

MINUTES ** ECONOMY BOROUGH COUNCIL ** 14 January 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., Scott Shoup, P.E., P.L.S., Randy S. Kunkle, Borough Manager

VFD Update: Chief Thomas reports the department has three fire stations with 48 active members, mostly young and learning. His department is willing to help in any way. This year they will be replacing a fire engine that is 25 years old.

Police Update: Chief O'Brien thanks everyone for his appointment and looks forward to managing a good department. He and the Resource Officer will be developing an Emergency Plan for the two schools, and the department will enhance public outreach. He feels the department is just evenly staffed with no extra officers to cover vacations or sick days; feels one to three new officers are needed. Three of the cars have over 100,000 miles on them, one of which recently cost \$2,000 to keep it road worthy. The useful life of the department's bullet proof vests expires in October.

Public Works Update: Mr Dunn thanks everyone for his appointment and mentions he's one of eight men in the department, they take care of over 50 miles of roads, and do the winter maintenance on a number of state roads. Some of the things they do are paving, tar & chipping, work on the playgrounds and anything else that comes up or is needed.

HEAR THE PUBLIC: Daphnie Siterake, Foxglove Drive, asks why Mrs Blum is gone as she was very helpful? Mr Burns responds we felt a need for a change. Mrs Barthelemy agrees with the resident and she should have been allowed to retire.

Mike Lucia, 416 Golden Grove Road; there were never any bad words about Mrs Blum brought up at any meetings. Mrs Barthelemy agrees, no reasons were given for the motion.

Sonya Kopcheck, Amsler Road; wants to know what is going on with public safety; wants police in the schools. Chief O'Brien responds there is a Resource Officer in place. Mrs Kopcheck states we have an excellent Road Department and they need more transparency from Council.

JoAnn Baroto, Conway Wallrose Road; asks how many vehicles does the police department have? Chief O'Brien responds 7; two have been taken out of service and two officers share each vehicle; some run 16 hours shifts.

Dave Carlson, 116 Hamilton Court; he has been on the Planning Commission for 20 years, hands out to Council the process they went through to hire their new consultant. Between Bud Kennedy and Roberta Serraf, they had 25 years total service. They knew in July Roberta was going to retire, so they obtained 4 responses to their RFP and in September a committee from the commission held interviews. Each applicant was asked the same six

questions and scored according to their responses. Delta Development did the best and in October they gave a non-political, technically based recommendation.

MINUTES: *Motion by Mrs Skonieczny to table the November, December and January 6th minutes, seconded by Mr Morrone, all voted aye. The motion was made due to Mr. Fouse made a comment that was unintelligible on audio and was not present to finalize.*

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Mayor Poling offers highlights from the Police Department monthly report and notes the entire report will be on file.

Mrs Barthelemy asks if Chief O'Brien is being paid \$86,000 plus overtime. Solicitor Askar will meet with Chief O'Brien to discuss terms of contract.

Discussion concerning more rank in the Police Department takes place, as well as replacing police cars and paying for them

Motion by Mr Googins to pay the bills, seconded by Mr Bucuren, all voted aye excepting Mrs Skonieczny regarding police bills as her son works in the department and excepting Mr Bucuren regarding public works bills as his brother works there.

Motion by Mrs Skonieczny to have the council packages ready prior to the meeting dates, (agenda and bills) and to email packets.

Motion by Mr Bucuren to authorize the advertising of an ordinance to increase the size of the Planning Commission from seven to nine members; all voted aye except Mrs Barthelemy, Mr Fetkovich and Mr Googins.

Motion by Mrs Skonieczny to advertise the Borough Secretary position, seconded by Mr Morrone; all voted aye.

Discussion about pros and cons of different sizes of planning commissions takes place.

Motion by Mr Googins to use ADP for payroll, seconded by Mr Fetkovich, all voted aye.

Discussion concerning additional third party inspectors takes place.

Motion by Mr Googins to adopt the resolution appointing Mr Kunkle to the Beaver County Tax Collection Committee and to designate the school district's delegate as the borough's backup; all voted aye.

REPORTS:

ENGINEER: Mr Shoup reports there is a landslide starting to push onto Merriman road; he will monitor the situation.

SOLICITOR: Solicitor Askar is introduced and he introduces his assisting attorney Josh Kail. Solicitor Askar has worked for multiple municipalities, including the county, and he will meet with Mr Fouse to go over on-going issues.

Discussion takes place concerning how Solicitor Askar arrived in this position.

NEW BUSINESS:

Motion by Mrs Skonieczny to seek proposals for a forensic audit and to advertise for a new auditor, seconded by Mrs Barthelemy; all voted aye.

Motion by Mrs Skonieczny to have the agenda and bills distributed on the Thursday prior to the council meeting, seconded by Mr Fetkovich, all voted aye.

Motion by Mrs Skonieczny to hold executive sessions in the borough office, seconded by Mr Bucuren, all voted aye.

Motion by Mrs Barthelemy to stop texting by those conducting the meeting,

Here the Public:

Sal Boboth, TimberRidge, we used to have volunteers inspect, why not use seniors?

JoAnn Barato, Conway Wallrose Rd, reports she received a lot of new business after advertising in the Economy Connection.

George Fritz asks how many attend training, they all should go, and how much does it cost to change?

Solicitor Askar states the new Chief was appointed locally and the new council will conduct the business of the borough.

Michelle Poling states the elections determined the changes.

ADJOURNMENT: Motion by Mr Morrone, seconded by Mr Googins to adjourn, all voted aye at 9:55 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

List of Bills attached to the Minute Book.