

**REGULAR SESSION \*\* ECONOMY BOROUGH COUNCIL \*\* FEBRUARY 10, 2009**

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, Dale M. Fouse, Esq., Eric Gadzik, Shoup Engineering, Randy S. Kunkle, Borough Manager

**HEAR THE PUBLIC:**

Sal Boboth, 105 Timber Ridge Road, reported he felt the Road Department did a great job this winter.

Craig Wood, 1382 Merriman Road, came before Council regarding an issue with the Economy Borough Municipal Authority and the Phase II Sewer Project. Mr. Wood was referred to the EBMA meeting February 19<sup>th</sup> at 7PM.

John Campbell, 123 Gross Drive, asked if the new log house at the end of Park Hill Road would be in the sewer system. Mrs. Mutschler stated the house will be tapped into the system.

**MINUTES:**

***MOTION by Mr. Mutschler, seconded by Mr. Sivy – to approve the Minutes of the January 27, 2009, 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 January, 2009, as prepared by Chief Harrington, which will be on file for review in the borough secretary's office.

**MANAGER'S REPORT:**

**1. Beeman Subdivision:** Mr. Kunkle reported this is a simple reverse subdivision combining a 2 acre lot with a 4 acre lot off Spring Road Plan; Both Planning Commission's recommend approval with typical caveats.

***MOTION by Mrs. Mutschler, seconded by Mr. Thomas – to approve the Beeman Subdivision conditioned upon the following: comply with the BCPC review comments of January 21, 2009, comply with the Planning Consultants recommendations of January 5, 2009, Shoup Engineer's recommendations of December 30, 2008 and comply with all borough ordinances and regulations. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY***

**2. Economy Borough Veterans Memorial Committee Request:** Mr. Kunkle reported, for informational purposes, that since at least the early 1990's, Economy Borough has been donating \$500 to the Ambridge Area Veteran's Service and Information Center; this is permissible under the Pennsylvania Borough Code and limited to \$500 for Veteran's groups; the Economy Borough Veterans Memorial Committee has submitted a request for the same amount; Mr. Fouse determined this is also permissible under the Code provided the latest request is specifically for a memorial; Council should expect to see this item on the March lob.

**3. PSAB's Annual Conference:** Mr. Kunkle reported PSAB has combined the Spring Conference and the Annual Conference into one meeting; the PSAB 98<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference will be March 22-25, 2009, at the Hershey Lodge; registration is \$225 (by March 2<sup>nd</sup>; \$260 after); Lodging would be \$165.39 X 3, \$496.17), plus travel expenses \$60 (more if pov used); approximately \$781.17; should send at least 1 representative. Mayor Poling expressed interest in attending, will check his schedule and let Council know at the next meeting.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS and OTHER BUSINESS:**

### **ROAD DEPARTMENT:**

Mr. Mutschler reported Rich Dunn and Terry Kifer each have 30 years service on the Road Department and should be recognized. Mr. Rock asked letters of congratulations be sent to Mr. Dunn and Mr. Kifer.

Mr. Mutschler reported a new battery was installed for the emergency generator.

### **ORDINANCE and RECREATION:**

Mr. Thomas reported the final cost for the installed sign for The Jeffrey B. Meddock Recreation Park is \$2,500.00 (original estimate was \$1200-\$1300) would like the difference to be paid from Recreation Board line item 01.452.300.

***MOTION by Mr. Thomas, seconded by Mrs. Raymer – to pay the final cost of \$2,500.00 for the installed sign for The Jeffrey B. Meddock Recreation Park from the Recreation Board line item.***  
***CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY***

Mr. Thomas asked the status of the recreation grant. Mr. Kunkle reported the applicant must be a 5013C organization; Jeff Hooks is researching this.

### **PUBLIC UTILITIES**

Mr. Googins reported he emailed Ambridge Water Authority (AWA) regarding the status of the water tank on Conway Wallrose Road; no response. Mr. Kunkle reported AWA told him Verizon is due to install the remote telecommunications hardware; not known if the work is done yet. Mayor Poling stated Jeff Allen also told him AWA was waiting for Verizon. Mr. Fouse reported he got a fax copy of the answer to the complaint filed with AWA; waited 6 months for the answer. If Economy Borough does not hear from AWA before their next meeting, Mr. Kunkle will attend the meeting to check on the status of the water tank.

Mr. Googins reported Mr. Sas will be at the next Council meeting with the annual EBMA report.

**PROPERTY and BUILDING:**

Mr. Sivy asked Mr. Kunkle to call contractors to see if they would be interested in repairing the curtain wall that has utility wires pulling it apart at the back of the municipal building; gutters would also need to be installed to prevent future damage.

**PUBLIC SAFETY:**

Mrs. Mutschler reported Chief Harrington is recommending purchase of 5 used radios from Interstate to be used in emergency situations, i.e. at Economy Elementary, Highland Elementary or the Ambridge Area Junior High School.

***MOTION by Mrs. Mutschler, seconded by Mr. Sivy – to authorize the purchase 5 used radios at \$500/radio for a total cost of \$1,500 from Interstate. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY***

**FINANCE COMMITTEE:**

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

Mr. Sivy requested Mr. Kunkle research what the price would be to have Verizon as the provider for the internet, phone and cable.

Mrs. Raymer reported the Finance Committee has recommendations for non-organized employee wages. Mrs. Mutschler asked how many more certifications Joe Luff can obtain and will his salary be capped? Mayor Poling asked how many hours per week Joe Luff works. Mr. Kunkle reported 6-7 hours per day; Ray is still out; Joe checks that every certificate he has is pertinent to what he is doing here; Joe reports when he signs up for training/certifications. Mayor Poling suggested cutting the hours, hiring someone temporary or third party inspectors. Mr. Rock stated third party would be more than what we are paying. Mr. Thomas asked Rays status. Mr. Kunkle will contact Mr. Tomaszewski to check on his status.

Non-Organized Employee Wages:

***MOTION by Mrs. Raymer, seconded by Mr. Sivy – to continue the hourly rate of \$15.00 per hour, for Ray Tomaszewski. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY***

***MOTION by Mrs. Raymer, seconded by Mr. Googins – to authorize the increase of the hourly rate of the custodian, Mark Custer, from \$9.75/hour to \$10.00/hour. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY***

***MOTION by Mrs. Raymer, seconded by Mr. Mutschler – to authorize the increase of the hourly rate of the police custodian, Mary Sue Horton, from \$11.80/hour to \$12.00/hour. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY***

*MOTION by Mrs. Raymer, seconded by Mr. Thomas – to authorize the increase of the hourly rate of the part time police officers from \$12.50/hour to \$12.88/hour, a 3% increase. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY*

*MOTION by Mrs. Raymer, seconded by Mr. Sivy – to authorize the increase of the hourly rate of the borough secretary, Sue Blum, from \$16.75/hour to \$17.25/hour, a 3% increase.*

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

*No – Mrs. Mutschler*

*Motion carried*

*MOTION by Mrs. Raymer, seconded by Mr. Googins – to authorize the increase of the hourly rate of the office assistant, Sharon Paul, from \$9.00/hour to \$9.25/hour. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY*

*MOTION by Mrs. Raymer, seconded by Mr. Mutschler – to continue the hourly rate of \$22.00 per hour, for Joe Luff. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY*

*MOTION by Mrs. Raymer, seconded by Mr. Googins – to authorize the increase the salary of the borough manager, Randy Kunkle, from \$55,000 to \$56,500, which is a 3% increase.*

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

*No – Mrs. Mutschler*

*Motion carried*

Mayor Poling asked that the increase for the part time police be reconsidered; some surrounding municipalities pay \$14-\$15 per hour. Mr. Rock asked Mr. Kunkle to check out surrounding municipalities for part time police rates.

**REPORTS:**

**SECRETARY:**

No Report

**ENGINEER:**

No Report

**SOLICITOR:**

Mr. Fouse reported the grievance discussed is going to arbitration.

**HEAR THE PUBLIC II:**

Sal Boboth, 105 Timber Ridge Drive, asked who is the zoning officer? Mr. Kunkle reported Joe Luff is the Zoning Officer and the Building Inspector.

Butch Thompson, 115 First Street, stated that he does not feel it is right to give out pay raises; employees should take pay freezes this year. Mr. Rock stated his point is well made; taxes were not raised; Council is still in the tax frame.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

***MOTION by Mrs. Mutschler, seconded by Mrs. Raymer – to adjourn the meeting. Time: 7:58 PM  
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY***

Respectfully submitted,

Susan A. Blum  
Borough Secretary  
February 20, 2009