

DECEMBER 17, 2018 2nd BUDGET HEARING MEETING MINUTES

Mayor Kuhn – Good Evening and welcome to the December 17, 2018 2nd Budget Hearing Meeting. Please stand for the Pledge.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

All stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Kuhn – Maureen Roll Call.

ROLL CALL

Mr. Brodnicki
Deputy Mayor Sapp
Mr. Underwood – Absent
Mr. Petrucci
Mayor Kuhn

There being no further discussion the Roll Call was 4 present and 1 absent.

Also attending were Andrejchak, Manager, Sorce, Manager's Secretary, Schrecengost, Finance Director, Alexander, Solicitor, Blackwell, Planning Director, Minsterman, Engineer, Burton, Chief, S. Shepard, DPW, McCafferty, Director of Code Enforcement, Miller, Fire Marshal, Zeak, Director of Library, EMS Director Fitzhenry, Scaglione, Director Parks and Recreation and Toth, IT.

Mayor Kuhn – Our 1st Budget Meeting it was on December 3rd. The platform was for the residents to bring forth worth any comments or items that they would like to have increased or decreased to Mayor & Council's attention. At that time, Mayor & Council did not give their opinions they were taking notes on all the issues that were brought up by the residents and the taxpayers. So what we will first do tonight we will see if there are any comments that Council wants to give pertaining to those questions that were brought up to us at the 1st Budget Meeting and then again afterwards anyone in the audience can come up and give their name and address and comments or questions they might have. Like I said at the 1st Budget Meeting this Budget was prepared by Mayor and Council, not by Mayor & Council but by the Manager and our Directors so Mayor and Council takes that information into consideration and we also take into consideration the information from our residents and through that is how we determine the outcome of what the 2019 Budget will be. As a reminder the Budget that was presented to the public has line items. If you wish a line item to be increased you just understand that there must be a line item to be reduced. With that being said we will start with Mayor and Council's input and we will start who wants to go first John.

Mr. Petrucci – I will go first. I am not sure how we are going to do the format on this so I jotted down a lot of material. I think we will take the first one Caitlyn Earle her question was about the Police Budget having to do with overtime and also Caitlyn asked a question to look at other Municipalities and other places to see if we really are in the ballpark. First let me say that Public Safety is my number one priority. You can't put a price on public safety as far as I am concerned. Secondly, we have some of the best EMTs, Police and Fire Personnel in Allegheny County as far as I am concerned. Your question was to look at other Municipalities to see if we were in the correct ballpark with what we are paying our Police. First the Police, DPW, WPCD and staff and EMTs are a contractual issue. The contracts were negotiated by the old Manager, Mr. Rayan for the increases that you see and it had nothing to do with the Council or the new Manager. The Council has nothing to do with that again but you compare with other communities, salaries for the Police Officers this is what I found. A Level Five Police Officer Bethel Park was \$98,000.00, Northern Regional was \$90,000.00, Peters Township \$90,000.00, Plum \$85,000.00, Robinson \$99,000.00, Shaler \$85,000.00, Oakmont \$83,000.00 and Murrysville at \$100,000.00 at 75% of their work force. All Level One Staffing were started at the same as we are around \$60,000.00 plus. Also the question came up about overtime. I would like to explain some of this. First every event that we have whether a parade, summer fest, autumn fest, fireman's fest incurs over time. Take the parade for instance each intersection that that parade has to be manned by a Police Officer maybe one maybe two depending on that day. Whatever Chief Burton has in mind to do that day. So those people are coming out and working the over time. You see these Police Officers at Summer Fest they are all working over time. We have a pro active Police Department. What I mean by that is they are out, they are visible. They are doing their job. When they go on a traffic stop a simple traffic stop they pull the vehicle over after they cite the person for the vehicle violation they come up to the vehicle and they happen to smell and I am using this as an example the odor of marijuana in the car. They ask the person if they can search the car and the person denies. Now what do you have to do. You have to get another Officer with you and you have to babysit that individual and you have to go for a search warrant. Now if that is in the evening hours you are going downtown and you don't know how busy that Magisterial District Judge is at that specific time so you may be sitting there for two to three hours. Maybe your shift is over by that time and you are still sitting there waiting that is something that would incur overtime. Another thing is when I get these messages that we have a possible drug house or somebody is selling drugs down the street from me and I turn it over to the Narcotics Division. They sit on that house for a couple of days. That incurs overtime. That is another way that they incur overtime. Also I am going to give you some other times for the Police overtime in this Budget it does appear to be high. There is a justification for the projected Budget number. Our Police Department works with minimum staffing per shift which is different for each shift as well as weekends and holidays. The minimum staffing standards have been in place since 1981. Whenever a vacancy occurs it brings the staff to below minimum and an Officer is forced to work at an overtime shift to fill that vacancy. We may force as many as five Officers to fill that vacancy at that one shift. These are caused by Officers using their benefits as outlined in the Police Labor Contract such as vacation, personal days,

sick days, comp time and military leave and in addition to these vacancies they are caused by the reduced staffing of the Police Dept. We are currently understaffed by four Officers and will lose three more Officers who are retiring in the first quarter of 2019 and we are in the process of hiring to fill four vacancies and will have a list to hire in 2019 to fill the retiree slots. The majority of the over time to date in 2018 was created by vacation, sick days, comp time and military leave. The majority of the sick leave overtime was created by six Officers being off for extended leave for various types of surgery. One Officer was activated for nine months of military duty and the other Officer was off for workman's comp claim. There were also five Officers off for various amounts of time due to workman's comp injuries and that had to be replaced with Officers forced working over time. The minimum staffing of 1981 must be maintained if not increased for our Officers to provide protection that our residents deserve and for the safety of our Officers. Once we fill the four vacant Police positions then our overtime costs may decrease but it isn't guaranteed due to unforeseen incidences that occur in Police Work. Due to the implementation of 911 our call volume has gone up. Now me personally I think that when we had Phil Pusateri running the desk up here and we had our dispatch I think we were better off. Phil filtered out the calls that could be a civil complaint. He knew the people in the community. Now that we have 911 that is implemented we have to answer every call. Our call volume has increased. Just for some ideas, in the month of October we had 1,729 calls, in the month of September 1,754. We have a high volume in this community. We talked about our PD now let us explore our other first responders, our EMS and our Firemen. EMS is first class they do a wonderful job they have an expense of \$1.6 and they only bring in \$1.1 that is due to either nonpayment from an insurance company or checks mailed to the patients and the patients have never sent the checks in to the Municipality. Their deficient is around \$500,000. The reason I am telling you this we have a first class EMS and just because we have a deficit it doesn't mean that we would do anything to correct that problem because nobody would ever want to get rid of our EMS. These are things that we spend money on in our community for our public safety. Public Safety is number one in my eyes. Our Volunteer Firemen's Budget is \$561,480. Each department gets a stipend \$25,000 in the spring and \$25,000 in the fall and why do they get this because we need them in our community we need them from what I am getting from talking to Mr. Capone the donations are down – 20 – 30% is the recovery rate?

John Capone – 12%.

Mr. Petrucci – That is even more than I think we are not getting the money generated into the Police Department or I mean the fire department they need our help. What am I suppose to say they use \$31,000 in fuel and I am suppose to say don't go riding around in the Community don't put Santa in the fire truck don't do your patrols don't run to these scenes real fast and burn fuel no I don't say that I say we have to spend the money for our fire departments we need them. Speaking of the firemen we were suppose to Mr. Andrejchak there was a letter for a \$2,500.00 increase on their siphons. Did we ever do anything with that?

Mr. Andrejchak – Not included in this budget.

Mr. Petrucci – So what I am trying to tell you is that we are blessed to have the professional first responders in our community that we do and to have those professional first responders you have to have money and that is where your tax dollars go. Like I said before how do you put a price on public safety? Your safety again is top priority to me and I am sure the same is for my fellow Council Members. These are all the perks for living in Penn Hills and I hope you understand a little of what your tax goes into your first responders and one other thing I want to leave you with is that this Manager came in September. He has done an outstanding job he has jumped right into the mix of things and he is reviewing every contract that comes out and he is dissecting them piece by piece to save the community money so let's give him some time to do his job and I am sure that we will see some changes in the next year. With that I want to move over to Jim Getsy. Mr. Getsy you asked approximately ten questions and I have the answers for you now sir. I numbered them one through ten starting at the top of your page. Your first answer for your first question is page 11 in the budget and yes it rolled over, o.k. Number 2 your answer to that question was 90% collection rate and 10% liens. Number 3 the lien letters I think you are misunderstanding the definition of a lien letter is. A lien letter is in simple terms are if I would purchase a house or I would re-mortgage my house I would get a lien letter from the Municipality to show that I don't have a lien against my house so the lien letter is the fees for what you sell your house. Number four professional services those are the solicitor fees and they may vary from year to year. Number 5 page 45 are the fees paid to keystone collections for liens or taxes or liens on properties or taxes. Number six page 51 it brings in someone to prepare the IT guy bring in someone to repair the computer that is what your professional services are for on that line. Number seven because that way the way it was set up from the last Manager. Number 8 page 105 revenue collected by us and the Municipality. It is not an expense example we get a fee if PA1 Call is issued Ed just told me and the fee that we get collected is a lump sum of ALCOSAN. Number 9 special pay items there was a lot of concern about that special pay included comp time, sick pay, vacation days, etc. That is what is included in every contract. Number ten in the budget was \$220,000.00 severance payment made to Mr. Rayan; yes Mr. Rayan was paid in 2018 on page 41. Is Mr. Zuillo here? He asked question about the recycling and I think we went through the recycling. Can we go down to once a week on recycling? I did ask Mr. McGoran and he told me to do that it wouldn't be feasible for him to do it he has the hired trucks and employees and what was is he supposed to do with the employees and trucks if he went down to once a month. Plus a lot of people weren't actually for that. As far as them doing a recycling station he said it is easier to pick up individual homes. I believe I just about covered but I believe somebody asked something about the Library, is that someone in the audience? You said something to the affect that the library did away with the librarian. I think what we have now is a librarian that is well let me have Mr. Andrejchak tell a little more about that.

Mr. Andrejchak – What is in the budget is probably not what is going to be in the final budget. Right now what we have is someone that is playing two roles. The

Director and the Children's Library. Between now and the end of the year there has to be some adjusting to fill both those positions but right now and that is my intent I have talked to the folks too at the library so they also know.

Mr. Petrucci – O.k thanks. One other thing that I will touch on. I see that Mr. Getsy sent a letter in to Mayor and Council again about ALCOSAN. I will go back to the last meeting on what I said about ALCOSAN. I urged everybody to call ALCOSAN and to please ask them what type of monetary about they are going to be charging each resident in the community for the regionalization program. That is what I think we need to do first is what we are we going to pay as far as regionalization and we have been over this numerous times and that would be up to the Mayor if she would like to have a meeting on that Mr. Getsy. I would start calling ALCOSAN and get them down to a definite amount for the regionalization. Do you know that ALCOSAN is going up again for the following year? I have the figures here I believe everybody got a copy of it. But it is going up another seven percent in 2019, seven percent in 2020 and seven percent in 2012. So they keep on raising the cost. One other last thing I want to mention first of all I understand there is a lot of concern over the rubbish billing and my thoughts on that where back in June there was discussion with the prior Manager and Republic and that time it should have been brought up to Council and it should have been discussed and put on the ballot on how you wanted to pay. I don't believe that five people sitting up here should make the decision for 42,000 people in this community when there are so many different ideas and thoughts and it affects you. This isn't about John Petrucci or Mayor Kuhn or Cathy Sapp or Mark Brodnicki it is about the community and the community thinks they should have their input on everything so I think back then we should have put this on the ballot back then so it wouldn't of put this much pressure on us. We are under a lot of pressure on this and we want the best decision for you in this community. So that was my thoughts on that. And just want to say thank you for coming out tonight and Merry Christmas to you all.

Mayor Kuhn – Cathy do you want to go next, I am sorry Deputy Mayor Sapp.

Deputy Mayor Sapp – Yes Mayor. That's o.k. Well good evening everyone. It is certainly a pleasure to see so many people out at this second budget hearing meeting. I want to say first that the first budget hearing this year it was very unique. Out of 154 pages most people that spoke had their concerns and they were repeated concerns. So the first person to speak tonight would have addressed these concerns and Councilman Petrucci did. So two of the biggest concerns for me on the budget were the overtime and special pay and it was concerns for the residents as well. I met with the business manager and he explained very clearly that he has a plan to decrease or alleviate a lot of this over time where he can. Public Works, emergency services those are expected over times. Everywhere else he will look very closely to the budget to make sure that he can revise it. Special pay I was very concerned about that because it looks very excessive and I am going to ask Scott if he would just take a few minutes and briefly clarify on what special pay is.

Scott Andrejchak – In our Budget there are a lot of different expenses and to separate these expenses we had to separate them and put them all in different categories. So in our budget what we are calling special pay is many things in some cases it is sick time buy back, a person leaves and sometimes they get vacation that is paid back to them it also includes longevity pay that is a big part of special pay. Also includes a contribution that the Municipality makes to a defined contribution retirement plan. So what is called special pay is really not special just a lot of different things in that one category.

Deputy Mayor Sapp – Thank you so much Scott. I hope that brought some clarity to all of the ones that were concerned including myself. I think maybe that name special pay it just doesn't look right. I think we need a different title for that line. So I hope that brought some clarity and Merry Christmas and thanks for coming out and we look forward to a very happy and prosperous New Year.

Mr. Brodnicki – Again I would like to thank everyone for coming out I was not at the last meeting but I went through all the minutes and the Manager did cut a few positions and he is going through all of the contracts to see where we can save money. I would like to see more roads paved and as far as the trash I am not in favor of raising the income tax (inaudible) again I want to thank everyone for coming out.

Mayor Kuhn – O.k. our secretary does an excellent job on typing up our minutes and by doing so any notes that Mayor and Council have taken regarding the budget hearings hers are 100% accurate so going through the minutes I have comments to some of the residents questions. Caitlyn Ertle, had a question on the police salaries. I don't think I can put any more information on that than Councilman Petrucci has given when the police salaries and the overtime for the police is not like any other department if you have someone on workman's comp if you have someone that has been ill and not able to work you have people on sick days, vacation days that constitutes the necessity that we have to have that shift covered but a job that you possibly work at or public works or parks and recreation, if you have someone who is out for the day it is not a necessity to bring someone in for that one day but for the police department it is and that is where the over time comes in to play is the fact that you have to replace someone who is not on a shift but most times when you replace that person the person replaces them is getting time and a half. That is something no one on Mayor and Council or the Management can control due to the fact that we have no control when a police officer takes off as far as our police department I can't say enough about them. I feel that Penn Hills as large as a community that we are we are a diverse community which I believe makes us stronger. Our crime rate is nowhere near being over the average. Penn Hills is still a safe place to live. I walk my dogs on the streets of Penn Hills and I have no fear. We are lucky to have the police department that we have and I for one would not have any desire to make any cuts or revisions in our police department. The other comment was on the rubbish situation. Now that was several people who made the comments on the rubbish situation. We had a public meeting it was advertised the rubbish contract was advertised and it was explained at detail at that

meeting that Penn Hills had only received two bids for taking care of Penn Hills rubbish. A lot of the Penn Hills rubbish companies would not bid Penn Hills. Possibly because of the size but I am not sure but we had two bids that came in. The two bids the one was much higher than the second bid. So naturally the most responsible lowest bidder is who Mayor and Council voted on. There was as I said quite a few Council people giving their research as to the rubbish collection so it was of my opinion that question was asked and answered. If you only have two people that will quote one is extremely higher than the other and the other is a responsible bidder and that is who we go with and as far as the recycling questions I will answer them all in one. If anyone watched 60 minutes after our Steeler victory you see what a mess recycling is in this country. It is complete in my opinion a failure because of the fact the change got collect it they wrap it and store it but they can't get rid of it. Recycling is what it is and because of the fact there is such a problem countries don't want to take our recycling so in that instance the rubbish companies do have to charge for the removal of the recycles. So I don't have a solution on that because of the fact at this point in time there was no solution you have to have your rubbish picked up we have a recycling program and you have two vendors to choose from so I have no answers on the complaints about the recycling charge and anyone who does a home budget has to realize that if you realize your pay checks in certain amount and that is what you live by and then in the next year you get an increase from one of your bill carriers that is so excessively high that has to reflect on what your next budget will bring and that is what happened to Penn Hills. You have a 2018 budget and then your receive a 2019 budget with \$875,000 increase for one service now if anyone can tell Mayor and Council how you cover \$875,000 increase for one service and not bring in extra revenue please represent it to us because I don't have a clue. Mr. Getsy was very proactive in giving Mayor and Council his questions in writing so that Mayor and Council had enough time to go over them. I know Mr. Petrucci has answered them and I have given Mr. Getsy my answers in written form and of course he is more than welcome to come up after Mayor and Council to make further comments. Faith Milazzo had several questions as far as the park and recreation for the band days and the movie nights all functions that the park and recreation sponsor come out of contract maintenance which you will see in your budget that is where it doesn't specify if it is for the Halloween party or the any functions that parks and recreation is involved in it doesn't list them separately. But the contract maintenance is that amount that is budgeted for all the programs that the parks and recreation director is in charge of and those are based on his choices as director. As far as overtime I think I touched on that and so did Councilman Petrucci touched on that and just so everyone is aware the parade that was given for the football team did not cost any overtime with the efforts of Chief Burton and superintendent Nancy Hines they came up with a solution and a way that we did not have to shut down any roadways so there was no police overtime involved so I do want to thank the Chief and Nancy for that. As far as schools and conferences I don't know how we would not support educating our directors and staff. I know that quite a few go to these training sessions and what they bring back is information for improvement for the Municipality. This is what they are directors for and for the best way of doing things it is information and it is training and information and training is needed in this day and age everything moves so

quickly and so many new programs come in to play. As far as emergency management that amount is put in the budget for the events of emergencies. The amount is probably no where needed if we had a true disaster but there is an amount put in for in it so that is what that represents. And the traffic safety is one full time position and the officer for traffic safety has special duties over and above what the normal officer has. He investigates traffic accidents, he investigates the reports for scenes that might have to go to court and he looks into safety procedures on the roadways of Penn Hills plus other duties. But that is why he is separate from the police department as far as payment goes. Code violations 9000 received 3500 Code Personnel goes to the director and then to the manager and I will ask the manager to review your concerns Faith but I will also say there have been many comments by our residents saying what a good job code does and it is a very hard position because if you go down any street or any business you would be able to see a code violation of some kind and to have enough personnel all the needs of the code violations your mil would have to go up much more because of the cost. Contracts are negotiation by the manager and the unions and once they come to an agreement that contract is discussed publicly at a council meeting for input from the tax payer and residents to council. Sewage I don't know how I can educate any more on the sewage cost. Penn Hills was targeted by DEP and EAP because of the violation of discharging waste into the river. We are an old community our sewers were in deplorable shape previous administrations did not want to touch the subject because it was such a large undertaking and the cost would be so extensive and it wouldn't be politically in their favor. No one can see a sewer because it is underground because if they would say oh we spent x amount of dollars on our sewers the public wouldn't acknowledge it. They would rather see it as paved road or park or whatever so the sewer system in Penn Hills deteriorated for not one year, five years, ten years but for multiple years. We were told by the DEP that Penn Hills had to rectify the problem. The manager at that time and I am going back twenty, twenty five years said he would not have Allegheny County dictate to Penn Hills well he didn't and the result DEP turned it over to EPA now Penn Hills was told year upon year that all the communities would have to do to their systems exactly what we did to our system. That is the pledge that we received from the EPA. In turn Mayor and Council told their citizens the same thing that these other communities would have to do the same thing is what Penn Hills is being forced to do to ours and by doing so their rates would be increased. Now D day comes to all the communities around and go on your internet and you will see that they have to update their systems. So that should pay their taxpayer money to update their systems but no we have come up with a regionalization plan which I have discussed so many times and the regionalization plan was all the communities in Allegheny County need to work together and have some type of charge put on that is identical for every community because these communities will go bankrupt if they have to take care of the sewers. Well Penn Hills is an older community and we don't have elaborate incomes and no one reached out to Penn Hills when we and our tax payers had to reduce our answers. So now we are suppose to be sitting around the fire camp and holding hands and working together. Well my opinion to them is number one Penn Hills paid for all our updates to have a common bucket of money to distribute to other Communities then you are asking my residents who have already paid for it to

pay other surrounding communities. Number three if it is a flat rate you have communities that might have 4500, 3000 households and if they have to pay a flat rate of \$10.00 to go into this pot do the math. Penn Hills has 22,000 households so if we pay \$10.00 a household do the math. Penn Hills outside the City of Pittsburgh is the largest community in Allegheny County and we have paid for our systems to be updated now they don't already want us to do this regionalization and put all the funds together but outside of the City of Pittsburgh Penn Hills will be putting the most money into that bucket of money. And Penn Hills has already done so we won't be getting any of the money because we have already completed the work. We have no control over the EPA. Penn Hills as everyone knows was under a criminal consent and a consent order and we through diligence and hard work came out of both of them and the EPA has noted that Penn Hills has done such a good job they no longer will have to be inspected on regular basis by the EPA. Well everyone says well why then doesn't our sewage be lowered well it still doesn't mean that we still have to do the mandates that the EPA puts forth. So it is a continual operation that has to be done and it is costly and as far as who heard what from ALCOSAN that has been said before but the head of ALCOSAN is Arletta Williams and she is only one who has the authority to say what can and can't be done from ALCOSAN. We asked ALCOSAN to take our plants over and they said no. We asked ALCOSAN to do our billing and they said no. Now if someone can produce to Mayor and Council a letter on ALCOSAN'S letter head stating that they can do our billing we will rush to that agreement but it has to be signed by someone that has the authority to sign it. I can't go any further into the sewers because I don't know what any residents want more of an explanation. When I am done Andrea. We also had Minister Dennis was talking about sewer billing and like I said if these two people can provide actual documentation from ALCOSAN that they can do our billing please have it presented to Mayor and Council in writing. Betty Arntz personnel over the library the salt increase. When I looked at the budget that was presented to Mayor and Council the salt increase jumped out like a pop up toy. How we could go from \$338,800 to \$693,300 increase \$354,500 in one year was crazy to me so I did present to manager and he has given somewhat of an explanation and I have asked him for a more detailed one. But at this time he said 10,000 tons is what is normally needed for a winter and the last two years were mild and we had a full dome plus 3,000 tons of salt and that has been utilized and we had to replenish it but I did tell him I wanted a more detailed report on that and everybody has to remember the budget for the salt is not just January, February and March you also have November and December. Ed Zuillo regarding recycling. I have already made my statement on that. Our Fire Chief John Capone about supporting our fire departments. I will take some excerpts out of what was written in the newspaper. It is more likely scenario with each passing decade in the last forty years the number of volunteer firefighters across Pennsylvania has plummeted from 300,000 to 38,000 this is not news to first responders. Fire Chief wonders when the whistle blows will anyone be available. Penn Hills closed one of its stations in 2017 for lack of volunteers to properly man their trucks. The slack was picked up by the Municipalities remaining stations. Cities like Butler and Washington are devoting huge chunks of their budgets for fully paid fire fighting force. They have no choice an entire city could burn like dry timber without a full force of fire fighters twenty four seven.

Unless Municipalities want to be put between a rock and an inadequate fire protection and hard place of higher taxes they better get creative. They do announce in here that Cranberry has built a fire training facility which Mayor and Council have built for our fire companies with this complex. Volunteer fire fighters should not have to staff bake sales and car washes to have the funds for the equipment building maintenances and training. Anyone who can hear me at a parade, a council meeting, I try to educate if residents do not send in the donations that are sent to them from their local fire company if they can't come up with \$50.00, \$75.00 or \$100.00 then they need to explain to me how they are going to come up with additional tax revenue if our volunteer fire departments fall to the way side. Those firemen are on call twenty four seven and as I often say if it is Christmas Eve and when that alarm rings they leave their family and friends for the alarms, birthday parties, graduation parties whatever the event when that siren goes off they leave their families their functions to protect all of you and all the people in Penn Hills. They should not have to stand out in the cold and rain with a boot for passing cars to give them donations. They should not have to work extra activities in order to bring revenue in. This is your volunteer firemen who serve and protect each and every one of you. You have to come to the realization your monetary support is necessary and if it doesn't come about where is Penn Hills going to be if your house catches on fire if someone is caught in a car accident that has to be taken out with the jaws of life. We need to be woken up and it is shameful what the firemen get back on the letters that they send out. Their request in the budget is \$2,500 for each fire station for each supplement the Municipality gives me if anyone has any ideas about cutting finding on certain line items to give more funding to our volunteer fire department that is where we needed to be looking. Lori Kelly on cell phones. The Manager has informed Council he is reviewing emails, cell phones and social media. Damian Fitz on purchasing properties to get them back on tax rolls. The municipality has joined a county program regarding this type of program and it has become very successful. What the program is is someone can come in purchase the property and then they make the property more useable and then it is sold and it gets back on the tax basis so it is a great program and we are like I said Penn Hills utilizes it completely. I won't go any further I think I have covered everything. There was a comment about the number of employees in our Finance Department. We have a Finance Director who has been with the Municipality for over 50 plus years you ask him anything and he has it at your disposal. He has received awards on a continual basis for his audits and if he has a staff of five believe me when he retires you will need five to replace him. As I said I am in favor of the 1 mil and I am not in favor of the garbage fee because of the fact you will have the same situation as we have when people don't pay their sewage bills. The only problem is it will be worse because the fact they will be putting the rubbish out on the roads and they aren't picked up because they are on a list that they haven't paid for the service then what are we going to do about the rubbish all over the streets. So that concludes my comments from the last meeting. So now we will open comments up from the audience.

Mayor Kuhn – I did want to ask everyone in the minutes that the secretary typed up there was probably close to ten or more comments that she could not pick up from

the microphone to put into the minutes so if everyone could speak directly into the mike it would help when she does the minutes. Thank you Mr. Getsy

Mr. Getsy – The first one is 4 million surplus showing in 2018 well when Mr. Rayan left after nine years so where did that 4 million go so how can we end up with a deficit. I don't want to go into that it is just a comment. I was interested in the lien letters and that was answered to my satisfaction. Professional Services you mentioned the other attorney fees I am not sure what for I think they should be broken out in the budget and not just as professional services so each service would be identified. Special pay was mentioned and satisfied my question. \$220,000 severance pay to Moe Rayan was shown in the budget which I asked it to be although it was hidden in my opinion. I will let that one go. My question on the second letter for an audit on the water and sewage (inaudible)

Pauline Calebrese – 142 Crescent Hills Road - Mayor I could not agree with you more I agree so much with your comments. I was a little nervous when I got here I thought there was going to be a lot of negativity. It is like we are the prettiest girl at the ball and we are crying because we broke a fingernail. Truly we are further ahead than other communities have to do what we are already doing. Our sewer system is already set and sewage is going to go up but they will have to pay for it and I am really proud for that unless I did not hear that correctly I am very proud we have a 90% tax collection rate, is that correct? That's an A we just got an A. That is an awesome grade we have so many good things going on here, we have the new building, new school, fire fighters so I think we have to be positive about this and look at all the really good things we have. I think the rubbish question has answered itself we have three choices here. Number one raise the income tax I don't think anyone wants to do because that is what makes us a really attractive municipality because we are competitive in that area so in my humble opinion please do not raise that. Do the private pay which is about 17.00 amount but that is going to increase and that is the cost is the cost is the cost but that is a public health issue because if people don't put it out to the curb they are going to dump it over the side so it has to be done. It is not like your water being shut off. So I think the other thing the increase would be 53 a year so let me round it down to 52 which would be \$1.00 come on people spend more on gas station coffee. Number one we have to look at this in a positive light. We have to either increase revenue or cut and there is nowhere else to cut. So I would consider as you vote tonight do the income tax not do the private pay just make us pay the \$1.00 a week. Thank you.

Mayor Kuhn – Thank you

Peggy Denham – 11674 Althea Road – Thank you Mayor Kuhn that was the best explanation on sewage I heard in a long time. I preach to people about that all the time. I was here when a lot of those things were occurring. We have interest, mandating that is why our costs are so high. We asked everyone to help us and no one came. I sat on some of the other boards to help and the other communities need everything and they are looking at us to help and we are going to have to help because it will be a regional

thing. Our cost are going to go up because it is going to be one pot and our systems are fantastic and we have come up and beyond what they have asked for to get ahead. And we are ahead of the game. And I have to say about the rubbish is the worst thing that we could do is to start self pay. They will be throwing the rubbish over the hill sometimes we see refrigerators and TVs people need to start to get pro-active about what they are doing with recycling and TVs you just can't throw them out and it takes phone calls. I try to find every resource I can. I don't like to see things go into the dumps at all. So I really believe we need to do what she says and pay the \$1.00 a week or a couple dollars week instead of the trash. I know what it costs to get rid of the trash. And as far as the volunteer fire guys go you have to step up and give the money that is one check I write out every single year. I have had a family home burn down at one time and we lost a loved one and you don't want to see that happen. So let's keep Penn Hills the way they are so proud of Penn Hills. I go to all the football games it is a great community so let's keep it that way. Thank you for all the explanations you are all doing a great job and good luck to you Scott.

Faith Milazzo – 121 Castle Drive – I just want to clarify Mayor you said about schools and conferences I wasn't saying their shouldn't be schools and conferences my specific comment was last year budget was \$20,000 and this coming year it is \$43,000 and that is more than double. It just seems a lot to me and I have another question and I don't know if you can answer it. It does seem more like we are raising the mil and is it correct that business will also have to likely have their mil will be raised so they will be responsible for covering trash even though they won't have the residential trash, would that be correct?

Scott Andrejchak – Yes that is correct.

Faith Milazzo – I still think it is a better solution but I still feel for businesses we want to attract business we want to get new businesses for me personally I feel like that is the only downside and people on social media have said I will not pay monthly and if they send me a bill I am just going to throw it away. Which is scary but I was wondering if it does go in that direction if someone does not pay will the trash people have a list of 115 did not pay so I am not going to get their trash.

Scott Andrejchak – I don't think that is how it would go. We have a contract with Republic so how we pay that and how we pay Republic is really up to us. There are people now who don't pay taxes and still get that service so hypothetically if there were a fee we would collect that like any other fee.

Faith Milazzo – I do support the mil but the article in the Trib my understanding if it goes up 1 mil that would be for a house assessed at \$100,000. Is that correct? (inaudible). One more thing I think John said Moe's severance was on page 41 I didn't see anything for over \$200,000 so I don't know if Moe just didn't get the \$200,000 but I didn't notice that on page 41 which someone quoted.

Scott Andrejchak – It is on page 41. See the estimate column.

Jerry Chippenelli – 921 Cimmaron Drive – I love Penn Hills. Moved here from East Liberty in 1968 as I was reminded months ago we are all from East Liberty. A lot of the Italians came here from East Liberty but this is the place I love. I am so proud of Penn Hills. We haven't had a tax increase does anybody remember. We have business developments coming in here. Planning bringing in new things and doing excellent job. Sewage was being flushed down at midnight and it wasn't me. Now Mayor and Council last ten years has done a great job. Our road crew does a great job. This town is changing and it is all for the better. The new Manager he got left with a handful that's o.k. we have Mayor and Council that works together with the Manager and works together with the community. We got a football team and I was yelling at the Progress for not having them on the front cover for the last three weeks. We just lost a Penn Hills resident Bill Fralic who was a friend of ours but he remembered Penn Hills. I think he paid for the Penn Hills Fralic Center. I came to this town in 68 and I was a poor little Italian boy and I made a lot of money from this town and I love it. I have a lot of friends here and we have good working relation with all departments. We have to raise mil on houses. If I have to pay a little more for my house I will because I love this town. The fire department I give whatever I can. Recreation Department had four different events this year that were so nice one at Friendship Park, we had a band concert. We are expanding our horizons and making Penn Hills proud. I know the Deputy Mayor that is one of her slogans and I love it but we are proud of this town and we have a family. Sometimes the family has to stretch the budget a little bit more for salt and a little bit more for rubbish. I appreciate Penn Hills and I love it and I will do anything I can to help this town make more money. Thank you.

Good evening Mayor and Council my name is Minister Dennis – 118 MacFarland Drive – I know you gave to Chief Burton and Code Enforcement I am very proud of our police staff and code enforcement. I believe that being at these last few meetings I have been given hope at staying here in Penn Hills. I really had been thinking about leaving after 15 years. But Police Chief Burton and Mr. Cory Code Enforcement they really have the most dangerous positions and I just want to say hats off to them from the residents. I think Police Chief Burton is in the house tonight thank you so much for how you serve, I don't take it lightly. Mr. Corey but I thank you also. So I was one of the ones that called ALCOSAN, Mr. Petrucci and I don't know if the evening that I e-mailed Ms. Maureen she said last Thursday you all received it. Did you receive the rate Resolution Dawn and Cara sent. The direct billing will save us a lot of money versus having third party billing. Are we doing a renters fee also because our crime rate is down that we do a background check on our renters please. I heard what a great job the Municipal Manager is doing and I want to applaud you as well. I asked for that letterhead and even today I contacted them and they are willing to do direct billing. I am going to work very hard to get that in writing for us. I was in the hospital off and on and my bill was the highest it has ever been even though I wasn't home. We need to do something. So thank you so much. I feel like I have hope for staying in Penn Hills. If you have the Resolution I would ask if you please would review it. Thank you.

Andrea Getsy – 151 Crescent Hills Road – (Inaudible). It seems like the microphone over on the right hand side cannot be heard. I will have someone take a look at it.

Chief Burton – (Inaudible) – I am having someone look at the right microphone at the podium.

Mayor Kuhn – Chief to give some history on this when the County had everyone gone into 911 we had our own record room where the dispatchers where in place and Penn Hills tried every attempt to not go to 911 but other than Monroeville who has their own system which was paid for by certain agencies. Penn Hills agreed to go into 911 but it wasn't like we jumped to the opportunity it was more or less all the Communities were in it so Penn Hills joined in also. We were concerned because with having our own dispatchers if someone would say a certain address it is across from Alcoma Country Club across from Arby's and 911 Operators had no knowledge of the layout of Penn Hills.

(Inaudible)

Mayor Kuhn – Thank you again for coming up with the information on a spur of the moment.

(Inaudible)

Mrs. Getsy- inaudible

Mayor Kuhn – Personally as I said it should be volunteer firemen should be compensated much more than they are. So that is something for Mayor and Council to look into.

Did not hear name – Raising of mil better options and then everything was inaudible. Same right side.

Mayor Kuhn – Ed when was the last time the Municipality increased the mil. I am sorry asking you blindsided if you would recall the last time increased mil was ten years ago. That is an estimate. Ed off the cuff and I don't like to do that but ten years approximately the Municipality increased its mil. That is a very long time. Peggy who was Deputy Mayor on Council thinks it was six years. I would like to ask everyone to go back into their records and see what their health insurance costs were and see what the gas was six years ago and check and see what your utilities where six to ten years ago and most important see what your cable TV bill was six to ten years ago. My personal opinion the only way that the Municipality pays any cost is through revenue. So that is what the Municipality has to generate is revenue when you do not raise mil that means for six to ten years there was no additional revenue that came in but in that period of

time everything that the Municipality pays for went up there is increases not only with what I have stated but also with personnel. I know social security has raised their income to their people who are on it I believe that is 2 something that is Social Security. Like I said our unions. People who may not realize Mayor and Council are not paid employees. We do not have offices up here, cell phones, gas allowance no benefits we receive \$00 a month and the Mayor receives \$400 a month. That is what the residents voted for in the Home Rule Charter and that was in 1972 is when we went to the Home Rule Charter and that was what was stipulated in 1972 and that was never increased. But my point is everything goes up every year so in order to pay those increases additional revenues have to come in and now if anyone for the next budget meeting would like to provide line items that money should be taken out of and line items where they want it increased but you have to understand whatever you want to increase you have to reduce something else in the budget. That is how you have a balanced budget and that is what this Municipality does. We do not pass our budgets for eight months and we don't have millions and trillions of dollars in debt in our budget. Mayor and Council present in December at the end of the year a balanced budget. And I also hope that every resident realizes the benefits that Penn Hills Municipality gives their residents that other communities don't. I hear other people say I want to move out of Penn Hills because the sewage rate is so high that has been discussed to the ends but I say to them when you move to a neighboring community because you might be saving 15 – 20 – 25 on sewage a quarter just remember you have to pay rubbish at those communities just remember Penn Hills has an in house paramedic unit that is on call 24-7 for the residents of Penn Hills where other communities have private. Look and see what Penn Hills gives you before you give a comment that you are going to move out of Penn Hills for what a \$1 a week in an increase in tax or \$30 a quarter for wage tax or like I said paramedics or rubbish removal but like I said all those things have to be paid for. Now the Home Rule Charter also stated that because we are not paid employees we legislate the Charter made the choice from the residents that the Manager is in charge of the day to day running of the Municipality. So we as Council members don't have offices there and we are not suppose to micromanage we are suppose to get our information from our professional managers and from the directors and from our solicitor that is what we go by. We work very hard and the reason we do is because each and every one of us lives in Penn Hills, care about Penn Hills and make Penn Hills better every single day. Things come up just like this building. Mayor and Council didn't jump up and say let us build a new building it was because of the fact that the old building was not inhabitable. We worry about enforcing codes, occupational permits well the old building wouldn't have passed any of them so we had to do what we had to do. Numerous meetings were held, committees brought in their own professional builders and architects and it was shown that Mayor and Council were doing what they had to do. Well when you have to have a large amount of money distributed to one cause and you have a large portion of charges increase in please someone tell me what line item you want to reduce and what line items you want to increase. And as far as rubbish and recycling the sewers we haven't had a deaf ear to that. This administration and previous administrations worked diligently to bring all that under control. Now do we want your input that is why we have three meetings. The Charter states only two. But

you have to understand you can't only give a comment you have to provide Mayor and Council with a solution. Sorry I took your time out.

William Mouts – 1335 Maple Avenue – Thank you Council for what you have all been doing and the Manager for taking on this position I know it is not easy. I understand the contract has been signed with Republic and going forward and we don't know how to pay for it and I am kind of conflicted because both arguments sounds very valuable and looking forward whichever one you pick in 2020 if it needs to be changed again might want to look at what North Huntington does. They have a two tier system in garbage collection those 65 and over pay \$1 for each bag they put out on the curb. Those people under 65 have to pay \$45.00 a quarter. That includes both regular and recycles. Monroeville has their own trucks that would be a large amount to start with but you would have to hire your own people from Penn Hills. Just an idea.

Mayor Kuhn – Thank you we appreciate ideas.

(inaudible) - I have not been to a Council Meeting before and it seems to me somewhat troubling. I like Penn Hills. I could have lived anywhere but I choose Penn Hills (talking very low and not in microphone can't hear word for word) I know how Municipalities operate so I understand about building a building. What are you doing with the old building? If it is inhabitable why is it still standing? Are you tearing it down or trying to sell it? I am confused and conflicted on that. The water and sewage it is a big mess. My question and I just got back into town. We go away for a month. My bill doesn't show this and I am not the only one my bill should go down but sometimes it goes up. How are they reading the meters? (Inaudible) never happens with water and sewage. It is just my wife and me, we shower and have dishwasher but we don't water grass but it never changes since 1999. As far as Penn Hills as a community you have got a couple of Aldi's. The word around is Penn Hills is not friendly business. I am sure the taxes in Penn Hills I am hearing all of this stuff we are average the high tax around here is Pittsburgh and we are second. I don't understand why the school just didn't file bankruptcy what is wrong with that.

Mayor Kuhn – I don't want to interrupt you but you are quoting the district school tax. I will provide you we receive a print out every year on every community and what their tax mil is and Penn Hills is not second to the city of Pittsburgh. But as I also stated it has been at least six years since we haven't raised our mil. I don't want you to confuse the school district mil with the municipality mil.

(Inaudible) – Oh my six years it hasn't been raised why can't it be seven, why can't it be eight? Why can't you do bonds like other communities do?

Mayor Kuhn - So you want the Municipality to go into debt?

Same resident didn't hear his name in the beginning – so didn't have any trouble with it before.

Mayor Kuhn – Oh no I beg to differ with you maybe 12 - 15 years ago they got bonds the only time that we received any bonding I am sorry sir if you don't appreciate the answers I am giving you but when you are at a public meeting and making statements that are not 100% correct

Resident – We are a hundred and sixty million dollars in debt.

Mayor Kuhn – We are what? You are so confused with the Municipality and the school district.

Resident – I am not confused yes the school district is part of this Community

Mayor Kuhn - The school district and the Municipality are two separate entities. If you have a problem with the school tax you go to that board.

Resident – I said the community has a problem with the school.

Mayor Kuhn – No you can't bulk it together we have our budget and they have their budget we are discussing the Municipalities budget. We are not discussing the community's joint because we have nothing to say with the expenditures of the school taxes and they have nothing to say about the expenditures for the Municipality.

Resident – Well thank you for clearing that up I had no idea.

Mayor Kuhn – Here is what I have said. We have given every bit of information we can possibly give as to this budget as far as what your opinion is if you could explain to us exactly what you want us to cut.

Resident – I would be glad to if you would give me the opportunity to spend the time necessary.

Mayor Kuhn- One thing about this Mayor she lets everyone talk for as long as they choose and I have been criticized for it over and over so please don't say I am not permitting you to talk I am just correcting you on the statements that you are making that are not accurate.

Resident – I just did but you were talking so much you didn't hear what I said. I said afford me the availability to look over your budgets and your finances and I will come in and speak to you. I am retired I can spend all day.

Mayor Kuhn – Well then show us.

Resident – Set a time and date and I will be there.

Mayor Kuhn – We announced when our budget hearings were.

Resident – No, no, no. To give you the answer you want I have to do my own audit. Then I will give you the line items that can be reduced or eliminated.

Mayor Kuhn – Why didn't you bring them to the first budget meeting and to this meeting.

Resident – Like I said I just got back into town and I wasn't here for the first one and didn't have time and like people said you just have line items in here that really don't specify yea like \$200,000 of that went to pay off that guy so we are just suppose to take that.

Mayor Kuhn – OK. So here is what we are going to do. You obviously have concerns and you are obviously very dissatisfied and you are very dissatisfied with the Mayor and I am only one of five so I will put it to my other Council Members what answers they could put with your questions.

Resident – Sure and before we go there I don't know any of them so I can't say if I am or am not dissatisfied I am in fact totally dissatisfied with the previous set of people of how they ran this city. You have heard me complain about a lot of things the same as other people (inaudible)

John Petrucci – I believe we do have some kind of tax incentive.

Resident – (inaudible) you said it best when you said things go up salt goes up salaries go up. Our medical costs are going up our food budget going up everything is going up. And if you raise the mil no wonder between us and the other entity the big bad wolf no wonder everyone is fleeing they can't live here anymore it is unaffordable. Have to make it attractive to live here and not have people being forced out of their homes because they can't pay don't have enough money to stay in their homes we do we are fortunate.

David Fitz – 418 Rodi Road – I was at the last meeting. Quick question. Thanks for responding to my question which was about the buyback program for real estate for the abandoned properties. Honestly I read something three years ago there was something available to buy back properties here. Is this a year round program or periodic thing that pops up and is there any staff of how many abandoned properties there are in Penn Hills and do we put this number in the budget. Where do we stand with that? What is the real process right now if I wanted to purchase ten homes?

Mayor Kuhn – Not to interrupt you but I think Chris could help you with some of your questions.

Chris Blackwell – We have several programs. There is a variety of vacant structures but there is also a variety of properties for rehab. Right now we have a vacant property program which is a year round program which is all the time. Where you approach the County for a very reduced cost. They eliminate the closing costs and the back taxes and things like that. We have a list of vacant properties in the Planning Department and my staff can give you that. Damian Buccilli can also tell you what is open. We work very close with the tax collectors. We can take it to sheriff sale free and clear and we do that several times a year also. Those are various programs we have. The property has to be delinquent for three years.

David Fitz – Does anyone keep track of that. Maybe back to 2013.

Chris Blackwell – yes since the inception of the program we have taken 27 properties in the property recovery program and I believe 14 of them with the other programs I am not sure of the exact number.

David Fitz – The properties on the list right now are they all residential or do they sometimes include commercial?

Chris Blackwell – These would all be residential and they all have a story. They are not going to be easy. These are going to be difficult properties.

Mayor Kuhn – I don't mean to interrupt you. If you could get name and information you could explain more in detail. Thank you.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mr. Petrucci made a motion to adjourn.

Deputy Mayor Sapp seconded the motion.

Everyone agreed.

Meeting ended at 9:30 P.M.

MAUREEN M. SORCE
MANAGER'S SECRETARY