blvd Ext wanted to provide a word of warning regarding the security cameras. She referenced a situation that had occurred at FedEx where the company had installed cameras in order to catch someone stealing, but they were not able to use the recording because there was nothing posted that stated the company was recording. Secretary/Manager Eckhardt responded that there are stickers on the doors to the building that indicate it is under 24 hour surveillance.

Denny Lewis of 492 Crescent Blvd Ext wanted to thank the public works department for the work they had done to the parking lot, stating that the fire department really appreciates it. He also wanted to commend Chief Zimmel for his efforts with the resident who lost her husband. He stated that she is a friend of his and she appreciated the Chief's support.

Anita Lasek of 1361 Front Street had two questions regarding the recent article in the Beaver County Times. She asked about the tax increase. She referenced the federally mandated new signs and asked whether or not that law was still in effect as it had been determined to be a burden to the municipalities. Commissioner Cook stated that it started in 2009. Anita Lasek referred to another article that referenced this requirement being abolished. Secretary/Manager Eckhardt responded that it was her understanding that the deadline is no longer in place, but the requirement to change over yours signs is still in effect. Anita Lasek believed that the requirement was now to just change the signs as they needed replaced. She referenced this for the budget standpoint, if it was no longer required, we would not necessarily have to change over everything this year. Secretary/Manager Eckhardt responded that the regulatory signs, such as Stop, Speed and Yield signs are still federally mandated. She also wanted to ask about the fire department and the workers compensation insurance coverage. She thought that we had taken over their workers compensation insurance coverage and it was responded that the Township has always covered this item. Commissioner Cook stated that we are required to maintain this coverage under the First Class Township Code. She wanted clarification that what was collected for the fire department and whether it could be used as Township funds, or if it had to be used for the fire department. Commissioner Patton referenced that the taxpayers pay over \$100,000 for certain insurances, and the insurance that Anita Lasek was referring to is one of those insurances. Anita Lasek questioned whether we have always had to pay for it because the article made it sound as though this was a new expense. Commissioner Patton stated that 95% of that article being referred to was incorrect. Commissioner Patton also referenced that there are five line

items out of the general fund that go to the fire department. Commissioner Cook provided some information out of the budget for fire department expenses. He stated that we are funding the fire department around \$113,000. Anita Lasek questioned the increase they were seeing.

Commissioner Cook stated that the value of a mil has changed with the reassessment so the fire department is seeing an increase in revenues this year. Secretary/Manager Eckhardt clarified that we have always carried their workers compensation coverage, but the insurance company we previously used is no longer offering this coverage. The township had to go through another provider, and the rate is significantly higher than previous years. Commissioner Patton specified that this was not just for Crescent Township, this happened everywhere.

Sam Tranter of 340 Hart Drive commented that the Board and what Crescent Township is about is to serve the residents. He deals with residents every day, and many residents do not want to tell you their name, let alone sign in, and this board would be doing a disservice to the residents to require them to sign in. He stated that if he has a complaint it should not matter whether or not he provides his name, the Township is here to serve the residents. He wanted to applaud the members of the board who voted this down. He also commented on the agenda being provided to the public. He said that when you come in to the meeting, you barely have time to read and digest the information. When it gets referenced that the board is not going to answer any questions, the resident just have to offer their opinion, he stated that there is not enough time to do this. He wanted to make the recommendation that the board put the agenda on the website ahead of time. He said that to just read it before the meeting was not enough time to provide comments on the agenda items. Commissioner Cook stated that this came across the table, and all you have to do is contact the office and they will provide the agenda to the residents. Mr. Tranter responded that as residents they should not have to ask for the information, it should be provided to them.

## **COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS**

Commissioner Cvangros wanted to provide the board with a report on the Ohio River Trail. She reported that on January 31, 2013 she and Secretary/Manager Eckhardt attended the Ohio River Trail Council Meeting. It is exciting to see this effort continue to grow as new municipalities wish to become a part of it. A feasibility study, engineering, design and construction have been proposed for what is being referred to as the Ohio River Trail North Shore Connection. This connection would tie in the area from the Sewickley Bridge to the Ambridge Bridge, and could potentially include the municipalities of Sewickley, Edgeworth, Leetsdale, Ambridge and Old Economy Village. The addition of this connection would further the efforts of connecting multiple municipalities through this trail's effort. Other news includes that Coraopolis and Moon Township will be completing Phase 1 of the Ohio River Trail. To date, \$400,000 has been committed to the completion of the 2.5 mile segment that would start by connecting to the Montour Trail and would end at the site of Moon Township's new water park.

The Moon Township Board has approved the plans for the water park and they are being sent to the DCNR. The EPA also recently awarded a grant to Midland, Monaca, Moon and Aliquippa for their Brownfield Project, which makes them one of twenty-three grants awarded in the country. Monaca and the Ohio River Trail Council also recently received the Ohio River

Watershed Environmental Award for their efforts. We are excited to report that the graphic that the Ohio River Trail has adopted incorporates Crescent Township's roots by highlighting the steam boats that were once built here. The Upper Ohio River Water Trail has been approved and more emphasis is being placed on the development of kayak and bike rack availability in New Brighton and the possible waterfront park in Freedom. Further discussion was held on the Ohio River Trail supporting the improved canoe, kayak and rowing access to the Chartiers Creek, Beaver River, Little Beaver Creek, Ohio River and Raccoon Creek. The Ohio River Water Trail Corridor communities to interconnect are Aliquippa, Ambridge, Baden, Beaver, Beaver Falls, Big Beaver, Bridgewater, Center Township, Eastvale, Fallston, Freedom, Hopewell Township, Industry, Leetsdale, Monaca, Moon Township, Neville Township, Midland, New Brighton, Ohioville, Potter Township, Rochester, Sewickley, South Heights and White Twp, Pa. The council supports the design, construction and the installation of kayak/canoe launch sites with storage racks and other amenities including signage, picnic tables, benches and bike racks. Bike racks are provided for the use by the Pedal & Paddle enthusiasts. This project is funded, in part, through the Port of Pittsburgh Commission and the National Park Service.

The council continues their efforts to bring individuals, communities, businesses, recreational users and all levels of government together to promote and protect a continuous corridor of natural and cultural resources along the Ohio River and its tributaries. The ORTC's goal is to honor our past and build our future by providing recreation opportunities, environmental stewardship, heritage development, safe transportation networks and economic stimulus to our community. We are excited to see this project continue to grow and will provide the Board information as we continue to participate in their meetings.

Commissioner Patton wanted to first respond to Mr. Tranter's comments. She stated that Bill touched based on that saying that a couple months ago we did talk about having the agenda sent out on Tuesdays. She stated that we do not have the manpower to put it on the website. We actually pay a gentleman to do that and she does not know that when we talked to him, he could not do it. She stated that if the residents are interested in obtaining the agenda, he can contact the office and give his email to her in order to have it sent to him.

Commissioner Patton also provided the following comments and asked that it be made a matter of public record. She read aloud the following statement:

"I would like to comment on the article that was in the Allegheny Times on Thursday, April 4, 2013 titled Crescent breaks down reasons for extra tax increase written by Jenny Wagner.

The very first thing that I would like to address from this article is the last statement stating that I did not return phone messages from the Times. Due to previous errors in reporting township business I have chosen not to respond when a reporter calls. I know that I am not the only one that feels this way but probably is the first to state it publicly. Ms. Wagner's messages were that she was doing a story about various communities and school districts and how they dealt with the County's reassessment while developing their budget and the challenges it has posed. She wanted to know if she could ask me a few questions regarding Crescent Township. I find it so ironic that she never mentioned any other municipality nor did she interview anyone else from another municipality for this article.

However, Ms. Wagner interviewed Judy Withee who claimed she was surprised that her township taxes went up \$100 after hearing me report at a township meeting that the residents would not see an increase in their tax bill. The fact of the matter is that at our January meeting under Public Comment, resident Anita Lasek had a few questions and asked for clarification on the taxes for the 2013 year. She referenced the approval of the petition from the courts. Mr. Cook gave an explanation and re-clarified that the millage rate was lowered to 6.4 mills. He also stated that when the valuations change it changes everything. Ms. Lasek asked is it going to stay the same level for total collection or be increased. Mr. Cook's responds was our collection would increase from last year due to contractual obligations and rising costs. There were no other residents that address this issue at that time or since that meeting. So, I don't understand why Mrs. Withee would tell the Times "The Commissioners felt that there would not be an increase in taxes and that everything would stay the same".

I would like to state that there have been several meetings where the board has discussed Crescent Township's financial situation. One particular meeting was November 8, 2012, in which this meeting was very lengthy. This was the meeting where the board discussed filing the petition with the Allegheny County Courts to balance the 2013 budget. Residents voiced their opinion on some budgetary items. However, Mrs. Withee and Mrs. Lewis stated "they had no problem with a reasonable tax increase in order to keep the police department." Now, I would think that \$100 is being reasonable when you break it down that is an increase of \$8.33 a month.

Once again I can pick this article apart with misinformed information but I am not going to waste my time. Ms. Wagner has quoted in the article that certain township documents and meeting minutes were obtained. I would suggest that before she does another article she research ALL the minutes and sources before it goes to print.

Considering the upcoming election is in May and Mrs. Withee is seeking a position it is unfortunate that she has apparently chosen to make this a political issue."

Commissioner Cook then commented stating that he has some facts and numbers. He referenced comparisons from last year's budget to this year. He stated that in 2013 our current real estate tax, which does not include the fire referendum tax and is 5.9 at a 92% collection rate, we are proposing that we are going to collect \$738,825.00. In 2012, our budgeted collection rate was \$731,000. He stated that we are only collecting approximately \$6,000 more from the residents. He referenced line item 301.00 stating that we are going to collect in total revenues this year \$833,437.00. In 2012 it was \$756,000, which is a difference of about \$77,400. What has happened in this reassessment is that some properties have gone up in value and some properties have gone down in value. For the properties that have gone down in value, we collect less taxes off of. We have more properties that went down in value then what went up in value, so this caused a shortcoming in our budget. This is why they petitioned the court. He stated that if you take it one step further the department that went up the most in cost to operate, which is around \$72,000 was the police department. He stated that we had a meeting here and they had been telling the residents for a year that they should have raised taxes and they gave them the option and looked at other options. He stated that the issue with the police department has gone no



further and he thinks all in all we had a 14% tax increase this year, and this is the first increase since 2005. He stated that when the taxes went up in 2005 they went up 67%. He stated that you can verify this with the office, that if you go back and look at our legal fees, they are less now than they were in 2010. He stated that you can go through and see how many things have been cut and specifically referenced the health insurance. We changed health insurance and saved about \$50,000 last year. This board and the office have worked very hard to hold the numbers. He stated that contractual agreements is something we have no control over and is what we have to pay. He stated that we are paying our police chief less money this year than what we were five years ago. We have cut everywhere that we can possibly cut. He stated that his house went up in value a lot and he is under appeal right now. He wishes that his house went up \$100. He stated that we have one road in this township that every property on it was reduced and that is what put us where we are. He believes that these Commissioners have done a great job trying to hold things in check. Crescent Township is facing all of the same issues as everyone in this room, taking concessions in their job and paying extra into health insurance.

## **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 9:21 p.m.

Certified as a true and correct copy.

Respectfully Submitted,

Patience Eckhardt  
Secretary/Manager

---

(Seal)