

**REGULAR SESSION \*\* ECONOMY BOROUGH COUNCIL \*\* JANUARY 12, 2010**

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 and welcomed the two new members of Council.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**ROLL CALL**

**PRESENT:** Gary Bucuren, Larry Googins, Audrey Mutschler, Donald Sivy (7:25 PM) , Michelle Sovich-Lapinski, John C. Thomas, Ronald R. Rock

**ALSO PRESENT:** Mayor David N. Poling, Dale M. Fouse, Esq., Scott A. Shoup, P.E., P.L.S., Randy S. Kunkle, Borough Manager

**HEAR THE PUBLIC:**

Mr. Rock opened the meeting to the public restricted to borough business; each person would have one chance to speak for 3-5 minutes; looking over the minutes of the last two years (is a free speech advocate) public portion got extended as resident one would say something, then resident two, resident three, resident four, then resident one would comment on what resident four said; got to be lots of dialogue between residents and had nothing to with the business of Economy Borough; would like to keep the comments to what your concern is and if resident three says something you want to comment about, can talk to resident three after the meeting about it; this way we can move along faster than in the past.

Kathy Preuhs, 91 Firethorn Road, provided Council and residents with the Cranberry Township Open Burning Ordinance, adopted in July, 2009; focusing on the language of recreational fires. Mr. Rock thanked Mrs. Preuhs for her work on this; advised Mr. Bucuren is the new chair for the Ordinance/Recreation Committee and after working on the proposed firearms ordinance will work on the open burning ordinance; shoot for March or April. Debbie Sovich, 104 Shady Spring (received an email from Ms. Sovich), Debbie Jeannett, 89 Firethorn Road and Cindy Carlson, 87 Firethorn Road also attended regarding burning.

Roger Kowal, Amsler Road, asked Council if there is a schedule for spring for the road; said he was told in June he would get his road done; nothing got taken care of. Mr. Googins reported he would ask when this will be looked at and will contact Mr. Kowal when they start. Mr. Rock asked Mr. Kowal to give his phone number to the borough secretary so Mr. Googins can contact him.

**MINUTES:**

***MOTION by Mrs. Mutschler seconded by Mr. Googins – to approve the Minutes of the November 24, 2009, Regular Session of Council, as written. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY***

***MOTION by Mr. Thomas seconded by Mrs. Sovich-Lapinski – to approve the Minutes of the December 8, 2009, Regular Session of Council, as written. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY***

***MOTION by Mr. Googins seconded by Mr. Thomas – to approve the Minutes of the January 4, 2010, Regular Session of Council, as written. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY***

## **MAYOR'S REPORT:**

Mayor Poling read the Mayor's Report for the Police Department for the year ending December 31, 2009, as prepared by Chief Harrington, which will be on file for review in the borough secretary's office.

## **MANAGER'S REPORT:**

**1. Appointments:** Mr. Kunkle reported the Economy Borough Planning Commission Planning Consultant should have been included with the list last week; recommending that Roberta Sarraf be reappointed as the planning consultant.

***MOTION by Mrs. Mutschler, seconded by Mr. Googins – to reappoint Roberta J. Sarraf, AICP as planning consultant for the Economy Borough Planning Commission for 2010. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY***

Mr. Kunkle pointed out that Roger Kowal had previously submitted his name; it was inadvertently left off last week; there was a question if he could serve on the EBMA and the Ambridge Area School Board at the same time; that question was answered and he is able to do that and he should have been included last week. Mr. Kunkle reported there are two seats on the Planning Commission, one on the EBMA, one on the Zoning Hearing Board and four vacancies on the Recreation Board; the people in the currently filled seats would like to be reappointed; there is no requirement that they be reappointed; it is Council's call.

Economy Borough Planning Commission: Mr. Kunkle reported Bob Sacco and Richard Hart both want to be reappointed. Mr. Rock reported he spoke to Mr. Blumling who has endorsed Mr. Sacco and Mr. Hart to be reappointed.

***MOTION by Mr. Thomas, second by Mr. Bucuren – to reappoint Bob Sacco and Richard Hart to the Economy Borough Planning Commission for another four year term.***

Discussion on the motion: Mr. Googins reported it has been talked about for the last couple of years about the nine person Planning Commission; thinks Council should consider reducing it to seven; has nothing to do with Mr. Sacco or Mr. Hart, they are both productive participants on the Planning Commission; nothing to do with the individual, just the fact that reading back through all the minutes since the Planning Commission was established, started at five, up to seven and up to nine when they were redoing the Zoning Ordinances back years ago, they again redid the Zoning Ordinance two years ago; spent a lot of time doing that; in his opinion Economy Borough does not need a nine person Planning Commission at this time; nothing to do with the individuals; cut down the size of the Planning Commission and save some money in compensation; mostly the fact that in his attendance of the meetings and in his opinion, Economy Borough does not need that large a group; would like to suggest this Council look into reducing the Planning Commission from nine to seven when the vacancies open up in the future. Mr. Rock reported he understands what Mr. Googins is saying and is on record in the past; believes that possibly Council should decrease the number of people on the Planning Commission, but be done through attrition; does not believe that Council should be telling people who are currently serving, want to be reappointed and are recommended to be reappointed to be told thanks, but we really don't need you; that is his feeling; these two gentlemen have served with distinction and deserve the right to continue to serve as long as they want to serve; when members of the Planning Commission decide they no longer want to serve then he feels Council won't fill those; maybe eventually get down to five members; is in disagreement to deny them a chance to continue working. Mayor Poling reported with nine they do a fine job. Mr. Thomas agreed with Mr. Rock and can see where Mr. Googins is coming from; if Council did not have the people there that wanted the positions, would say at that time it would be a good idea to make that move; since Council has the people who are interested in continuing on that committee, feels they should be left on; this is his opinion, but does agree with Mr. Googins, too. Mr. Googins reported all nine people participate; has

nothing to do with the individuals; thinks it is something Council should continue to look at. Mrs. Mutschler reported she thinks work for the committee could pick up with potential growth.

***Motion CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY***

Economy Borough Municipal Authority: Mr. Rock reported for the EBMA Mr. Mattern wants to be reappointed; Mr. Kowal and Mrs. Borato would like to be considered. Mr. Kunkle reported a fourth was added today, George Fitzgerald is interested. Mrs. Mutschler questioned that Rich Mattern wants reappointed; did the EBMA make any recommendation; have they met George or Jo Ann; Council is only looking at names and faces here; have they approached the EMBA; has anyone been sent up to the EBMA so they can talk to these people; might pick someone because she likes the way she looks; can't say who is good for the position. Mr. Sivy reported he has the same concern. Mr. Rock asked if she is suggesting the EBMA talk to these four people and make a recommendation to Council; they will have to deal with them. Mr. Thomas thought that was a good idea. Mrs. Mutschler reported once Council appoints a name, they can't touch the EBMA at all; could put an ally up they, but that would not help the cause for Council; could pick anybody; feels EBMA should be approached by them. Mr. Googins reported the way Council did it in the past was the committee established by the President of Council interviewed the individuals; talked to Mr. Sas who is the current chairman and asked if they would have a suggestion or recommendation and they would prefer not to get involved in that; in the past Council has had the candidates interview with the Public Utilities Committee and have the committee recommend; suggests Council do that. Mrs. Mutschler reported guidelines have to be set. Mr. Rock reported this was done before; in the past Mr. Googins was a candidate for that position that was given to Mr. Sas; three or four people were interviewed, Mr. Sas eventually got the position; at that time he was on the Public Utilities, Mr. States was Council President; Jim Sas was decided on; the Public Utilities Committee sit down (Public Utilities Committee is Mr. Thomas, Mr. Sivy, and Mr. Bucuren) with the four candidates if they want to do that; seems the EBMA would prefer Council doing that and possibly sitting down with Mr. Mattern, Mr. Kowal, Mrs. Borato, Mr. Fitzgerald; talking to them and the committee making a recommendation back to Council; the EBMA would be happy with whoever Council places there. Mr. Googins reported this was done once since then; Mr. Belsky was appointed. Mr. Bucuren asked how many people are on the board now and if there is a limit to what they have. Mr. Kunkle reported five board members. Mr. Fouse reported their indenture would define the number of members on the authority and he is certain it is five. Mr. Kunkle reported one term expires each year. Mr. Rock reported when Mr. Belsky was appointed, several people were interviewed. Mr. Rock advised Mr. Thomas his first job as Public Utilities Committee Chairman would be to arrange for a meeting with the four candidates; sit down and speak to them whenever the committee can meet with them and bring back a recommendation to Council; hopefully for the first meeting in February. Mr. Thomas reported the committee will do that.

Zoning Hearing Board: Mr. Rock reported Mr. Lodovico wants to be reappointed; he has been on there for several years and has done an excellent job; many times they have not agreed, but he respects his opinion and respects him as a member of the Zoning Hearing Board; Paul Thompson is also interested in this appointment. Mayor Poling asked if there is only one appointment or if this is in addition to Mr. Lodovico. Mr. Rock reported there is only one position. Mrs. Mutschler reported the alternate is Gerry States. Mr. Googins reported he is the only one right now; might be good to look into reappointing and appointing an alternate; they had to cancel two meetings in the past as they did not have a quorum; would be good to have an alternate. Mr. Rock reported the members are Mr. Dieter, Ms. Travis, Mr. Lodovico and Mr. States is the alternate; there are three members, an alternate and a second space for another alternate on the list; does Council want to appoint or go through the interview process. Mr. Thomas reported Council has people interested in filling these positions; if there is an alternate position, even if Council does put Mr. Lodovico back in there, there is an alternate position; might want to talk to Mr. States to find out if he is still interested in being involved with this. Mr. Googins reported Council can have more than one alternate. Mr. Rock reported this will be tabled. Mayor Poling asked if Council should ask Mr. Thompson if he is interested in being an alternate since he is here tonight. Mr. Thompson indicated he would be interested in being an alternate.

Recreation Board: Mr. Rock reported Mr. Protzman and Mrs. Mutschler both want to be reappointed; still have four vacant seats; has three names listed for the four vacant seats. Mrs. Mutschler reported there are more names. Mr. Bucuren reported he has a couple of names too. Mrs. Mutschler reported Bob gave her a call before the meeting and he has three or four people coming to their next meeting; the people who are interested should get a hold of Bob Hideck; he likes to talk to the people and interview them; they meet the third Monday; suggested giving Bobs number to the persons interested. Mr. Googins asked why Mr. Hideck is involved in selection of members of this committee. Mrs. Mutschler reported because he would talk to them to see what their input is. Mr. Googins asked why this is different from the other boards. Mrs. Mutschler asked if Council wants them to all come here. Mr. Googins reported it would be the same thing that Council does with the committees. Mr. Rock reported it should be the Ordinance/Recreation Committee. Mr. Thomas reported it should be Council. Mr. Rock reported Council should take this one step at a time; Mr. Protzman and Mrs. Mutschler both want to be reappointed; Council can do that and still have four vacant seats. Mrs. Sovich-Lapinski reported she has a question on Chapter 36 of the Code; would like to have an opportunity to review that further and would like to table the appointments for the Recreation Board. Mr. Rock asked if she wants to have an Executive Session. Mrs. Sovich-Lapinski stated yes. Mr. Fouse asked what the purpose of the Executive Session would be. Mr. Rock reported to discuss Chapter 36 of the local code. Mrs. Sovich-Lapinski reported she has some questions that need clarified by the solicitor and that would be the appropriate avenue to do that. Mr. Fouse asked if these were legal questions. Mrs. Sovich-Lapinski reported it could be. Mr. Fouse reported he has a number of litigation related matters to discuss in Executive Session, to talk about it then would be appropriate. Mr. Rock reported there would be an Executive Session at the end of the meeting.

Zoning Hearing Board: Mr. Googins asked if Council agrees on Mr. Lodovico and Mr. Thompson as an alternate, can this be acted on tonight.

***MOTION by Mr. Googins, seconded by Mr. Thomas – to reappoint David N. Lodovico, Jr. to the Zoning Hearing Board for a three year term and to appoint Paul Thompson as an alternate to the Zoning Hearing Board for a three year term. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY***

Mr. Rock reported the EBMA will be dealt with by the Public Utilities Committee; Mrs. Sovich-Lapinski's questions about the Recreation Board will be in Executive Session.

**2. Countywide EIT Collections:** Mr. Kunkle reported a few years ago the State passed a law that called for Countywide Earned Income Tax collection; last year Council appointed Mr. Kunkle and Mrs. Blum to the committee that is helping to set that up; it will start in 2011 or 2012; at the December meeting the membership was asked about start up funding; the committee will need to hire an attorney, adopt by laws, etc.; it was anticipated during the budget process that Economy Borough would be asked to help fund that committee; that is what this request is; the total start up amount is \$10,000; based on a pro rata share; each municipality/entity that collects earned income tax, based on population and the amount of EIT they collect determines their percentage of vote; Economy Borough's is 2.94%; our share is \$294.30; recommending this contribution be authorized. Mr. Sivy verified \$1,000 is budgeted for this.

***MOTION by Mr. Thomas, seconded by Mr. Sivy – to authorize \$294.30 as the Economy Borough pro-rata share for the Countywide EIT Collection Committee. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY***

**3. Meeting Dates & Times:** Mr. Kunkle requested authorization to advertise the dates and times of the Economy Borough Council meetings. Council agreed to keep them the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday at 7:00 PM.

***MOTIN by Mr. Sivy, seconded by Mrs. Sovich-Lapinski – to authorize advertising the dates and times of the Economy Borough meetings. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY***

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

### **ORDINANCE and RECREATION:**

Mr. Bucuren reported a meeting would be scheduled within the next few weeks on the proposed firearms ordinance and then the burning ordinance would be looked at.

### **PUBLIC UTILITIES:**

Mr. Rock asked Mr. Googins to share information on public utilities with Mr. Thomas.

Mr. Rock asked Mayor Poling if his water pressure has increased since the new AWA tank is in operation. Mayor Poling reported no. Mr. Thomas reported his has.

### **PROPERTY and BUILDING:**

Mr. Sivy reported the blower motor in the furnace at the police department blew apart and did extensive damage to the housing, had to be repaired; total was \$1,000; had to be repaired this time of year. Mr. Sivy reported talking to Fernando Bevilacqua; had personal issue come up and that is why the doors are not completed; will be replaced; not sure when. Mr. Kunkle reported it will come out of the 2010 budget.

Mr. Sivy asked the status of direct deposit. Mr. Kunkle reported a meeting with the bank has been set up for next Wednesday.

### **PUBLIC SAFETY:**

Mrs. Mutschler requested an Executive Session regarding the proposed police contract, with a possible vote.

Mrs. Mutschler reported the Beaver County Courthouse is establishing an Honor Roll at the existing Law Enforcement Memorial Site in front of the Beaver County Courthouse; the honor roll will recognize law enforcement officers who have passed away after honorably serving their departments, community and citizens; four Economy Borough officers qualify for that, John Joy, Doug Carney, Dick Knestaut, Francis Swain; cost would be \$100 per officer for a total of \$400. Mrs. Sovich-Lapinski reported the budget could be looked at to see where to pay for it from. Mr. Kunkle requested information regarding this be faxed or send to the borough office to attach to the check. Mr. Rock reported this should be seriously considered.

***MOTION by Mrs. Mutschler, seconded by Mr. Googins – to authorize \$400 for the names to be on the Honor Roll Plaque at the Courthouse, John Joy, Doug Carney, Dick Knestaut, Francis Swain, with the line item for the funds to be determined. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY***

### **FINANCE COMMITTEE:**

***MOTION by Mrs. Sovich-Lapinski, seconded by Mrs. Mutschler - to authorize payment of all bills listed and properly signed off and approved by the appropriate supervisor of that department. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY***

Mr. Googins asked Mr. Thomas of the requirement of the Economy Volunteer Fire Department (EVFD) to file an annual report with the borough from the EVFD. Mr. Thomas reported it is in the hands of the treasurer. Mr. Googins reported it is needed for 2008 and 2009 and asked Mr. Thomas to nudge him again to have something on file. Mrs. Sovich-Lapinski asked if he could be given a deadline. Mr. Googins read from Act 8 of 2008 (House Bill 1133) "The borough shall require an emergency services organization receiving borough funds to provide to the borough an annual itemized listing of all expenditures of these funds before the borough may consider budgeting additional funding to the organization."; we are behind received this. Mr. Thomas reported he will relay the message; that's all he can do. Mr. Rock asked who the treasurer is. Mr. Thomas reported Gary Scheib. Mayor Poling asked if this was for additional funding. Mr. Googins reported it is for the one mill that Economy Borough gives to the EVFD. Mayor Poling reported the fire department can get up to two mills. Mr. Googins reported all they have to do is report up to the one mill; their finances are up to them. Mrs. Sovich-Lapinski reported Council could hold off on the contribution until Council gets the report. Mr. Googins verified that the EVFD contribution is paid quarterly; they have a couple months. Mr. Thomas reported he would relay the message to Mr. Scheib.

Mr. Rock reported the Finance Committee would be meeting at the end of each quarter; the committee would get together at the end of March; will bring back to Council and the Mayor where Economy Borough stands; want to keep everyone up to date; if you see anything happening financially, please bring it to Mrs. Sovich-Lapinski; after the committee meets quarterly, they will come back to Council; got caught in a pinch last September, October, November; hopefully by the time the committee gets ready to start the 2011 budget next September or October, we will be on the same page; be aware of that, if there are any concerns with finances, contact Mrs. Sovich-Lapinski; will have quarterly meetings and hopefully be able to answer all those questions.

Mr. Googins asked Mr. Thomas if it would be more appropriate for the borough manager to send a note to the EVFD President. Mr. Kunkle reported he talked to Mr. Scheib a while ago. Mr. Thomas reported he mentioned this to Mr. Scheib a couple months ago; he will speak to him in the next day or so; will get something. Mayor Poling reported Economy Borough gives the EVFD one mill of tax; for the equipment, services provided to the community and what they give back to the community, Economy Borough has a bargain; commended the EVFD; seems like they are the only people who really give back to the community, Santa on the fire truck, the fish fries; thinks this is a bargain. Mr. Rock reported the financial report is the law. Mr. Googins reported it is just a paper trail. Mr. Thomas reported when it comes to that (the law), it just came out in the last year or so; never was there before; does not see a problem doing it; will make sure it gets done.

## **ROAD DEPARTMENT:**

Mr. Googins gave the following report of the work that took place during the past month as prepared by Mr. Fitzgerald:

- Salt and cinder deliveries were stockpiled.
- Preventive maintenance was performed on our trucks, backhoe and front end loader. Filters and fluids were changed and then they were greased.
- Dressed up the access roads leading to several of the EBMA pump stations.
- Drains were inspected and the openings cleared of debris.
- Public Works Building #2 was winterized to help reduce the heating bill and protect the equipment stored in it. There were numerous areas that were allowing air and small animals to enter the building.
- We were called out approximately 20 times for ice and snow removal
- Various work:
- The curb attachments for the paver were finished. The transmission oil pan was replaced on truck #6 due to rusting thru, also both oil and transmission pans were sprayed with undercoating to protect them from the elements. The same undercoating was sprayed on truck #8 oil pans. There will be more of this work

done on the rest of the trucks as weather permits. Pot holes were patched on various roads. Look for more of this work to be done in the near future. Stop signs were repaired at various intersections. There are numerous signs that will be repaired as weather permits.

Mr. Googins reported the call out schedule for the last month is numerous; they have done a good job to keep caught up; the snow has been in small storms; a list of items have been going on; they have been called out in the middle of the night.

Mr. Googins reported the email Mr. Rock mentioned from Mrs. Sovich thanking the road department for being out there all hours of the night. Mrs. Mutschler asked how the salt is holding up. Mr. Googins reported good; there was an interview in the newspaper from Larissa Theodore from various places about salt; we are ok on salt quantities; see in the next couple months how we are doing on salt costs. Mayor Poling reported he is out at all hours of the night and the road department does a fine job; knows they are down one guy; hope they can go to straight salt one day instead of the black stuff. Mr. Googins reported the department is going to work on the calibration of the vehicles this spring and summer to try to see if they can cut down use of the ugly black stuff; it's either ugly black stuff or ugly brown stuff being used to try to get some traction rather than total salt; does not know which one is better, one is better in one way and one is better in another way; will try to work on that, cut down the use of that and increase productivity of the salt; this is a goal for this year.

Mr. Googins reported he would like to discuss the proposed public work department contact in Executive Session and hopefully vote on it. Mr. Rock verified a possible vote.

Mr. Thomas reported the road crew is doing a fine job on the roads; has been getting a lot of people telling him they go outside of Economy Borough and Economy Borough roads are well maintained. Mrs. Mutschler reported it is deceiving; you think the roads are clear; clear in front of your house and not when you go out. Mayor Poling asked if Economy Borough does 989, Ridge Road Ext. Mr. Googins reported no. Mayor Poling asked if there is any way for Economy Borough to take that over; people travel from that end of Economy Borough talk about how good the roads are and then oh God they have to drive 989. Mrs. Mutschler reported she talked to Earl and if anybody remembers, we had snow fences at the top of Phillips Street and across from the Sportsmen's; they no longer put them up anymore; those are the bad parts. Mayor Poling asked if this could be looked into. Mr. Googins reported what needs looked into is the agreement with PennDOT; it is for Bock Lane and Conway Wallrose Road; this is something the Finance Committee and borough manager can look at in the spring; salt went up 50% increase; we were getting paid approximately \$22,000 from PennDOT to do those two roads; they increased it \$2,000; so a 50% increase in the cost of salt and a \$2,000 increase on a \$22,000 payment was not (to him) a sufficient increase; just his guess; the problem with that in their opinion, is you can't tell how much salt you use on different roads; our opinion is that we don't make money at all on that; it costs Economy Borough money to do that; so the trade off is we do it for Bock Lane and Conway Wallrose Road as a service because that is our main thoroughfare; Ridge Road is also; do we want to offer to spend our taxpayers money to do their roads; probably will cost us money. Mayor Poling suggested Earl could do Bock Lane; see how much material it takes to do that road and just do the calculations. Mr. Googins reported that is what they are trying to do; hard to figure out the cost. Mayor Poling reported three, four tons of material. Mr. Googins reported they are going to look at it. Mayor Poling reported even if it works out as a balance thing to keep Economy Borough residents safe. Mr. Googins reported if it was a balance is may be worth it, but his personal gut feeling is that Economy Borough does not get paid enough for what they are doing now; increasing it more would be more of a financial burden on Economy Borough, but they will look at it. Mayor Poling reported it is really basically covering the materials because they are driving over the roads now. Mr. Googins reported it is time too. Mayor Poling reported they travel Bock Lane to do Woodcroft and that area; they are driving on the roads, just turn the spinner on the way down and let the stuff fly. Mrs. Mutschler reported they can check it out and come back (with a report). Mr. Googins reported he does not think it is a sufficient amount of money from PennDOT for the roads we are doing right now. Mr. Rock asked if Council could write a letter to PennDOT requesting a raise. Mr. Googins reported the payment is based on a statewide

formula. Mr. Bucuren reported PennDOT gives you the same amount of money no matter where you are at; it basically all goes back to (like you are saying) that you are doing it for the public service, not to make money on it. Mayor Poling asked Mr. Bucuren if they (Franklin Park Borough) do state roads. Mr. Bucuren reported they do all the state roads. Mayor Poling asked if it balances out or costs the borough money. Mr. Bucuren reported it probably costs them money; sure it does; it is more a service to the people who are living there; if you are waiting for the state to come in, they don't come in. Mr. Rock reported the state is being smart about this. Mr. Bucuren would think so. Mr. Rock reported this is a win win situation for the state.

## **REPORTS:**

**SECRETARY:** No Report

**ENGINEER:** No Report

## **SOLICITOR:**

Mr. Fouse reported he will have the Centax agreement for the next meeting.

Mr. Fouse requested during the Executive Session will be discussed the AWA Litigation; Eminent Domain with NLSC; complaint lodged against the code enforcement officer and the DROP Plan for the Police; not certain if a vote is needed on any of these matters.

## **HEAR THE PUBLIC II:**

Mr. Rock reported since the Executive Session may be long he would open up the Hear the Public Park II at this time for any items discussed during the meeting instead of waiting for hours.

Roger Kowal, suggested having a sign in sheet, signed and dated for persons that wish to volunteer for boards and committees; got a phone call that things disappear in Economy Borough; thought people were honest; was highly upset his name was not included at the last meeting.

R. J. Burns, 101 Almond Way, asked Mr. Thomas if it was too late to throw in his name for the EBMA. Mr. Thomas reported it was advertised in the paper. Mr. Kunkle reported the advertisement was open ended. Mr. Rock reported his question is can he put his name in now; was there a time limit? Mr. Kunkle reported there was no time limit. Mr. Burns asked who to see to put his name in. Mr. Thomas and Mr. Rock reported Mrs. Blum. Mr. Burns asked if anyone else is having trouble with Ambridge Water Authority (AWA) as far as their billing goes because at his house one month he gets a \$25 bill, next month a \$600 bill, another month a \$300 bill; his wife called the office and was told they screwed up; tired of getting bills like that. Mayor Poling reported he forgot to bring it up, but his sister got a bill for \$30,000. Mr. Rock verified that they called the AWA numerous times. Mrs. Mutschler asked what he pays. Mr. Burns reported they pay what they are billed; feels something needs to be done with the AWA; they would not come out and reread his meter at his request; Mary Hrodic is terrible, can't talk to her. Mr. Rock asked Mr. Thomas to give Mrs. Hrodic a call and let her know we have a resident with an issue. Mr. Googins reported to Mr. Burns that people do go down to the AWA meeting once a month in the evening; would like to tell him it will do any good; he can at least voice his opinion to the AWA board so he does not have to talk to the manager; explain what is happening; take the bills along to show them; people have done that; they are there at almost every meeting with some problem or some issue; they will look into it; may not change when you walk out the door. Mr. Rock reported the problem is one of our residents feels obligated to pay a \$600 bill because the fear of turning off his water; people just can't come up with \$600. Mr. Burns reported they pay it, but every month they are arguing with them; on the phone every month arguing with them; they have a remote meter and they came out and checked the meter, the meter

was fine, every month it is always screwed up or they will catch them next month; wanted to know if there are any other residents having trouble.

Matt Morrone, reported they sent him a bill last month \$280; he went down to AWA, showed them the letter; they looked up the account and said that is what it is; he told them nobody lives there and told them they better come up and read the meter again; was told he had a leak in his house; told them he does not have a leak in his house; made an appointment, they came to the house, reread the meter, was told they have no problem, a mistake was made at the office; bill should have been \$40; reduced the bill to the minimum; to Mr. Burns he has to go down to the office and talk to them, tell them you want someone to come out and re read the meter. Mr. Thomas reported on a meter issue the fire department had at the banquet hall with the AWA. Mr. Rock asked Mr. Thomas to call Mary Hrotic and say we have several residents very concerned about the water bills and if they are given incorrect water bills they should not be expected to pay that amount, they should be paying an average based on their history or the last amount which may have been correct. Mr. Thomas reported he will do that, has been dealing with AWA and knows how they operate; will check into it. Mr. Burns reported he has been coming to meetings about a year and hearing residents dissatisfied with the AWA; doesn't know if Economy Borough has a contract or not; is there something that can break that contract and tying in with West View? Mr. Rock asked Mr. Fouse to explain what is going on currently with AWA. Mr. Fouse reported that historically Economy Borough did look into trying to get out of the agreement of our relationship; the fact of the matter is that many years ago Economy Borough entered into a contract where the Council members at that time agreed that Economy Borough would become part of the Ambridge Water Authority's exclusive area; they are the exclusive provider of water in Economy Borough; and Economy Borough agreed to that, the prior Council; at the end of the day, Economy Borough is stuck with them pursuant to that contract; Economy Borough is in litigation with AWA over portions of that contract, where they made certain commitments not to charge Economy Borough x number of dollars; the direct answer to his question is – we researched it; we tried a number of different ways over the years to move away from that water authority and move elsewhere; it is not possible. Mr. Googins reported all the water lines in Economy Borough are owned by Ambridge Water Authority; even if Economy Borough could convince the contract to be terminated and convince West View to provide water, AWA is going to charge West View for all those water lines; how much do you think they are going to charge for the lines. Mayor Poling asked who paid for the lines. Mr. Googins reported they own all the lines; Economy Borough put them in and once put in they are turned over to AWA. Mr. Fouse reported there are a number of things that is worked into that; we did not put all the line in; we put some lines in; the key point is, the lines are AWA lines now, all the lines are theirs; it is cost prohibitive to buy them away from AWA; this was talked about years ago. Mr. Rock reported Mr. Burns is not the first person to come to Council and suggest we go to another water authority; over the past ten years people have come to Council; we are now in litigation; hopefully something will come from it that will benefit the residents of Economy Borough. Mr. Burns reported he brought up at the last meeting about his street opening permits; they are playing games with us it is time to start nailing them for coming up and making a mess of the roads; they come up to his road, dig something up and just make a total mess. Mr. Googins reported that needs to be looked into. Mayor Poling verified this is a street opening permit; reported Dogwood Circle in the winter looks like they have speed humps from the boring under the roads, ruins the roads; waited twenty years for Conway Wallrose Road to get redone and Columbia Gas digs holes in it; they did a decent job fixing it, but it should be done before the roads are done, the lines.

Sal Boboth, asked if Council considered anybody else for the Planning Commission; he put his name in with the borough secretary; did not want paid for it, wanted to do it voluntarily; when asked if he had to take pay, he was told no. Mr. Rock reported he would have to return the pay check; reported Council reappointed the two gentlemen who were previously on the Planning Commission because they were recommended to be on there. Mayor Poling suggested Mr. Boboth as an alternate on the Zoning Hearing Board. Mr. Boboth reported he used to be a zoning officer.

Elizabeth Burns, 100 Stange Road, commended the road department for doing an excellent job; she had just shoveled open their driveway and the truck driver did turn the snow blade so the snow did not go back in her

driveway; thanked him for that; they live on a flat road that goes back to the school; with the price of salt being an issue this year, her husband asked why salt the flat area, should salt just the intersections; this would be a 90% savings on salt. Mr. Rock reported Peters Township is doing that now because they are running out of salt; Penn Hills is doing that because they are running out of salt. Mr. Sivy reported he has also heard the same thing from residents. Mrs. Burns reported Sewickley just salts the intersections. Mr. Thomas reported he has heard Mr. Fitzgerald on the radio; they do do that, just heard him say to hit the intersections and the hills, put the plows down on the flats and just use the plows; they do a lot of that now. Mrs. Burns reported this was not a complaint, just a suggestion. Mrs. Mutschler reported they use their good judgment where to put it and where not to.

***MOTION by Mr. Thomas, seconded by Mr. Googins – to enter into Executive Session to discuss the road department contract, the police department contract, Central Tax agreement and DROP Plan, with a possible vote. Time: 8:22 PM CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY***

***MOTION by Mr. Sivy, seconded by Mr. Googins – to return to the regular order of business. Time: 10:12 PM CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY***

Mr. Fouse reported discussed in Executive Session was the Road Department Contract; the Police Department Contract, the Central Tax Agreement; the potential for the DROP Plan implementation (authorization to solicitor to investigate that); the criminal complaint against the code enforcement officer (solicitor authorized to go the hearing on behalf of Economy Borough); reviewed the Eminent Domain proceedings regarding NLSC; discussed generally the AWA Litigation; and reviewed the ordinance relating to the appointments of Recreation Board Members, with no votes.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

***MOTION by Mr. Sivy, seconded by Mr. Thomas – to adjourn the meeting. Time: 10:15 PM CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY***

Respectfully submitted,

Susan A. Blum  
Borough Secretary  
February 5, 2010