

REGULAR SESSION ** ECONOMY BOROUGH COUNCIL ** JUNE 10, 2008

Council President Ronald R. Rock called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM in Council Chambers of the Economy Municipal Building to conduct business of general purposes.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Larry Googins, Arthur Mutschler, Audrey Mutschler, Renee Raymer, Donald Sivy, John C. Thomas, Ronald R. Rock

ALSO PRESENT: Mayor David N. Poling (7:05 PM), Dale M. Fouse, Esq., Sandra S. Nelko, Shoup Engineering, Randy S. Kunkle, Borough Manager, Earl Fitzgerald, Road Foreman

HEAR THE PUBLIC:

Mike Lucia, 416 Golden Grove Road, asked if there are regulations that would allow Economy Borough to put in natural gas wells to get extra income for the borough. Mr. Fouse stated the deed would have to provide the mineral rights to Economy Borough. Mrs. Nelko stated permitting is required and this would be a costly venture; will ask Norman Shoup for additional information. Mr. Lucia was glad the grass at the police department finally got cut and he found the salt shed; asked the status of the wind turbine. Mr. Kunkle advised he spoke with the PA Energy Authority last week and was assured the grant will not close out until this is corrected.

Bob Mecchia, 211 Fernwood Drive, requested the speed monitoring device be placed on Park Hill Road. Mr. Rock verified with Mr. Fitzgerald that the device was just picked up for repairs (possibly needs new radar gun and control panel); is next scheduled for Shaffer Road and can then be placed on Park Hill Road.

Gary Bucuren, 3480 Conway Wallrose Road, wished to go on record as a taxpayer that on Tuesday, June 5, 2008, Earl Fitzgerald went to a APWA meeting for 8 hours; requested Council do a report of the total money spent per month for APWA issues, feels Economy Borough taxpayers need to see this. Mr. Rock asked Mr. Fitzgerald how many APWA meetings there are a month. Mr. Fitzgerald responded there is 1 monthly meeting which lasts 2-3 hours; the next meeting is in Heidelberg and he shares a ride. Mr. Sivy asked what is covered at the meetings. Mr. Fitzgerald responded APWA meetings provide training for its members regarding safety, efficiency and contacts. Mr. Thomas felt this is good information to help and benefit Economy Borough. Mr. Mutschler knows and approves of the meetings and has gone with Earl to meetings. Mr. Rock stated it is a busy time, but asked Mr. Fitzgerald to do a report for Council, if it can be squeezed in.

MINUTES:

Mr. Sivy reported regarding Mr. Campbell's discussion at the last meeting, that the Memorial is set and looks good.

MOTION by Mrs. Mutschler seconded by Mr. Googins – to approve the Minutes of the May 27, 2008, Regular Session of Council, as written. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

MAYOR'S REPORT:

Mayor Poling read the Mayor's Report for the Police Department for the month of May as prepared by Chief Harrington, which will be on file for review in the borough secretary's office.

Mayor Poling asked to have PennDOT contacted to do a traffic study for 3 way stop signs at SR 989 and Conway Wallrose Road and Bock Lane and Conway Wallrose Road. Mr. Rock asked Mr. Kunkle to contact PennDOT to request this. Mr. Kunkle reported we have an independent study that a traffic signal is warranted at SR 989; PennDOT has stated a traffic signal is not required at the other intersection unless warranted; does not hurt to ask for the stop signs until the traffic signals are in place. Mr. Thomas verified that Economy Borough would have to pay the cost for the traffic signal. Mr. Googins suggested the multi stop signs pending the installation of a light. Mr. Fouse stated there may be something in the act about this. Mr. Mecchia stated he wrote a letter to PennDOT about two items 1) the water on the roadway at the bus barn, which is being taken care of with the paving project and 2) that intersection and was told that PennDOT would contact and work with Economy Borough officials to improve safety there. Mrs. Mutschler is concerned about rear end accidents if stop signs are put up. Mr. Googins suggested Chief Harrington look at this. Mr. Rock asked Mr. Kunkle to contact PennDOT for the studies.

Mayor Poling asked if PennDOT could be contacted to move the entrance to Freedom Road at Conway Wallrose Road away from the Keystone Creamery parking lot. Mr. Googins suggested making this a T intersection. Mrs. Nelko stated what should be looked at first is the right-of-way that would be involved; would be at Economy Borough's expense, but there have been cases that is was done for safety issues.

Mayor Poling asked Mr. Thomas to review the current parking ordinance to change it to borough wide off street parking to get the cars off the roads. Mr. Thomas stated if it is done it would be all the roads; will review the ordinance. Mrs. Mutschler stated the older plans have 1 car driveways. Mr. Rock reported on paper this sounds good; it was looked at several years ago and wasn't going to work. Mrs. Nelko stated Cranberry Township has township wide off street parking and the residents are told when they call the police with an issue, that the police will come out and tag everyone on the street; it is a nightmare to enforce. Mr. Sivy stated if the ordinance is changed and passed, feels it will be reversed at the next meeting, as Council Chambers will be filled with residents who want to park on the streets. Mayor Poling suggested putting this to a referendum on the ballot for the people to vote one. Mr. Thomas wondered if this is a big problem in Economy Borough. Mr. Fitzgerald stated when plowing East Ridge, Highland and the Ridgewood Plan there is a problem, but they deal with it. Mr. Rock asked Mr. Thomas to look at the ordinance; if changed it will have to be enforced borough wide.

Mayor Poling reported Rick Creese will be activated at the end of the year and hiring a full time officer needs to be considered. Mr. Sivy suggested part time officers. Mrs. Mutschler said part time officers are not the answer. Mr. Thomas stated part time officers are always a problem to schedule as they don't get enough hours in Economy Borough and work where they get the hours. Mrs. Raymer suggested, with the need they would get more hours. Mrs. Mutschler stated 2 officers will be out for a year; vacations need to be covered. Mr. Sivy suggested hiring 4 part time officers and paying more money. Mayor Poling doubted getting part time applicants. Mr. Thomas said more money would have to be paid to all the part time officers; suggested looking at the expense of a full time employee vs. the expense of a part time employee. Mr. Rock stated he prefers getting the staff back to what it was 5 years ago; in the long run it would be more stable for Economy Borough; has talked with members of the Civil Service Commission who would have to start the process to have something in place by the end of the year; this needs to be considered for public safety. Mr. Googins suggested Chief Harrington, Mayor Poling and the Public Safety Committee look objectively at both scenarios of full time vs. part time; and what to do when the officers come back. Mrs. Mutschler asked Mr. Kunkle if he could get to her the information he had provided when Heitzenrater retired regarding the expense of a new officer; the contract has a 6 year tier system and a new hire would start at 60%.

MANAGER'S REPORT:

1. Recording Devices: Mr. Kunkle reported Jim Prethero of Brighton Music Center was out to assess our needs and based on the variety and types of technology available, determined Economy Borough should define how the end product is going to be used before deciding which equipment to install; the concern to be addressed seems to be access. Mrs. Mutschler stated needed is to tape the minutes for clarity. Mr. Rock stated so everyone's voices can be picked up. Mayor Poling is concerned that everyone is heard. Mr. Sivy asked how many microphones were proposed and if pencil or table microphones were going to be used. Mayor Poling suggested a digital recorder with 3 microphones. Mr. Googins suggested a digital recorder with 5 microphones.

2. Economy Borough Planning Commission: Mr. Kunkle reported the Economy Borough Planning Commission is recommending Council appoint Helen Pane, 125 Mason Road, to the seat left vacant by the death of Tony Pane last year; the term is through 2011. Discussion followed for the future as to reducing the number on the commission and also payment for meetings attended by the members.

MOTION by Mr. Thomas, seconded by Mr. Mutschler – to appoint Helen Pane, 125 Mason Road, to the Economy Borough Planning Commission, to fill the vacancy created by the death of Tony Pane last year; term is through 2011. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

3. Waschak Subdivision: Mr. Kunkle reported this is a simple subdivision at the corner of Conway Wallrose Road and Sylvester Road; the primary structure now meets the current setbacks.

MOTION by Mr. Sivy, seconded by Mr. Googins – to authorize the Waschak Subdivision with the recommendations and conditions set forth by the Economy Borough Planning Commission, Shoup Engineering letter dated March 20, 2008, the Beaver County Planning Commission letter dated March 27, 2008, and Planning Consultant Sarraf's letter dated April 4, 2008. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

4. Health Care Insurance: Mr. Kunkle reported representatives of the police bargaining unit, Dave Farah and Chris Foley, along with Chief Harrington and his self, met with the rep from MEIT, the current carrier, at the request of the bargaining unit; the officers are reluctant to make a change a year away from negotiating a new contract; and they like Highmark; MEIT was able to provide a hypothetical savings of \$44,000 if a change was in effect at the beginning of 2008; this savings would have been after the borough paid all deductibles 250/250; since the soonest they could be switched this year is August, there is not enough savings to make it worthwhile, but they are willing to look at it again when next year's rates come out at the end of October. Mr. Kunkle reported Caputo Insurance, Beaver Falls, is willing to meet with them to offer/talk about Health America and UPMC products; Greater Allegheny is willing to present Health America as well; at the MEIT meeting the officers mentioned misgivings about both of these products; they should probably at least hear what they have to say as the potential savings have been expressed as significantly higher than MEIT. Mr. Sivy requested that HHM stay on the list to be considered and met with separately even if not part of the competition; they offered Highmark PPO at a lesser price with no change in deductible. Mayor Poling requested the Road Department be included in the meetings. Mr. Sivy stated \$44,000 is a good savings and should be moved on. Mr. Thomas stated this is in the contracts but, this is up to Council as long as the new carrier provides the same or better benefits. Mr. Kunkle reported someone has to let Dave and Chris know they can attend a meeting he sets up. Mrs. Mutschler stated she would tell them to attend the meeting. Mr. Thomas suggested both the police and road department meet the insurance carriers at one time. Mr. Googins suggested the Teamsters Plan and the MEIT Plan should be looked at to see if both departments could be put on the same plan. Mr. Sivy stated we could possibly get a better plan and save money.

****06/24/08-correct to read (;this has to end, don't tell me this is another past practice;)****

Mrs. Mutschler stated she received the report on the scrap money; **** (this is a past practice that needs to end;)**** the Attorney General's office said this is borough funds and has to go back into Economy Borough funds. Mr. Rock asked Mr. Fitzgerald what the money is used for. Mr. Fitzgerald stated it is typically used during overtime for food to not send the men home for a break. Mrs. Mutschler stated they should bring a lunch. Mr. Sivy stated if they spent 18 hours in a 10 ton truck they need a break. Mr. Googins asked Mr. Fouse if the road department could have a petty cash fund. Mr. Fouse stated the scrap proceeds should go to the General Fund and a specific fund can be set up and budgeted to for their use. Mrs. Mutschler would like all departments to have something. Mr. Thomas stated the police department did have a \$500 Petty Cash that Chief Harrington used for different situations as long as he had receipts. Mr. Rock suggested Petty Cash for both departments as long as they have receipts for everything they buy, given to the borough manager or borough secretary. Mrs. Raymer reported the police department has a budget line item of \$500 for petty cash with money used out of it. Mr. Googins read motions from minutes in 1998, 1999 and 2000 concerning the scrap money; this was an ongoing matter put into a coffee fund by motion of Council.

MOTION by Mr. Thomas, seconded by Mr. Googins – to allocate \$500 to the road department for petty cash. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Mr. Googins stated Council hires people to oversee their department; Earl Fitzgerald can have \$500 Petty Cash Fund and use the proceeds to the best interest of Economy Borough; there are checks and balances.

COMMITTEE REPORTS and OTHER BUSINESS:

PUBLIC UTILITIES:

No Report

PROPERTY and BUILDING:

Mr. Sivy reported Beaver Valley Sheet Metal installed the new HVAC unit at the police department on Thursday; they also did some extra work at no extra charge to fix a venting problem that probably was from the time the building was built.

Mr. Sivy reported road department employees repaired a drain leaking on the men's room urinal in the Municipal Building, saving Economy Borough hundreds of dollars.

PUBLIC SAFETY:

Mrs. Mutschler reported Chief Harrington would like all officers to attend the Search Warrants in PA 4 hour seminar, July 14, 2008, at the Four Points by Sheraton Pittsburgh North, Mars, PA, at a cost of \$40 per officer; part time officers will cover Economy Borough during the seminar; last day to register is June 23, 2008. Mr. Sivy asked if this training was mandatory. Mrs. Mutschler reported it is not, however information includes rules and case law for search warrants, drafting search warrants and serving search warrants.

MOTION by Mrs. Mutschler, seconded by Mr. Sivy – to send 11 officers to the Search Warrants in PA 4 hour seminar, July 14, 2008, at the Four Points by Sheraton Pittsburgh North, Mars, PA, at a cost of \$40 per officer. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

FINANCE COMMITTEE:

MOTION by Mrs. Raymer, seconded by Mr. Thomas – to authorize payment of all bills listed and properly signed off and approved by the appropriate supervisor of that department. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ROAD DEPARTMENT:

Mr. Mutschler read the Road Department Report for June, 2008, as prepared by Mr. Fitzgerald, which will be on file for review in the borough secretary's office.

MOTION by Mr. Mutschler, seconded by Mrs. Raymer – to authorize the Road Department Working Foreman to park a borough vehicle at his/her residence during non-duty hours; the Road Department Working Foreman will keep the borough manager advised of the location of the borough vehicle.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

***06/24/2008 corrected to indicate Mrs. Mutschler left the room to use the rest room.*

MOTION by Mr. Googins, seconded by Mr. Sivy – to authorize the Road Department Working Foreman to represent Economy Borough at local public works (i.e. APWA, etc.) meetings/conferences; a borough vehicle may be used as transportation to/from these local meetings/conferences; the Road Department Working Foreman is also encouraged to participate in public works annual meetings/conferences as approved by the Borough Council.

Yes – Mr. Googins, Mr. Mutschler, Mrs. Raymer, Mr. Sivy, Mr. Thomas, Mr. Rock

No – Mrs. Mutschler

Motion passes by a 6 Yes, 1 No vote.

Mr. Thomas recommended the bottom room in the Community Building be used to give the road department a clean, healthy environment to sit and eat lunch; would need air conditioning for the summer; room is used but not that much; suggests the Road Department Committee look into and move on this. Mrs. Mutschler stated there is a back entrance to the building and that the Recreation Board has stuff stored there; they also should not have any personal belongings there. The committee will look into this.

ORDINANCE and RECREATION:

Mr. Thomas stated he would review the parking ordinance as requested.

REPORTS:

SECRETARY:

No Report

ENGINEER:

No Report

SOLICITOR:

Mr. Fouse requested an Executive Session to discuss 2 litigation issues, with no vote.

Hear the Public II:

Salvatore Boboth, 105 Timber Ridge Road, feels there must be a no on street parking ordinance already, as when he was building his home during the 1970's, someone called the police because he was parked on the street; the officer came to have him move.

MOTION by Mr. Sivy, seconded by Mr. Googins – to enter into Executive Session to discuss 2 litigation issues, with no vote to be taken tonight. Time: 8:57 PM CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

MOTION by Mr. Googins, seconded by Mr. Sivy – to return to the regular order of business. Time: 9:15 PM CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ADJOURNMENT:

MOTION by Mr. Googins, seconded by Mr. Sivy – to adjourn the meeting. Time: 9:15 PM CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Respectfully submitted,

Susan A. Blum
Borough Secretary
June 17, 2008