



**BOROUGH OF SWISSVALE
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

July 6, 2016

1. Meeting called to order at 7 PM by President Stanton.
2. Invocation – Pastor Eric Baldwin
3. Pledge of Allegiance – Councilwoman Patricia Gionta
4. Roll Call - P. Gionta – here, D. Rapp – here, T. Ward – here, M. Busch – here, D. Swartzwelder – here, and D. Petrarca – here. J. Grose – here, M. Stanton - here.
5. Public Comment
 - a. Veryl Lawson (2239 Woodstock) – 2 tables that were borrowed from the borough were stolen from the Collingwood Reunion. The members are trying to find them and plan on replacing them if they are not found.
6. Approval of Minutes – Motion to approve the minutes for the *Agenda Meetings* for March, April and May 2016, and the *Regular Meetings* for April, May and June 2016. Moved by D. Petrarca. Second by P. Gionta. All ayes, motion carries.
7. Agenda Items:
 1. Jayson Lawson of Keystone Collection Services presentation to council about property tax collection services.
 - a. Keystone serves 40 clients throughout Allegheny County. The company responds quickly to delinquent taxes and offers a variety of services including payment plans, assistance with sheriff sales, rent attachments and garbage fees. Keystone prides themselves on fair treatment and dignity of tax payers and fair fee structure.
 - b. Information was distributed detailing the 8 steps of tax collection that Keystone utilizes.
 - c. Questions were addressed from the council.
 - i. How is Keystone paid? – Act 20 passed in 2003 transfers the fees of service onto the delinquent tax payer not the borough. Within the first 30 days of notification, 10% comes from the total of taxes collected. After first 30 days, an additional 10% is added to the initial debt owed.

2. Motion to donate surplus SCBA fire equipment to the Adah Volunteer Fire Department in Fayette County, PA. Moved by P. Gionta, Second by J. Grose. All ayes, motion carries.
 3. Motion to renew Worker's Compensation insurance through EMC Insurance in the amount of \$155,724 and the SWIF in the amount of \$24,867. Moved by P. Gionta, Second by M. Busch. All ayes, motion carries.
 4. Motion to approve to file an application for the 2016 Keystone Grant for the Swissvale Library Elevator Project and to authorize the Borough Manager as the official representative of the Borough for matters related to this grant, including entering into a Memorandum of Understanding with the Woodland Hills School District regarding project management and funding obligations. Moved by P. Gionta, Second by T. Ward. All ayes, motion carries.
 5. Motion to the lease purchase of a Ford F-550 Dump Truck for the DPW in the amount of \$70,442.42. Moved by D. Petrarca, Second by M. Busch. All ayes, motion carries.
 6. Motion to the lease purchase of a Ford Interceptor Police K-9 vehicle in the amount of \$41,110.12. Moved by P. Gionta, Second by J. Grose. All ayes, motion carries.
 7. Motion to approve **Resolution 16-12**, that the acquisition and subsequent disposition of vacant property known as Block and Lot Number **177-S-250** would be in accord with the Borough's Comprehensive Plan. Moved by P. Gionta, Second by D. Rapp. All ayes, motion carries.
 8. Motion to approve the Police Chief to attend the 2016 FOP Convention in Philadelphia August 8th thru 11th. Moved by P. Gionta, Second by M. Busch. All ayes, motion carries.
8. Finance Report – Councilman Martin Busch
- Paid Bills as of **June 30, 2016** in the amount of **\$ 671,603.92**
 - Unpaid Bills as of **June 30, 2016** in the amount of **\$ 8,389.51**
 - Motion to accept the finance report by M. Busch. Second by P. Gionta. All ayes, motion carries.
9. Police Report – Councilwoman Patricia Gionta
- a. Report on file in the Borough Manager's office.
 - b. Chief Geppert has returned to full time work.
 - c. The police department is looking to interview and hire two part-time officers. Interviews will begin week of July 11th.
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10. Code and Fire Report – Councilwoman Michele Stanton, Asst. Chief Kip Deleonibus

- a. Report on file in the Borough Manager's office.
- b. There will be a community CPR class held at the Swissvale Fire Station on Saturday, August 6th from 9am to 2pm. This class will focus on teaching lay person CPR and the use of an Automated External Defibrillator (AED).
- c. Code enforcement is going very well and officers are very busy. Currently focusing on property maintenance issues due to the growing season.
- d. Asst. Chief Kip Deleonibus has been with the borough for 1 year as of 7/6/16 and received the council's thanks and congratulations for excellent service.

11. Public Works Report – Councilman David Petrarca

- a. Report on file in the Borough Manager's office.
- b. The DPW is in the midst of a large paving project. Greg Bachy is doing a great job managing and monitoring the project. The DPW has also been working to rebuild and restore sewer inlets.
- c. Paving top coat on Woodstock at South Braddock is starting this week. More milling will be taking place on Waverly by Arby's and on Church. People's Gas is doing work to run a new line on Lafayette which will push back the paving work on Lafayette, Florence and Hanover. Victor Paving will do these remaining three streets once People's Gas is done. There will be no extra expense to the borough. Curb repair will begin on several curbs damaged by milling once paving has finished.

12. Outstanding Complaints Report – None

13. C.O.G. Report – Councilman Darrell Rapp

- a. The Woodland Hills School District, Borough of Swissvale and Allegheny County all passed their resolutions to participate in the land bank. There are currently 19 municipalities and 5 school districts that have passed their resolutions. A number more are still investigating. Resolutions must be submitted by July 29th to be included as an inaugural member. A team of individuals is working on drafts of policies, procedures and by-laws.
 - b. The borough has participated in the electricity auction over the last few years in partnership with Connect. The current contract ends in May of 2017. A representative is looking to confirm municipalities participating in the next contract period. Discussion was held around whether the relationship with Connect is worthwhile to the borough and if dues, which are voluntary, should be paid to the organization. Mr. Rapp will compile a report to distribute to council.
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14. President's Remarks – President Stanton

- a. Ms. Stanton attended Tuesday Night Pick-Up Games at Memorial field and was impressed. She acknowledges and thanks the borough Recreation Board for taking the initiative to set up the games.

15. Mayor's Report – Mayor Deneen Swartzwelder

- a. The Mayor welcomes back Chief Geppert. Special thanks to everyone involved in the Community Days! Our best community days in 11 years, with good weather and high attendance.
- b. Newsletter deadline is August 10th. The next issue will cover the months of September, October, and November. Material should be submitted to Swissvalenewsletter@gmail.com.
- c. National Night Out is August 2nd. Encourage residents to get out. With council's approval, block party requests will be coordinated through the administrative office, who will notify emergency services and DPW.
- d. SEDCO
 - i. A community clean up is being organized for Saturday, July 9th, meeting at 9:00 am at Good Fella's parking lot. Light breakfast will be provided.
 - ii. "Make Swissvale Home" event is scheduled for Sept 11th at 2:00 pm at Good Fella's. Participants have the opportunity to tour houses that are on the market as well as talk to representatives from banks about mortgages. Refreshments to follow. Last year's event was very successful. SEDCO will help with closing costs for properties purchased through this program.
- e. Discussion around initiatives to clean up the borough.
 - i. Find ways to remove shopping carts that have been taken from Giant Eagle and abandoned.
 - ii. Discussion and request for another beat cop to cover areas of increased debris to cite individuals for littering.
 - iii. DPW has one individual taking care of fields and works one day a week in the business district, sweeping mulch, picking up trash in parking lots, etc.

16. Water Authority Report – Anthony Russo Sr.

- a. Water break on Woodstock has been repaired.

17. Planning Commission – Veryl Lawson

- a. Report on file in the borough manager's office.

18. Solicitor Report – David Mongillo

- a. No report
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19. Engineer Report – Robert Zischkau

- a. The borough has received a Commonwealth financing grant to rehab Collingwood playground in the amount of \$97,325, a 15% matching grant. Mr. Zischkau will submit a set of plans to have on file at the borough office. The plan will be somewhat flexible and will consider the needs of residents of all ages. Included in the plan are improvements to start a comprehensive walking trail behind the playground. Mr. Zischkau hopes that the project can be completed by winter.
- b. A new grant program is available through ALCOSAN which allocates money to assist municipalities with source flow reductions. With council's approval, Mr. Zischkau will submit a letter of interest on behalf of the borough for the green infrastructure project that has been planned for below Memorial Park. The work would bring the borough into compliance under the requirements of the Interim Consent Order.

20. Borough Manager Report – Clyde Wilhelm

- a. Report on file in borough manager's office.
- b. Further information was provided about the borough's insurance renewal. A credit was received for the Safety Committee for the SWIF policy, totaling \$2,380. Total discounts off of the Worker's Comp renewal were \$55,973. The administration has implemented a comprehensive loss control program over the last few years to reduce risks and potential losses. EMC presented the borough with dividend checks this year of \$31,201.79 for Workers Comp and \$10,850.30 off of the General Liability Package. The total dividend package was double last year's at \$42,052.09. Through all of the efforts of the employees and administration, the borough has saved \$98,025.09 on insurances.
- c. The senior center is appreciative of the improvements that have been made. Representatives have requested that the borough buy the center a new bingo machine. Cost is \$800. Motion by D. Petrarca, Second by J. Grose. All ayes – motion carries.

21. Unfinished Business

- a. J. Grose – Multiple Farmer Market signs were stolen. Requesting action be taken to find the persons responsible.

22. New Business

- a. D. Petrarca – Woodland Hills SD has increased millage by 2.95 Mills (a 13% increase).

23. Motion to adjourn – Moved by P. Gionta. Second by D. Petrarca. All ayes – motion carries.

24. Meeting adjourned at 8:18 PM.
