

Economy Borough Council  
Regular Meeting Minutes  
February 24, 2015

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**MEETING** was called to order at 7:00 p.m. with Mr. R. J. Burns presiding and the following members of Council and officials of the Borough present: Mr. R. J. Burns, Mr. Gary Bucuren, Mr. Frank Morrone, Mrs. Pat Skonieczny, Mayor David Poling, Borough Manager Randy Kunkle, Borough Secretary Margie Nelko, Borough Solicitor Mr. Joseph Askar and Joshua Kail, Esq.

**ABSENT:** Mr. Tom Fetkovich (Excused)  
Mr. Larry Googins (Excused)

**OPENING PRAYER**

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Mrs. Courtney Barthelemy entered the meeting at this time (7:09 p.m.).

**RECOGNITION OF VISITORS:** Mr. Burns welcomed everyone to the meeting and requested the discussion(s) regarding Borough Business be kept to 3 – 5 minutes in length.

The following visitors were present:

Glenn Sylvester of 350 Orchard Lane, Freedom

**HEAR THE PUBLIC:**

Glenn Sylvester, of 350 Orchard Lane, was present to provide Council with paperwork regarding his towing experience with Harvey's Auto Body (Harvey's), which was discussed at the prior meeting of Council. Mr. Sylvester distributed a copy of the Towing and Towing Storage Facility Standards Act of July 5, 2012, an invoice from Harvey's, and two (2) invoices from Chris' Automotive (Chris'). Mr. Sylvester is requesting a refund in the amount of \$125.00 and another refund in the amount of \$1,462.50 payable to Erie Insurance by March 1, 2015 with a notation of a one percent (1%) penalty per month thereafter. Mr. Burns informed Mr. Sylvester that Council is reviewing his concerns.

Nick Gnarra (not signed in), of 116 1<sup>st</sup> Street, was present to request an update regarding the differences in the overages with the budgeted vs. actual amounts. The Borough Manager presented an overview of the Finance Committee meeting results on behalf of Mr. Googins, who was absent. The Borough Manager and the Borough Secretary both reviewed the largest line items for revenues and expenses. There was some discussion regarding the revenues and expenses. Mr. Gnarra asked why the 2015 Budget was not budgeted closer and feels that Council needs to dig deeper. There was some discussion regarding the accounting software change over differences that would reflect on these reports.

**MINUTES** of the Regular Meeting held on February 10, 2015, were ready for this meeting. **After some discussion, the motion of Mrs. Skonieczny, seconded by Mr. Bucuren to table the Regular Meeting Minutes of February 10, 2015, was unanimously carried.**

**PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE:** Mr. Bucuren, Chairperson of the Public Works Committee, reported that the public works crew have been doing a great job plowing the roads during this heavy snow period. It was noted that Mr. Burns and the Borough Office have received compliments regarding a job well done by the public works crew.

**PARKS and RECREATION COMMITTEE:** No Report.

**PUBLIC UTILITIES and ORDINANCE COMMITTEE:** No Report.

**PROPERTY and BUILDING COMMITTEE:** No Report.

**PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE:** No Report.

**FINANCE COMMITTEE:** No Report.

**MAYOR'S REPORT:** No Report.

The Mayor stated that he is unable to conduct the Memorial Day Service with the Legion this year, due to he will be away. The Mayor is hoping that someone will volunteer to conduct the service for this year and that he is willing to help them set up.

The Mayor inquired if local municipalities could put an ordinance in effect that would supersede state laws. The Borough Solicitor stated no, but an ordinance could be done to make it more stringent. The Mayor stated that he would like to see something done for dogs being tied out in this type of weather. The Borough Solicitor stated that this is not needed due to the state laws regarding animal cruelty cover this issue and that the police department should be notified when an occurrence arises.

The Mayor stated, that moving forward, he would like a policy regarding political campaigning on Borough premises by employees. The Borough Solicitor stated that there are state laws regarding this issue already, however, if it is not in the handbook then Council could amend the handbook policy. **After some review and discussion, the motion of Mr. Burns, seconded by Mr. Morrone to authorize the Borough Solicitor to draft a policy regarding political campaigning and employees was unanimously carried.**

**MANAGER'S REPORT:** The Borough Manager presented Council with updates regarding the following issues:

1. **Grass Cutting** – The Borough Manager presented Council with an overview of upcoming properties that will need grass cutting services and then a lien will be placed on the property to recover the costs. The Borough Manager stated that 1906 Watch Hill is selling and the Borough will be reimbursed for the past years grass cutting services. There was some discussion regarding the company that was hired last year being interested in doing this service again for 2015. The Borough Manager was asked to contact the company from last year to see if they would be interested in continuing through 2015.
2. **2015 Spring Newsletter** – The Borough Manager stated that he was starting to prepare the upcoming newsletter. There is another company that handles the newsletters for Beaver Borough and Hopewell Township that he would like to try. Mrs. Skonieczny asked how the price compared to the last company used. The Borough Manager stated that the Borough paid for the printing and postage and this new company will use advertising to help cover the printing costs, which will make it cheaper. The Mayor requested notifying the residents about the towing and the senior meeting every Thursday, etc.
3. **Employee Vacation Request** – An employee is requesting an update regarding vacation time that was unable to be used, which will be discussed in executive session.

**SOLICITOR'S REPORT:** The Borough Solicitor presented Council with updates regarding the following issues:

1. **Pension Ordinance/Resolution Update** – The Borough Solicitor reviewed Ordinance No. 354 (Adopted a revised Non-Uniformed Pension Ordinance), Ordinance No. 443 (Amended Police Pension Fund due to the state taking over the Killed-In-Service Benefit and to clarify when an employee with at least 12

years of service leaves before reaching age 50, Ordinance No. 444 (Amended the Non-Uniformed Pension Fund to clarify how the pension benefit is calculated) and Resolution No. 445 (Establishes the procedures and requirements when entering into professional services contracts designed to guide the Borough in the maintenance/performance of the Uniform and Non-uniform Pension Plans in accordance with Act 44 of 2009). The Borough Solicitor stated that the Ordinance No. 444 satisfied the language requirement as per the Auditor General. Mrs. Skonieczny stated that she believes further discussion is needed due to Ordinance No. 444 amends the language in Ordinance No. 354 without any input from the Collective Bargaining Unit, which could make Ordinance No. 444 invalid. The Borough Solicitor stated that the Auditor General is looking at this from a legality and auditing point of view and if the Collective Bargaining Unit has an issue with the language then they will need to address their concerns.

2. Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) – The Borough Solicitor stated that a Memorandum of Understanding has been prepared regarding insurance provided to individuals who work more than thirty-two (32) or more hours in a week. The MOU will serve as a mutual agreement and understanding that any officer who is scheduled to work for more than 32 hours in a week, consistently over a period of 12 weeks, is entitled to benefits in accordance with Article XI of the CBA. After some review and discussion, the motion of Mr. Burns, seconded by Mr. Bucuren to accept the MOU and forward to the Economy Borough Police Officers Association for review and execution was unanimously carried, with the exception of Mrs. Skonieczny due to her son works in the police department and Mrs. Barthelemy due to she felt she could not vote on without reviewing the collective bargaining agreement beforehand.

#### **OLD BUSINESS:**

Mr. Burns presented Council with an update regarding the board vacancies and/or board re-appointments. There was some discussion regarding the following board vacancies:

1. Planning Commission (4 Year Term) – Mr. Burns stated that there are two (2) vacancies on this board that need to be filled. **After some review and discussion, the motion of Mr. Bucuren, seconded by Mrs. Skonieczny to appoint Mr. Robert Meegan, of 109 Compton Road, to the Planning Commission Board for a four year (4 yr.) term which expires on 12/31/2018 unanimously carried.** Mr. Burns stated that the other vacancy needs to be filled as well. **After some discussion, the motion of Mr. Morrone, seconded by Mr. Burns, to appoint Mr. Donald Lang, of 105 Grove Hill Road, to the Planning Commission Board for a four year (4 yr.) term which expires on 12/31/2018 unanimously carried.**
2. Recreation Board (5 Year Term) – Mr. Burns stated that there are two (2) vacancies on this board that need to be filled. **After some review and discussion, the motion of Mr. Bucuren, seconded by Mr. Burns to appoint Mrs. Jill Creese, of 2086 Ridge Road Ext., to the Recreation Board for a five year (5 yr.) term which expires on 12/31/2019 unanimously carried.**
3. Zoning Hearing Board (3 Year Term) – Mr. Burns stated that there is one (1) vacancy on this board that needs to be filled, however, no letters of interest have been received. There was some discussion regarding the alternates serving during the meetings until the vacancy is filled. The Borough Manager stated that Mrs. Karla Nesbitt has resigned as the Zoning Hearing Secretary.

Mrs. Skonieczny inquired if Council needs to act on the hiring of another new police officer at this meeting. Mr. Kail stated that the Borough needs to hire the first officer before it can move forward to hiring any other full time officers due to the requirements of the Civil Service.

The Borough Solicitor inquired if the Non-Uniform Collective Bargaining Contract was forwarded to the Union for execution. The Borough Manager stated that the contract copies were forwarded.

**NEW BUSINESS:** None

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:** Mr. Burns requested Council go into Executive Session in regard to personnel matters consisting of ongoing employee litigation, personnel matters involving a vacation time request at 07:50 p.m.

There being no further business, the motion of Mr. Morrone, seconded by Mr. Bucuren, adjourn the meeting at 8:55 p.m. was unanimously carried.

Margie L. Nelko  
Borough Secretary

Randy Kunkle  
Borough Manager