

DECEMBER 18, 2017 2ND BUDGET HEARING MINUTES

Mayor Kuhn - Good Evening everyone it being 7:05 P.M. I will call the December 18, 2017 2nd Budget Meeting to order and if we could stand for the Pledge of Allegiance.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

All stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Kuhn - The Manager has asked me to let the Public know that if anyone doesn't have a Budget there are several on the table if you would like to take one and follow along or if you would like to take one home and go over it we do have our Final Budget Meeting, December 29, 2017.

ROLL CALL

Mr. Brodnicki
Mrs. Sapp
Mr. Underwood
Dr. Kincaid
Mayor Kuhn

There being no further discussion the Roll Call was 5 present.

Also attending were Rayan, Manager, Sorce, Manager's Secretary, Schrecengost, Finance Director, Dice, Solicitor, Blackwell, Planning Director, Minsterman, Engineer, Burton, Chief, Carson, Administration, O'Grady, Director WPCD, S. Shepard, DPW, Miller, Fire Marshal, Zeak, Director of Library, EMS Director Fitzhenry, Scaglione, Director Parks and Recreation, Nosal, Director Public Works and Director IT Jack Day.

MAYOR & COUNCIL INPUT

Mayor Kuhn - to start the meeting Mayor & Council will give any input on the Budget prior to Public Input so we will start with Mark, do you have any comments if so Mark you have the floor.

Mark Brodnicki - Nothing really new. I met with Mr. Rayan and also spoke to him a couple times this month and I support his Budget.

Mayor Kuhn - alright Mark. Cathy do you have any comments?

Cathy Sapp - Mayor Kuhn - I do.

Mayor Kuhn - The floor is yours.

Cathy Sapp - A couple things I wanted to address. First I wanted to say thank you to all the residents who came out to the Budget Hearing Meeting. It was a nice surprise to see all of the residents here and I also want to thank you for taking this interest and coming up to the mike and being interested in the Municipality in which you live and work so thank you very much for your interest and all of your comments. Now I would like to address some of those comments tonight. Mayor Kuhn if I may?

Mayor Kuhn - Yes go ahead Cathy.

Cathy Sapp - First there was a comment made by a Bill Mouts, if I pronounced your name incorrectly I apologize and he talked about Solar Panels on public buildings and I know this is becoming more popular and Tesla Manufacturing are pushing that market, however, my concern was how much sun do we actually even get in Penn Hills that would generate enough solar to make our building run effectively and so I did reach out to a researcher at Tesla and I am waiting for that person to give me a return call so that I can further into the information on the solar panels. I thought it was a good idea and I know that is where the market is going but again in Pittsburgh and more so and more specifically Penn Hills, I am not quite sure that we even get enough sun so I just wanted you to know Mr. Mouts that I did in fact go to the top manufacturer with solar panels to do some of that research and thank you so much for that comment. Also to Faith Milazzo who made a comment about litter signs and fines. I also thought that was a great idea and I would like for Mayor & Council to look more in depth into seeing if we could indeed put those signs up. I do believe we have some around Penn Hills in some of the wards but if we could even have more signs put up. I don't know how effective it would be but maybe if it was just a little effective where it would cause the litterers to be more conscious of throwing things out the window or just outside so I would like to talk more about that and I thank you Faith for that because I think even with putting the signs up and discouraging litter bugs to even generate some more revenue even though it would be small by fining people that is a good idea. So thank you Faith for that. For Angela, Jennifer and Mrs. Getsey who spoke on concerns about communication by ways of Social Media I did indeed speak with Mr. Jack Day who is the IT person for Penn Hills. I am going to be meeting with him in January to discuss further maintaining and keeping our web site updated but I did find today I am not really a tecky person I know that we have a lot of millennials and some of us who are not so millennial or into way of communicating by way of social media but he is actually going to walk me through the steps. I did find Jack B. Day, Penn Hills Municipality for those of you who don't know or are not aware you can go on the web site on Face Book and you can find it and there is valuable information posted so we will be talking about maintaining the upkeep of it and making things more current. So thank you so much for that Angela, Jennifer and Mrs. Getsey. Also I know that Mrs. Getsey was concerned and talked about our Administrative Secretary who she thought made a very high salary. I met with some other Business Manager's in Greentree and Peters Township. I spoke with them about their Administrative Secretaries and what they made and I am happy to say that

Penn Hills was a Middle Class Municipality offers and is able to pay our Administrative Secretary a living wage versus a minimum wage. Our secretary is worth more than \$16 - \$17 dollars an hour. She does way more. If any of you have ever had to call her and talk with her I am sure that you were very pleased with the outcome of your conversation so I just wanted to comment on that so I am very pleased with Penn Hills being able to again offer her a living wage versus a minimum wage and I believe that is all I have to say so thank you again for your input and I will be working on those things that I just talked with you about. Mayor Kuhn thank you.

Mayor Kuhn - Thank you Cathy. Gary any comments?

Gary Underwood - Currently because we are on the Budget we have had the paper work a little ahead of time and some changes might be in there before the final day. I have done my homework just like the rest of everybody on Council. That is our job to do that. That is what we are here for. I agree that we do have some situations and other situations yes we want to talk about signs are you going to find them when you don't have anybody in sight. I mean I agree if we could get people who threw garbage but it is a fact it is not going to happen because you don't get anybody and nobody is going to squeal on the next person. They will just accept it and that is the bad situation accepting that because you will see it everywhere and if you talk to the people that pick up the rubbish they will explain to you as well. We have all kinds of paper, plastic and what not. I understand that and I am also fortunate I have been on Council a good period of time and I have seen it come and I have seen it go so I know a little bit more in those situations than other people on Council but that is part of learning. You learn sometime and you learn the hard way and sometimes as we get back to the solar panels I am sorry Cathy I have to also mention we have mentioned that to the architect at the new building and he said Gary it is not worth it. It is not going to fly because again the sun here in Penn Hills is not here enough to really power that so people from their homes have them they are doing it on their dollar not the public's dollar and that is o.k. now for somebody to do that at one of the places. We have for gardening I don't ever recall mentioning that when we first leased that property to have that done and many other things over there that are being done that are not part of the agreement and I plan on doing something about that next year. To straighten those situations out and inform them and hopefully everything will stay well. With that I am finished. Thank you.

Mayor Kuhn - Thank you Gary. Dr. Kincaid.

Dr. Kincaid - Thank you Mayor Kuhn. I also have gone through this Budget several times since we first received it and I find it to be a very prudent Budget and I find it to be an excellent Budget so my comments are brief and I would commend our Manager, our Finance Director and all the Department Heads and all who have had an input into this Budget. I have seen several Budgets over the last thirteen years and this one looks as good as any I have experienced and I don't think we could do much better than the Budget that we have before us. I hope you know that everyone has their opinions but opinions are opinions but this Budget seems to be a factual Budget, a

prudent Budget and a good Budget and in my estimation to my experience being here on Council these years so I have no comments or recommendations pursuant to this Budget for 2018. Thank you.

Mayor Kuhn - Thank you Dr. Kincaid.

Cathy Sapp - I also would like to say to Mr. Rayan and Ed you did a very good job and to all the Department Directors you did a very good job. As I looked over other Municipalities Budgets and compared our Budget to their Budget we are doing a good job and wanted to commend Moe for this ongoing process you are always on it and we really appreciate the hard work that you do and I want to thank you.

Mayor Kuhn - Thanks Cathy. Any other comments from Council?

Mayor Kuhn - I have a few comments. Cathy has already spoke on solar panels and she has informed us that she is doing further research on it. As far as the comments on litter fines that was looked into on some degree with Chief Burton pertaining to the legal options that would have to be addressed so it is not put on the back burner but from the stand point of legality the Chief has told us that in some conditions our hands are tied as far as that goes. As far as the high salary for our Administrative Secretary what some are not aware of is the fact Maureen was given extra duties when we had a position in the purchasing is that right Moe?

Moe Rayan - Correct Mayor and in addition to that some other duties were given to her the ones that were extracted from the Administrative Specialist due to her retirement.

Mayor Kuhn - Right, so Maureen had additional responsibilities that were put on her so, therefore, I am sure anyone that was working job a, if your employer told you that you also had to do job b and c you would expect to have an increase of some type and that is what Maureen received and she received it because of her ability and believe me as I tell her all the time she does a wonderful job for Mayor & Council. If Mayor & Council happen to not be able to attend a meeting when we get our packets with the Minutes there is not one thing that she has missed so, therefore, there is not one thing that we have missed. As far as Jennifer Curran, I think that is her name she presented about the school guards. We do not if I am not mistaken and please correct me if I am wrong Moe, we do not we are not in charge of where the school guards go, is that correct, the School District makes that decision.

Moe Rayan - That is correct. We advise them as the recommendation for the Police Department as where to place the individuals and determine their posts but we don't dictate how many posts there are because we do not control the bus route.

Mayor Kuhn - But children's safety should be the number one priority of not only the School District but the Municipality. Also so we are anticipating having some type of

a sit down with the School District to see exactly what their position is and why the school guards are placed in the positions that they are. Angela Brown on the Riverfront. I have been fighting for the Riverfront since I was on Planning which was ten years and twelve years on Council and two on as Mayor so you know how far back that goes. Our previous Planning Director Howard Davidson I can't tell you how many meetings we attended with the Heinz Foundation, the County and everyone attempting to bring something to that Riverfront. Anyone knows if you have property on whether it is the river, a lake or an ocean or a bay that property is worth double of other properties but there are so many conditions that those who own the property such as the railroad they are not workable but that does not mean that this Council and I hope the new Councils that come on will still fight for that because that would bring Economic Development to Penn Hills hands over. I do want to say that myself and the Manager met with Councilman Elect John Petrucci. I hope John you came out of there with the same feeling that I did when we came out because John had many comments that were comments that Staff, Manager, Mayor & Council had already felt were what was needed. His comments were right on but once he came in and saw all the documentation and I hope I am stating it correctly John when he saw all the documentation going back to 2013 and 2011 that the Municipality had attempted to do and the reasons and the answers that came back showed that it was not that we were not able to do so and I think also that he saw people who were giving him information through no fault of his were giving him information that their position in ALCOSAN did not permit them to give because they did not have the accurate information but I did come out of the meeting and I felt that it was an excellent meeting and I felt that we covered everything that we possibly could and that we went over each and every comment that Councilman Elect John Petrucci had put forward at the meeting and I think John got frustrated sometimes as I do because of the fact that when you work in private business and then you come into public business it is a great change because you think you can do x,y,z, but when you are in the public you always have to make sure all the other characters are in line. So often, way too often, our hands are tied and towards the end of the meeting John would even answer his own question before we even gave him anything because he would say well why can't we implement this and then he would say oh yea I know so he will be coming on Council so I felt it was a very good idea for the Manager and myself to meet with him and give him the actual facts and details so that he is not at a loss when he comes on Council because he now has the information that Mayor and Council has had for many years so I was happy about the results and I think the Manager was and I am hoping John was also. We are elected by the voters of Penn Hills. Anyone who sits on this Council has every right to sit here as anyone else does. We aren't elected by parties or any individuals. We are elected by the Penn Hills voters and they have elected us as a good faith that we will be up here checking, looking out for their interests and making decisions that are often not popular to the audience but that are decisions that we know as Mayor & Council and the Manager and the Financial Director they are decisions that have to be made for the welfare of the Municipality. So I will say he was the young man who spoke about Grants

Mrs. Sapp - Shawn Kerestus

Mayor Kuhn - Shawn are you in the room. No. O.K. because I did want to call Shawn and present to him the possibility of me appointing him to a position on a board because of the fact I am not saying this because of age discrimination because I think in all reality I am the oldest person on the Council but we need young people and we need young people with new ideas and young people who are in the now generation so that was my hope but he did make a comment on that he felt that we needed to look into hiring someone just for Grants so I did ask the Manager if I could meet with Chris and the Manager and Chris give me information on exactly how the Planning Department handles writing for grants because if I am not mistaken I think Meg does most of that. Am I wrong Chris or is that right?

Chris Blackwell - It depends on the grant. We share the duties of various grants that we apply for.

Mayor Kuhn - And like I said when the Manager's schedule, your schedule and mine are open we can address that because I thought that was a good question also and just so everyone knows the original rough draft that is given to Mayor & Council I am talking about when the Directors came in with their wish lists.

Moe Rayan - Yes it was down to about \$55,000 end balance for 2018.

Mayor Kuhn - Right so that was really when Mayor and Council gave their input to the Manager telling him what we thought was needed to take out and it was a good idea that you have to have financing for those ideas so I don't want you to think Mayor & Council only gives the comments that we are presenting tonight. The Manager was instructed to go back and bring a reality Budget for the public and Mayor & Council and that is the Budget that we have in front of us and the Budget that you have in front of you so that being said we will go into

Moe Rayan - Real quick Mayor. I just wanted to comment on the grant writing. It is not just the Planning Department that does the grant writing, however, they do the majority for HUD Grant Writing assisting other departments along with that Diane Fitzhenry does her own for EMS and other Municipal Grants and Chief Burton and the Road Department and all the departments are involved in writing their own. Tom O'Grady for the Sewer Department. Everybody is involved in that process. I don't want to say that we shouldn't be hiring anybody or anything at this point but I feel that the staff they put more time into it to make sure that we can get the money that we can get. Sometimes we are successful and sometimes we are not but the terms of writing the grants I feel very confident that the staff is well rounded in terms of obtaining grants for the Municipality and they have done that and it has proven they have the ability that they can do it. Just wanted to comment on that.

Mayor Kuhn - O.k. and I also want to thank Dodie Smith I don't know if you are in the audience. Dodie took the time to send me a letter to my home and expressing what her purpose was in speaking and she understood that big box stores like Home Depot and Walmart might not be interested because of our thoroughfares but she did say that she was looking for small independent stores like coffee shops, brewers and gift stores and she also said that she wanted I do want you to know that I do appreciate all that you and Council have done to keep us in the black all these years. I know that is very difficult to do. The only comment I can have on that is unfortunately so many residents have a mindset that when they want to go somewhere, we had a beautiful little French cafe it was on Rodi Road by the Garden Center.

Chris Blackwell - Creamy Creations.

Mayor Kuhn - Yes it was a little restaurant in there and it was without a doubt the most beautifully decorated. I know Cathy you were there with me several times and the food and the bakery was just spectacular but what we have to do is make our residents that when they say let's go get a cup of coffee, a cup of tea and some bakery goods that they don't think they have to go to Monroeville to Panera. That you can go right here in your home town. We had where the fitness center is now, Chris do you remember the name of that?

Chris Blackwell - Vanity Fair.

Mayor Kuhn - Vanity Fair. It had the most wonderful children's department, kitchen department, sports, clothing, small tools but unfortunately everyone rent down Rodi Road to go to Home Depot and Lowes and stores at the mall. So I hope that if some type of solution that we can work on is because then they went out of business and we need to make the residents and outside people in Penn Hills realize when we have that type of facility at your disposal here in Penn Hills. I don't know how to get that word out but we need to get that out because of the fact we have to break this mindset that Rodi Road is not only used to go to Monroeville, Home Depot and Lowes. That when we get a business like that we need to promote from within and I know they do have a program Shop In Penn Hills and I think that was a wonderful program that was brought into Penn Hills because it gave attention to local stores that people might not have known were here. With that we will turn to public comment. Please come to the microphone and give your name and address so that Maureen can hear it.

Jim Getsey - 151 Crescent Hills Road - I am here to

Mayor Kuhn - Mr. Getsey if you could speak a little bit louder and in the microphone the people in the back can't here you.

Jim Getsey - I am here because I was at the last meeting on the Budget and that was citizen's turn and time to address the Budget and make any comments they had.

Mayor I have to say that when you opened that you started to speak between 7:00 and 7:05

Mayor Kuhn - I don't mean to interrupt you but

Jim Getsey - but you just did.

Mayor Kuhn - I am just asking you I am having a difficult time hearing you so if you could speak up that way I will know how to answer your comments.

Jim Getsey - can everybody hear me.

Mrs. Sapp - you need to speak into the microphone.

Jim Getsey - I am speaking into the microphone. Is that better. I scare myself when I am this loud. Anyway I was here and Mayor you started to speak at between 7:00 and 7:05 and you spoke until 7:35 then John spoke and then you spoke again let's say another five minutes and after that I quite timing it and that was the citizen's time to speak and of the first hour you took forty five minutes of that time. What I am asking tonight is if I could have ten minutes of that time not interrupted to go over what the Budget said what I looked at and I would like to make my comments. You said at some point in the meeting that a Budget Hearing should be a place where citizens will look at the Budget and come in and address line items and that is what I have done. If I raised every comment question that I had when I did that I would be here for an hour and a half minimum discussing those items. What I did is I went through here and highlighted some of the questions I had and I would like to present those and if anybody wants to time me in ten minutes if I am not finished I will quit in mid sentence if somebody says you are done. I looked at this Budget and first of all there are items in there that I have no understanding about. I don't know how many Police you need, I don't know how many cars you need, I don't know what Public Works does, I have no idea. When I worked if I invited you to my office and said tell me what I have to do to improve things here you would have no idea and I have no idea of some of those items. Some I did but I looked through here and some things jumped out at me and I would like to address those and starting with the End Budget for 2017 has a surplus of \$4,043,130 is that correct? and in reading this I would like to go back to that later on. The General Fund Survey page seven talks about financial growth that there is a down turn in financial growth and which causes an increase in expenditures. I didn't understand this, are we talking about National Financial Growth because the last thing I saw on National Financial Growth was that the stock market was rising and the financial growth was going upward and not stabilizing and not going downward and I don't understand how the financial growth if it was national how it affects our Budget which you said was expected to increase. Increase because of the National well first of all it seems to be a contradiction. Anyway I don't see how that ties into our Budget issue. That is on page seven by the way of the Budget. O.K. moving on. In the 2019 Budget it talks about 2019 Budget page 8 it said we are in a downward slide and the well is going to be dry

and if the well is going to be dry in a couple of years the people who are going to come into office at that time are going to be faced with a major problem because the well is going to be dry. If I was to be moving into Penn Hills at this time and I read that and somebody told me the well is going to be dry I would be heading for Plum who wants to be moving into a community where they are no longer going to have any fiscal ability. It also mentioned that there is going to be a tax increase. A couple of years ago the last couple of years we have talked about the Municipal Building and it has been said there will be no tax increase. This says a tax increase is possible and it also says that the citizens may have to absorb their garbage collection costs. Now my question is this. First of all it sounds like a scare tactic to me to justify a tax increase and potentially have the citizens pay for their own collection. My question is this who is going to collect the delinquent municipal trash pickup accounts. Right now there are many delinquent Property Taxes and I am interested in some day looking at that and seeing how that is being collected but I recently saw a little map that showed the Delinquent Tax Properties and who is collecting that and if you can't collect that how are you going to collect the garbage. That is page eight of the Budget. Mercantile Taxes. In regard to the Budget Deficiencies Mercantile Taxes come in as revenue to the Community and there was a comment in there that we are not going to have Mercantile Taxes. They are very insufficient. We have some new businesses coming into Penn Hills. There are two new auto parts stores one being built on Saltsburg and there will be taxes from that. The Pay the garage situation where people pay to come in and take parts that should have generated some Mercantile Taxes. Child and Youth Services is coming in and they are bringing in a couple hundred employees and I am not sure are they a non-profit organization or will they be paying taxes and if their employees come and live here they will be paying taxes at least wage taxes so there is another source of income coming into the Community and I don't know what others there are. Does anybody know if Child and Youth Services is going to be paying taxes? Page 23 talks about Federal Grants. The Community Development Block Grant was not listed. I don't know if it was an oversight or why it wouldn't have been listed but it wasn't and that is a significant Federal Grant of \$600,000 plus some dollars that could go into Public Works and whatever is necessary directed at low and moderate income neighborhoods. And that is good that it is directed at low and moderate income neighborhoods but what happens is funds that would have otherwise gone into low and moderate income neighborhoods could now be transferred into neighborhoods that are not low and moderate income but everybody benefits in that way because you do get the additional money and I wondered why it wasn't listed with Federal Grants. O.K. moving on. Page 36 there is a line item for Professional Services \$208,000.00, what are the Professional Services that that Budget Line item reflects? Anybody? Alright. Page 39 talks about Legislative Services. What are the Legislative Services that Budget Line addresses? O.K. I would like to address one thing here in terms of the first thing I started with which was the surplus money. I filed a Code complaint the other day about a property over on what is called Main Street which is usually known as Universal Road. I spoke with Chris and told her I identified the property and she dug into a stack of complaints I guess that thick and pulled out a paper and she had the paper on that property and I said that has been there a long time and it is dilapidated and it is a fire hazard and it is junk. Can you do

something about that property? She pulled out the paper on that property and said that property has changed hands and we are trying to find the owner. The new owner and that kind of rang a bell with me thinking about what Code Enforcement really does. If you read the description of Code Enforcement duties in the Budget they are involved in so many administrative issues regarding properties that I believe they are so under staffed that they can't do the job that needs to be done in this Community. You have the Police who take care of business after the crime is committed, you have the Fire Department who takes care of the things after the fire started, you have the Code Enforcement Department that could prevent some of these by preventing blight in neighborhoods and they are in my opinion underfunded and people think they call Code and Code is going to come and slap a sticker on the building. It is not that easy and if you would see what their administrative services are I don't even know how they get out to do the inspections they need to do. Blighted Communities lead the crime, blighted Communities lead to other hazards. You have to stop the blight, you have to stop the blight before the Police and Fire People are involved. You have to stop the blight before it spreads. There is plenty of blight in Penn Hills. There is a property on Springdale Road where you live Mayor and it has been sitting there vacant, weeds in the summer and squatters came in there and it is ready to be torn down. I don't know if anything can be done with it. These properties are sitting here breeding a bad neighborhood because if you are going to move in and you look at that property from across the street you are saying I am not living here because look at that place and there are many of those places. I don't know when I drive around Penn Hills I say to myself I see these things what do the people on Council see do they drive through the neighborhoods, they live here. Are they concerned about this. Now in terms of the total Budget what would my recommendation be. I am not saying this flip. I am saying this. I would just reduce everybody's Budget from 5 to 10% and I would give it to Code Enforcement and I would increase their staff and I would send them out first of all just to demolish every substandard, vacant, vandalized property in Penn Hills. Going back to the surplus you have a \$4 million dollar surplus why don't you make it a \$3,500,000 surplus and take \$500,000.00 and put it into removing blight. Now your projection is in two years there will be no surplus and one of the other things it says in the Budget that it is good to have a surplus because it takes care of emergency situations. We have an emergency situation. Just drive through some of the neighborhoods where you see the crime occurring. That is your emergency situation. Who is going to move into this Community if they are moving into a Community where they see blight occurring and I know you want to put a good face on Penn Hills but when you read the paper and you see all these crimes with a Penn Hills label whether the crime is done here or whether somebody comes from another place to do the crime it says Penn Hills. If there is a crime in Pittsburgh it says in Homewood it doesn't say Pittsburgh so when you say Penn Hills if you go out toward Plum there is very little crime out there but Penn Hills is just blanketed in the papers and everybody thinks Penn Hills. I have personally talked with people that say I won't move there because I won't go to the schools, I won't move there because there is a lot of crime. I know you want to put a good face on things but when you say the bucket is going to be dry that doesn't put a good face on things it puts a bad face. I would recommend that any comment about the Budget, any letter, just be

business like and don't address things like we are running dry we are heading for disaster we might have to charge you for your garbage, raise taxes. I would just keep it business like and say what we are. Back to Code Enforcement I think they are the most underrated underfunded department in this Municipality. I just want to say having worked in Code Enforcement for 34 years with my experience with the Redevelopment Authority of Pittsburgh and HUD when you work for those agencies you never see the best parts of town believe me but Code Enforcement for the lack of Code Enforcement lets blight spread until it is hopeless. You can't stop it. It is too much and we are at the brink of that right now. So I am going to say look at the Code Department and do what has to be done to get them out on the streets and get them to do their administrative work and I would say and I looked at how many staff they have and I looked at the number of the properties in Penn Hills and I will tell you without even knowing what their work load is you can see by those measurements it is insufficient. Thank you for listening. Does anybody have any questions?

Mayor Kuhn - Thank you Mr. Getsey.

Greg Whitted - I am with the Pittsburgh Housing Development Association PHDA.

Mayor Kuhn - excuse me I don't want to be accused of interrupting but we have a Council Meeting after the Budget Hearing Meeting and that is when you can present your proposal. The Budget Hearing Meeting today is just on the Budget Hearing Meeting. We will adjourn this when everyone is done with their comments.

Greg Whitted - I apologize.

Mayor Kuhn - that is alright. I apologize for interrupting. Is there anyone else who would like to speak?

James Murphy - 856 Homewood Drive. This is my first time being at any Council Meeting. I am a two year homeowner and I just want to make some comments based on what was addressed. I guess in the beginning of the meeting when we started at 7:05 there was a note about Mayor Kuhn you said inclusion you want more young people now. Millennials to come. So I am kind of breathing in what you are saying you said Millennials but I took it as inclusion so my question back to the Council is what about the people that are deaf why isn't there an ASL interpreter here and also if it is millennials that you are speaking to what about a web conference, a video not a video a phone conference where they could listen in because one thing I noticed when I came in there wasn't any check to see whether I was a Penn Hills resident. I walked in and talked to this gentlemen right there and he guided me in so I could be from Monroeville so the thought is if there is a perception that we don't want our information to be out there I just walked in so a phone conference should be o.k. and then maybe even a text campaign for those who aren't really good on the internet or have troubles with it and then I heard a conversation about blight so my thought is maybe to have a partnership

with the Penn Hills High School and make it a high school project opportunity where if they are interested in trade now they have a real life opportunity to assist with certain things and I understand that there are waivers and liability but I am sure that there is some type of waivers when you go on any type of field trip because you can go to the zoo and a lion can break out, right, another thing my thought is there is a lot of issues with people, process and product when you talk about Municipalities and things that are operating so it would be cool if there is some type of audit that goes on for everything that the Municipality does and I am not sure who is going to do it but I am just saying who ever says you know what part of my job I am wasting time doing x that now becomes on the web site where you could say to the Penn Hills residents or business owners or small business owners maybe you could do this, this is coming from a guy I am here so let me know where I am wrong but you put that out there as a volunteer or paid opportunities now you are cutting costs. Once again shoot me down where I am wrong and get me all the red paint you can but I just want to give you my thoughts. I have to go my fiancé knows that I was supposed to be there in about four minutes so if you have something back to say to me I am here and I am open for four minutes but I told her I would be back home at eight so I want to try and keep that promise.

Mayor Kuhn - I made and I do appreciate this is what I am looking for is young people who have ideas. I can't speak for the rest of the Council but I might not have entertained so a lot of the things that you are stating are very good and can be answered. Mayor & Council legislates under The Home Rule Charter. We are not involved in the day to day business of the Municipality. That would be our Manager Moe Rayan but comments like these are comments that are positive comments and they are comments from a young person who is looking not to be negative on Penn Hills and not to have personalities but to bring in thoughts that you think will be a positive reaction for the Municipality. If you could give the Manager your phone number, I will ask him if he can meet with you and if possibly the three of us could meet with you and by doing that what we are able to do then is let you know the details of why some of these might not be able to be implemented and maybe we can go over what we think we can handle to make some of them. It is youth. It is young people's ideas for Penn Hills. You have no agenda and that is what needs to be in Penn Hills. I appreciate it and the only thing is I will let you go so you don't get in trouble with your fiancé.

James Murphy - thank you.

Mayor Kuhn - that is why we do ask for your name and address so anyone that speaks we do know that they are Penn Hills residents but it is an open public meeting so anyone can attend. You don't have to be a Penn Hills resident to attend but when you speak it is on record and who you are and where you live. Thank you so much.

James Murphy - thank you I appreciate it.

Mayor Kuhn - No other comments from the audience. I just want to address one comment is that under The Home Rule Charter it is the Mayor's responsibility to run the

meetings. There are previous Mayors who put limits on what you could speak - two to three minutes. I can't recall when I have done that so if I did it has been very seldom. There are previous Mayors who say two more people can speak and then the comments are shut off. I have never done that. My platform is that information is your best form and misinformation is the most damaging comments that can be made for our Community. My job is when my residents take the time to come to a meeting and to participate in that meeting and when they come up to the podium and when they make a suggestion or ask a question it is my responsibility to give them the information they are pertaining to if I have it. If they are coming up with a suggestion that we have already looked at that was suggested, it is not a feasible suggestion that is my responsibility as Mayor to let the public know we have already tried that, we have already done that. The information you have received is not accurate information. We are a transparent Council. Am I told that I am not liked. By many people but one thing I will say if you ask a question as Mayor I will give you the answer. It might not be the answer you want to hear but it will be an answer and if I don't have that answer I will find that answer for you. We never forget that we represent the people of Penn Hills but that being said I do not play to my audience and I will not accept any Council person playing to the audience. we don't represent the 150 or 100 people coming in here we take your comments to heart but we represent I think it is 42,000 John he corrected me when I say 44,000 but that is who we represent. This is a serious job we take it serious and there are many votes that are difficult and are unpopular and we get called names and if they were aloud probably would stone us but at the time this Council makes those decisions we know in our hearts we are making the best decision for the people we represent so that being said I did want to read one item that came from ALCOSAN because it pertains to our sewers and everyone knows that is the number one topic in Penn Hills is sewers and sewer rates.

Funding the Clean Water Plan

One of the most difficult problems ALCOSAN faces is how to fund the Clean Water Plan. Despite the requirements in Federal and State Laws to undertake the plan on behalf of our customers in 83 Municipalities, Penn Hills being one there is little funding coming from Governmental entities. That means that the plan must be paid for by the people who use our services. Everyone who gets a bill with an ALCOSAN charge which means when Penn Hills sends the bills to the public there is an ALCOSAN charge on it which we have tried to relay to the residents so right in their letter anyone who gets a bill with an ALCOSAN charge must help rebuild and renew our system. ALCOSAN has worked very hard to make sure that rates are reasonable and cause as little burden as possible to our customers. We have adopted a new four year rate structure. Starting in January the average residential customer who uses 12,000 gallons of water per quarter and whose bill from ALCOSAN was \$390.00 in 2017 will pay \$419.00 in 2018. That is an increase of 7.5% in 2019, 2020 and 2021. ALCOSAN's rates will increase 7.0% each year with a cost to the average customer being \$513.00 per year. Now the comments have up that Penn Hills has increased our sewer rates last year and yes we did. We hadn't increased our sewer rates in eight years. So last year yes we

did increase but Penn Hills is not increasing them in the 2018 Budget that you have in your hand so unlike ALCOSAN Penn Hills increased one time in eight years and ALCOSAN is increasing four consecutive years. It gets worse. ALCOSAN's rate is computed two ways. The per gallon rate and the customer service charge. The current rate of \$6.91 for 1,000 gallons of water used will rise to \$7.42 per 1,000 gallons for 2018. The ALCOSAN quarterly customer service charge of \$14.51 in 2017 will be \$15.60 in 2018. Their suggestion on how you can cut your sewer rate, don't use as much water. ALCOSAN rates are only part of your bill. Their charge covers moving the waste water from our Municipality to our plant to their plant and for treating this waste at their plant. That is their charges. Their charges go from taking them from Penn Hills to ALCOSAN and ALCOSAN taking care of the waste. Another part of your bill covers the Municipality cost of taking the waste water from your home and moving it through the Municipality pipes to ALCOSAN pipes. The Municipality are also under regulatory mandates and have to maintain and improve Penn Hills Sewers. Now this is very important and I am asking the Manager to put this information on the web site and have it at the Library, Senior Citizens Center and at the Municipality. Knowing that the cost of the Clean Water Plan would be increasing regularly ALCOSAN developed The Clean Water Assistance Fund for low income home owners. This fund provides a \$30.00 credit each quarter to help low income families and individuals reduce their waste water treatment bill. Dollar Energy handles the applications through a number of social service agencies throughout the region. Details of the application process are available and they give the .com website. As I said that is very important for our low income people and I want that information to go out so that everyone who is in the low income range will be able to take advantage of this program that they have but I also want to express knowledge. Do I speak and do I speak often? Yes I do, that is my job. I received this report and I don't believe everyone in the Municipality received this report so when I obtain knowledge by being the Mayor of Penn Hills it is my job to present that knowledge to my residents and that is what I do. And as I said in eight years we didn't raise the sewer rate we raised them last year but we did not raise them consecutively. As far as our Real Estate Tax we raised our Real Estate Tax 1/4 mil, am I correct?

Moe Rayan - I don't have the break down in front of me Mayor but yes I believe it was 1/4 mil in 2011 and then it was reduced back in 2013.

Mayor Kuhn - in 2008 until 2017 Mayor and Council raised the mil one year correct us if we are wrong but one year in that time span to 1/4 mil which represents \$360,000 somewhere in that range because for 1 mil I believe it is one million something so it was raised a 1/4 of mil then we raised it another 1/4 of a mil and then we reduced it 1/4 mil so in eight years time Management, Mayor and Council kept your mil with an increase of 1/4 of a mil. We didn't cut any services and we didn't increase any loans. Everything that we have refinanced was not extended to any additional years of payment of the loans. It represented the interest rates being lowered and I hope everyone reads the minutes of the last Council Meeting because there is so much information in it and so much fact in it and there is so much of showing the knowledge that we have to you. To sit here like a bump on a log is not my style. If you have a

question and I have the answer you will receive it. So that being said as I said the final vote on the Budget is December 29, 2017 at 3:00 P.M. and we will take all the other comments that have been given tonight and we will go over them and see if any corrections need to be done and as far as the Code Enforcement everyone knows they are understaffed. In a perfect world I would put another million and a half dollars in the road programs and I would put another half million dollars into our Code Enforcement but in order to do that these items we have to have revenue and the only way the Municipality gets revenue is from taxes, fees or grants and Penn Hills residents can not afford at this time with the average income increases in their Real Estate Tax. Thank you very much.

Mrs. Sapp - Good Job Mayor.

Moe Rayan - Mr. Getsey just to follow up on your question on the blight our Planning Department is very involved with the blight program through the County and the COG's and all the information is available in Chris Blackwell's office and he has been involved in it and Damian has been involved with it and myself involved with it and the Mayor involved with it so all the information is available and it is not sitting still and we are working on it with the other Communities.

Jim Getsey - 151 Crescent Hills Road - (inaudible) Did not speak loud or in microphone.

Mayor Kuhn - Just one comment . The starting Budget for 2018 is four million dollars but the ending Budget for 2018 is one million so we do not have four million dollars extra for the 2018 Budget because the 2018 Budget that was presented has utilized three million.

Moe Rayan - Mr. Getsey I didn't say that it can't be done all I am doing is informing you that there is additional information in the Planning Department.

Mayor Kuhn - Transparency and harmony that is why even though the Agenda rules the way it does this Mayor & Council will continue to ask before we adjourn the meeting based on comments that have been made by Council. Does the audience have any other questions? Does Council have any other questions? My Manager has a comment.

Moe Rayan - Just a clarification on HUD. HUD is separate monies that come in and again Chris Blackwell's office can help you with that. I know you were involved with HUD all your professional career, however, it starts from July to July so it is not involved in our Budget. It is a separate entity, separate funds, separate program and it has nothing to do with our Operating Budget. It is not being utilized to supplement our Operating Budget and I am sure you know that.

Mayor Kuhn - I do want to speak which I seldom do for Council but everyone on Council and including myself cannot say enough for the job that our Manager, Mr. Rayan does, my Business Manager over there if you had to replace him it would take a minimum of four people Mr. Schrecengost, all my Directors who worked so very hard from August of 2017 to present this Budget tonight so if you don't mind I would like to give them a round of applause.

Everyone applauded.

Mayor Kuhn - As I said Mayor and Council do not run the Municipality. The Manager under The Home Rule Charter runs the Municipality. We just oversee the Legislation part of it and believe me you have no idea what you have in the staff that is presently working for each and every one of you every day. Do I have a motion to adjourn?

Dr. Kincaid made a motion to adjourn.

Mr. Underwood seconded the motion.

Mayor Kuhn - The December 18, 2017 Budget Hearing Meeting (2nd) will be adjourned. The Final Adoption will be December 29, 2017 at 3:00 P.M. Thank you all for attending and all your comments.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:21 P.M.

Maureen M. Sorce
Manager's Secretary

