

**REGULAR SESSION \*\* ECONOMY BOROUGH COUNCIL \*\* NOVEMBER 27, 2007**

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:** Nick F. Gnarra, Jr., Larry Googins, Arthur O. Mutschler, Audrey Mutschler, Renee Raymer, Donald Sivy, Ronald R. Rock

**ALSO PRESENT:** Mayor David N. Poling, Dale M. Fouse, Esq., Randy S. Kunkle, Borough Manager

**HEAR THE PUBLIC:**

Bob Mecchia, 211 Fernwood Drive, came before Council regarding the speeding on Park Hill Road; police statistics show 1 in 5 cars drive 10 MPH over the speed limit; feels a solution would be to reduce the speed limit to 15 MPH and enforce the speed after 25/30 MPH; feels there are other traffic calming things that can be done, like in other municipalities. Mayor Poling stated the ordinance for the stop signs needs amended. Mr. Sivy advised cooperation is needed from the residents in that area as to areas for the police to sit in driveways. Mr. Rock asked Mrs. Raymer to move on with amending the ordinance. Mr. Kunkle advised software issues with the speed timing device are being worked on.

Rich Mattern, 109 Roberts Lane, came before Council regarding his water issue; feels moving the current drain or installing another drain would take care of the problem. Mayor Poling advised he viewed the issue and feels 75% of the run off is missing the drain. Mr. Rock asked Mr. Kunkle to contact Mr. Shoup to review this.

**MINUTES:**

Mrs. Mutschler requested Page 356 of the November 13, 2007, Minutes under the Finance Committee Report, be amended to read: Mrs. Mutschler questioned paying the mileage to a COG meeting that hasn't been attended yet.

***MOTION by Mrs. Mutschler seconded by Mr. Gnarra – to approve the Minutes of the November 13, 2007, Regular Session of Council, as amended. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY***

**MAYOR'S REPORT:**

Mayor Poling stated he has concerns about the proposed 2008 Budget.

**MANAGER'S REPORT:**

**1. 2008 Budget:** Mr. Kunkle advised the proposed budget has a list of cuts/reductions that were made from the last draft; this budget requires no tax increase; the 2008 budget shows more money being spent than coming in (just like 2007); this is made possible by having a fund balance at the end of the year that is used to make up

the difference; without a significant increase in revenue we are soon approaching the time when there will be insufficient carry-over to bridge the gap between revenue and expenditures; without the attached cuts/reductions a 1.5 mill tax increase as called for; without a tax increase this year Economy Borough could be in a much tighter position next year. Mayor Poling noted the line item for contracted paving was not reduced as noted on the cut list. Mrs. Mutschler noted the line item for New/replacement signs was cut from \$5,500 to \$4,000 and questioned what happens to the old signs. Mr. Kunkle stated the old signs are scrapped and the money received used for the road department coffee fund as in the past. Mrs. Mutschler stated she was not aware this was being done, does not feel this is a proper use of the money and should be looked into. Mr. Thomas (from the audience) stated this was done in past years with Councils knowledge when he was on Council. Mr. Gnarra stated that the 2008 proposed budget reflects less revenues and more expenditures and with a lesser year end fund balance, there may be no money by the end of 2008; suggested instead of cutting services, reducing the proposed Capital Improvement Plan line item and reallocating those funds to service line items. Mr. Googins stated the first service line item that should be restored is to the Economy Volunteer Fire Department annual allocation. Council decided to correct the contracted paving line item to read \$125,000 (from \$150,000); correct the total miscellaneous road work total line to read \$188,000 (from \$208,000); reduce the capital improvement plan line item to read \$9,200 (from \$40,000); increase the municipal building repairs line item to read \$25,000 for the air conditioner (from \$5,000); and increase the fire department contribution line item to read \$108,000 (from \$97,200).

***MOTION by Mr. Mutschler, seconded by Mr. Sivy – to adopt the proposed 2008 Budget as presented, correcting the contracted paving line item to read \$125,000 (from \$150,000); correcting the total miscellaneous road work total line to \$188,000 (from \$208,000); reducing the capital improvement plan line item to \$9,200 (from \$40,000); increasing the municipal building repairs line item to \$25,000 for the air conditioner (from \$5,000); and increasing the fire department contribution line item to \$108,000 (from \$97,200) and authorize advertising for the public review period.***

***Roll Call Vote:***

***Mr. Gnarra – Abstain***

***Mr. Googins – Yes***

***Mr. Mutschler – Yes***

***Mrs. Mutschler – Yes***

***Mrs. Raymer – Yes***

***Mr. Sivy – Yes***

***Mr. Rock - Yes***

***Motion carries by a 6 Yes, 1 Abstention vote.***

Mr. Rock thanked all for their time that worked on the 2008 Budget.

**2. 2008 Tax Ordinance:** Mr. Kunkle requested authorization to advertise the 2008 tax ordinance.

***MOTION by Mr. Googins, seconded by Mrs. Raymer – to authorize the advertising for the 2008 Tax Ordinance at 14 Mills. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY***

**3. Conway Permit Fee Request:** Mr. Kunkle reported Conway is requesting a waiver from the building permit fee for their new water tower near East Ridge Road; the permit fee is \$10,977 which was arrived at based on square feet; we're already put some time into the project for plan review/permit approval, and we will be doing some of the inspections; making Council aware of the request; once Ray gets back to work we'll figure out what he'll be doing for the rest of the project, what it will cost Economy Borough, than a

recommendation will be made regarding a refund; it may turn out that Economy Borough will only be putting \$500 worth of work into this; unlike Ambridge Water Authority, Conway cannot establish a special district in Economy Borough to help pay for this fee.

**4. In Lieu of Vacation Request:** Mr. Kunkle reported on November 14<sup>th</sup> he received a request for 56 hours in lieu of vacation from a Road Department employee. Mr. Rock reported these requests have been honored in the past; it would be unfair to the individual to not allow this request; start in January, 2008, on a case by case situation. Mrs. Mutschler stated she was unaware this was being done and it is not addressed in the contract; it's double dipping; all Council should be aware of everything.

*MOTION by Mr. Googins, second by Mr. Mutschler – to authorize non uniformed employees that are requesting vacation in lieu for the calendar year 2007, be paid. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY*

**COMMITTEE REPORTS and OTHER BUSINESS:**

**PROPERTY and BUILDING:**

Mr. Sivy reported Conserve Electric has installed the water jacket heater on the emergency generator.

Mr. Sivy reported talking with Mark from Economy Plumbing and the approximate cost to camera the wall between the rest rooms in the municipal building would be \$200; they do not do this, it would be subcontracted out; will continue to monitor the issue to isolate the problem.

Mr. Sivy verified with the secretary that a pot hole in the Ridgewood Plan reported to her by John Burlett was reported to the road department via email.

**PUBLIC SAFETY:**

No Report

**FINANCE COMMITTEE:**

No Report

**ROAD DEPARTMENT:**

No Report

**ORDINANCE and RECREATION:**

No Report

**PUBLIC UTILITIES**

Mr. Googins reported the Economy Borough Municipal Authority has passed their 2008 budget with no sewer rate increase.

Mr. Googins reported a letter has been sent to the Ambridge Water Authority requesting their officials meet and discuss several topics with Economy Borough; this letter is a first step.

Mr. Googins reported the Public Utilities Committee met with Mr. Kunkle, Mr. Shoup and Mr. Fouse to discuss possible actions to be taken with regards to Ambridge Water Authority issues.

**REPORTS:**

**SECRETARY:**

No Report

**ENGINEER:**

No Report

**SOLICITOR:**

Mr. Fouse reported Crown Communications have filed an appeal to Beaver County of their assessment of properties in Beaver County.

***MOTION by Mr. Sivy, seconded by Mr. Googins – to authorize Mr. Fouse to file an intervention petition with the Beaver County Court to become involved with this case involving the cell tower and cell tower property owned by Crown Communications. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY***

Mr. Fouse reported, as an additional step, the tenants of the Northern Lights Shopping Center will be individually notified this week of the recent condemnation; no preliminary objections.

Mr. Fouse reported the Economy Borough Planning Commission will be considering changes to the Zoning Ordinance on December 3, 2007, and make a recommendation to Council; public hearing will be scheduled in January or February.

Mr. Fouse verified that motion was made on October 23, 2007, authorizing Mr. Fouse to draft a letter conveying to the Ambridge Water Authority whatever interest Economy Borough might have in the Economy Borough – Pinehurst Waterline Installation Project (#8441) CDBG Year 31 CD-051700; letter has been sent. Mr. Googins requested a copy of the letter.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

***MOTION by Mrs. Mutschler, seconded by Mrs. Raymer – to adjourn the meeting. Time: 8:46 PM  
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY***

Respectfully submitted,

Susan A. Blum  
Borough Secretary  
November 30, 2007