

MINUTES ** ECONOMY BOROUGH COUNCIL ** 25 February 14

Council President RJ Burns called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM in Council Chambers of the Economy Municipal Building.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Courtney B. Barthelemy, Esq., Gary Bucuren, Tom Fetkovich, Larry Googins, Frank Morrone, Pat Skonieczny, RJ Burns

ALSO PRESENT: Mayor David N. Poling, Joseph Askar, Esq.; Randy S. Kunkle, Borough Manager

HEAR THE PUBLIC:

Mike Lucia, Golden Grove Road, suggests we hire police jointly with neighboring municipalities.

George Foltz, Bock Lane, suggests we can save on overtime with part-time police. Mayor Poling responds we can only use part-timers under certain conditions according to the contract. Mr Foltz asks why do we pay AWA for hydrants? The Mayor will ask the Solicitor to look into this.

Sal Bobooth, Timber Ridge. Where are we with the lawsuit with AWA? The Solicitor will follow-up on this.

Regis Linedecker, Golden Grove Road. Conway, Baden and Ambridge are talking about merging police, why isn't Economy involved? One concern is Ambridge's pension liability. Mrs Barthelemy states Mr Mikulich (Ambridge Council) stated Economy refused to participate. Mayor Poling states we are talking with others, Baden, Conway.

MINUTES:

11 Feb 14 distributed, to be on the next agenda.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

ORDINANCE & PUBLIC UTILITIES: Mrs Skonieczny has nothing to report.

PROPERTY and BUILDING: Mr Fetkovich reports that he and Chief O'Brien are having the locks and cameras evaluated.

PUBLIC SAFETY: no report.

PUBLIC SAFETY: Mr Morrone mentions the collective bargaining agreement requires the borough to furnish bullet proof vests and we will need 15 of them at \$895 each, which is due to be covered by a grant.

Purchasing police cars is discussed, along with possible financing.

Motion by Mr Morrone, seconded by Mr Bucuren to purchase two police cars and if necessary amend the budget to reflect the purchase.

All vote aye; Mrs Barthelemy opposes; Mrs Skonieczny abstains.

Motion by Mr Morrone, seconded by Mr Bucuren, to purchase 15 bullet proof vests; question on the motion by Mr Fetkovich, will the grant cover the costs, the answer is affirmative.

All vote aye; Mrs Skonieczny abstains.

The Chief's contract is discussed. Solicitor Askar states the Public Safety Committee is almost finished reviewing it and it should be to the rest of council prior to the next meeting.

FINANCE COMMITTEE: no report.

PUBLIC WORKS: Mr Bucuren states they are still dealing with a lot of snow and salt is low, like everywhere else, but more is coming in. Spring repairs and an axle broke. Will get with the Finance Committee to see what money is available and they're looking at drainage issues.

PARKS AND RECREATION: Mr Fetkovich met with the Rec Board and their plans for the Easter Bunny are well under way for March 29th and the Community Day will be held the second Saturday in June. The Rec Board recommends that Eve Studebaker be appointed to replace Jim Sas on the Board. She is an Ambridge graduate.

Motion by Mr Fetkovich, seconded by Mr Morrone, to appoint Eve Studebaker to the Recreation Board, all voted aye.

MAYOR'S REPORT: Mayor Poling reports the school district is considering shutting down the Jr High, which was loudly opposed at their last board meeting; this would not be good for the borough, Mr Fetkovich concurs.

Mrs Barthelemy mentions that the last list of bills may have included a pistol purchase; Mayor Poling states only ammo was bought.

MANAGER'S REPORT: Mr. Kunkle reports that Beaver County and Economy Borough Planning Commissions recommend approval of the St Mathews Church subdivision, whereby the middle of the road would separate the two new parcels, one with the church on it, the other with the cemetery on it. The church is to be purchased and restored by an individual who doesn't want the cemetery, and the cemetery will be taken care of by a charity.

Council would like to know more about the charity; those involved will be invited to the next meeting.

REPORTS:

ENGINEER: no report.

SOLICITOR: Solicitor Askar reports the RFP for the audit was provided to the manager for distribution to those who ask for it.

PZ Northern is claiming a loss in value to the shopping center due to the borough's taking of the roadway associated with the Walmart project. In order to make an argument against their position an assessment should take place. Anthony Barnas, a well-known appraiser, has agreed to provide evidence for the assessment case at no more than \$4,000 to be divided by the three taxing jurisdictions; and the condemnation case at no more than \$6,000 to be paid by the borough. Solicitor Askar recommends this be done.

Motion by Mrs Skonieczny, seconded by Mr Bucuren, to engage Mr Barnas as suggested, all voted aye.

Solicitor Askar requests an executive session regarding the audit and a vote could be taken.

Mrs Skonieczny suggests the borough provide new Policy and Procedures manuals to all employees.

Motion by Mrs Skonieczny, seconded by Mr Morrone, to suspend the regular meeting and go into executive session to discuss the audit, all voted aye at 8:05.

At 9:30 the regular session re-opened.

Motion by Mrs Skonieczny, seconded by Mr Morrone, to engage an IT auditor to retrieve, preserve and share emails of two borough employees at a cost of no more than \$7200.

Mrs Barthelemy received no information about the auditor, Byt by Byt, and other costs should be obtained.

Mr. Googins opposes an email search, which doubles the amount of the forensic audit.

All aye with the exception of Mrs Barthelemy and Mr Googins who oppose.

ADJOURNMENT: Motion by Mr Googins, seconded by Mrs Barthelemy to adjourn, all voted aye at 9:35 pm.

To the best of my knowledge the forgoing is a true and accurate record of what occurred during this meeting.

Randy S Kunkle
Borough Manager