

13-1077

due 10/23

From: jim
Sent: Friday, October 18, 2013 10:59 AM
To: Lee M; elucey@worcestertwp.com
Subject: Payment of the "bills"
Attachments: Worcester 10 18 13.pdf

Mr. Mangan,

At the most recent Board of Supervisors Meeting during the "Payment of the Bills of the Township", I asked the Chairman for a breakdown of the billing of the \$36,123.00 from Wisler, Pearlstein and Talone, the Township Solicitor. Supervisor Bustard could not provide me with that information. In fact, the information that was made available to the public consisted of a 3 page summary consisting of a check registry from 9/19/13-10/16/13 and not any documentation of "bills" and or invoices submitted by vendors and/or professionals. It was also apparent that the Board is approving the check register and expenditures after the fact. Upon questioning Supervisor Bustard demonstrated that he had no knowledge of what the \$36,123.00 was being spent on nor did he seem to have any knowledge that the Solicitor's firm that changed their billing procedure whereby the identity of the individual providing the service could no longer be identified on the invoice. It appears that Mr. Bustard and the Board have abdicated their oversight responsibility and are relying on staff to assure that billing is procedurally and technically accurate.

Needless to say, it is very disconcerting to see that the Board is voting to approve "a check registry". The Board and the public are not presented with the actual bills and/or invoices for the services performed but instead are given a check register which only tells the Board and the public how much the Township payed for the service. I thought the purpose of having a section of the meeting devoted to "Payment of the Bills of the Township" was for the Board to evaluate the service, have oversight and approve paying the bills and the public to have the ability to have input and oversight as well. The way it works in Worcester, the most important part of the agenda item has been left out, THE BILLS. Otherwise they would call it, PAYMENT OF THE CHECK REGISTER. As demonstrated, Supervisor Bustard had no idea of what the Township was paying the Solicitor's firm \$36,000 dollars for. This in my mind is a serious lack of oversight and the checks and balances that should be in place.

I would suggest that in the future the Board and public be given actual invoices so that some actual oversight can be accomplished.

That being said,

1. I would like copies of any and/or all invoices from Wisler Pearlstine and Talone (the Township Solicitor's Firm) from 9/19/2013 to 10/16/2013 that corresponds to the \$36,123.00 in the check register that was provided to the public at the 10/16 13 BOS meeting, which was referenced by Supervisor Bustard at the 10/16/13 Board of Supervisors Meeting and voted on and approved at that meeting as part of the Townships monthly expense as "Payment of the Bills."

Please scan and send via email.

Thanks

Jim

RTK Number: 13-1077

pennsylvania

OFFICE OF OPEN RECORDS

WORCESTER TOWNSHIP, MONTGOMERY COUNTY

RECEIVED

STANDARD RIGHT-TO-KNOW REQUEST FORM

DATE REQUESTED 10/18/23 due 10/25

REQUEST SUBMITTED BY: E-MAIL U.S. MAIL FAX IN-PERSON

NAME OF REQUESTOR: Jim [unclear]

REQUESTOR STREET ADDRESS: _____

REQUESTOR CITY/STATE/COUNTY (Required): _____

REQUESTOR TELEPHONE (Optional): _____

REQUESTOR E-MAIL ADDRESS (Optional): _____

RECORDS REQUESTED:
**Provide as much specific detail as possible so the agency can identify the information.*

see address

DO YOU WANT COPIES? YES or NO

DO YOU WANT TO INSPECT THE RECORDS? YES or NO

DO YOU WANT CERTIFIED COPIES OF RECORDS? YES or NO

RIGHT TO KNOW OFFICER: TOWNSHIP MANAGER OR ASSISTANT MANAGER

DATE RECEIVED BY THE AGENCY:

AGENCY FIVE (5)-DAY RESPONSE DUE:

***Public bodies may fill anonymous verbal or written requests. If the requestor wishes to pursue the relief and remedies provided for in this Act, the request must be in writing. (Section 702.) Written requests need not include an explanation why information is sought or the intended use of the information unless otherwise required by law. (Section 703.)*