

**Watsonstown Borough Council
Committee Meeting
June 24, 2013**

- OPENING:** The June 24, 2013 Watsonstown Borough Committee Meeting was called to order by Council President Harriet Miller at 7:30 PM.
- MEMBERS PRESENT:** Members present: President Harriet Miller, Jack Marshall, Ralph Young, Pat Yeager, Mary Phillips, Mayor David Hontz, Solicitor Ryan Tira, Police Chief Dennis Derr, Borough Manager Edie Moser and Secretary/Treasurer Brendi Brooke. Vice President Harry Hefty and Public Works Supervisor Scott Winters were absent.
- VISITORS:** Marsha Sherman, Diane Dawson, Barb Diehl and Joshua Dreisbach
- DIANE DAWSON PENDING LITIGATION/ APPEAL:** Diane Dawson spoke regarding her claim of property damage in the amount of \$2500 and the Borough's lack of a search warrant, which she discussed at the last Council meeting. Solicitor Tira advised Council not to comment regarding the pending appeal/litigation.
- MARSHA SHERMAN NEIGHBOR'S TREE DAMAGE:** Marsha Sherman of 7 West Fifth Street spoke regarding property damage by a neighbor's tree. The tree has done damage to her pool and her new fence. The owner of the property is Gerald Lloyd, but he does not live there, it is a rental. Ms. Sherman provided Council with numerous pictures of recent damage, including downed wires across her property and asked for Council help in resolving this issue with Mr. Lloyd. She said she has submitted two claims to her insurance company to cover damage and due to the claims, her premiums have increased 55%. She is concerned for the safety of persons and property with regards to this rotted tree. Solicitor Tira advised this issue may be a matter between two private land owners. Council approved Solicitor Tira's offer to check with Jeff Kanezo at Light-Heigel regarding possible Borough code and safety violations.
- SPLIT TREE AT THE PARK:** Diane Dawson said there is a tree that is split at the park. It is near the parking lot and former pool, facing the river. She feels this tree is also a safety issue. Edie will have Scott Winters check this tree.
- ISSUES AT THE CEMETARY:** Mary Phillips spoke of issues at the cemetery. She said there is a tree at the top of 4th Street that should be checked. She also said a stone has fallen out of the wall. Edie said she and Scott had looked at the missing stone before but they will look at it again. Pat Yeager asked for a status update on the steps that are taped off at the cemetery. Edie said until they are fixed or taken out, she and Scott decided to tape them off for safety

reasons. She reminded Council again, if they are aware of anyone to do masonry and concrete work, please get the information to her. Pat also asked about the cemetery fence. Edie said money is in the budget each year for these items, which fall under Perpetual Care. Marsha Sherman asked who to contact regarding missing veteran’s markers and she was advised to contact the American Legion.

**ELECTRIC
BUCKET
TRUCK:**

Scott spoke with Edie regarding an electric bucket truck that he found. The Electric Committee consists of Harry Hefty, Pat Yeager and Jack Marshall. Once Harry Hefty returns from vacation, she and Scott would like to meet with the committee and review about the truck that’s been found.

**MIKE
MESSINGER
TO GO FOR
ADDITIONAL
AMP TRAINING:**

Edie spoke regarding Mike Messinger’s recent AMP training in Ohio. She received an email from the instructor, which spoke highly of Mike and his accomplishments at the training. She said AMP is offering additional training, a Basic 2 class, offered September 23 thru September 27, 2013. There is still money left in the budget for this additional training and Mike expressed interest in attending. Jack Marshall made a motion to send Mike Messinger to the AMP Basic 2 Training, September 23 thru September 27, 2013. A second was made by Pat Yeager. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

Yeager	- yes	Phillips	- yes
Marshall	- yes	Young	- yes
Miller	- yes		

All in favor. Motion carried.

**RECENT
POWER
OUTAGES:**

Pat asked for an update on the recent power outages. Edie said there was no conclusive reason for the recent power outages. Greg Brouse checked the town’s transformers and found no known cause for the outages.

**ORDINANCE
NO. 2013-03:**

Solicitor Tira spoke of Ordinance 2013-03. It was provided to Council this evening. The ordinance requires all customers to install an external, lockable switch when upgrading or installing electrical service to a property and requires all work be in accordance with the latest version of the National Electric Code. President Miller tabled the review of this ordinance until the Council Meeting on July 1, 2013.

**CHURCH
SUMMER
LUNCH
PROGRAM:**

Jack Marshall said the summer lunch program at the park sponsored by the Watson town United Methodist Church has been a huge success. He offered thanks to the Borough crew for the clean-up of the playground equipment and for clearing the river bank.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Solicitor Tira said there would be an Executive Session after tonight's meeting for possible litigation and personnel issues. Jack Marshall said there are currently two ongoing investigations with the Personnel Committee.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PLAN:

Mayor Hontz spoke about Watsontown's Emergency Management Plan that Scott Winters has put together. The Mayor said the plan is ready for Council's review and ratification, with the exception of specific names and phone numbers. Solicitor Tira said the Mayor and Scott should fill in names and phone numbers. Council was encouraged to review the plan.

FUEL SPILL INTO TANNERY RUN:

The Mayor said complaints were received regarding a gasoline and fuel smell by residents in the Brookside area. These complaints lead to Watsontown Emergency Management and Warrior Run Fire Department's response to a spill which affected Tannery Run. After renting a camera from Milton Regional Sewer Authority, Steve Puzio of DEP determined the spill came from MI SWACO at 1110 Matthew Street, owned by Moran. The Mayor sent a letter to Moran Industries for \$1,373.57 for reimbursement of fees associated with the clean-up. The Mayor, acting as Borough Emergency Management Director, sent the letter in accordance with Northumberland County EMA Ordinance #1-96. To date, he hasn't heard from Moran Industries, therefore, he was looking for direction to proceed with this matter. Solicitor Tira said the Mayor will have to look to Northumberland County to enforce their ordinance. Solicitor Tira also said, with Council's approval, he would look into the Borough's Storm Water Ordinance, to see if Moran needed cited for Borough violations as well. Council supports the Mayor and Solicitor Tira working together to resolve this issue and recover the clean-up expenses. The Mayor gave copies of all documents to Solicitor Tira.

PAVEMENT & STREET ISSUES ON BOROUGH STREETS:

Pat Yeager said she spoke with Edie regarding paving problems on a few Borough streets. Pat named areas on Eighth Street and Liberty Street (between Third and Fourth Streets). Edie said none of these problems are due to the Doli paving project. She said letters were recently sent to Pennsylvania American Water and UGI. Within one to three weeks, both the water and gas companies will have pavers in our area and these areas will be addressed. The Mayor spoke of the poor street transition on Vincent Avenue from Delaware Township to Watsontown Borough. Council agreed this particular issue needs addressed with Doli. Sunken man holes on Elm were mentioned by Pat Yeager. Jack Marshall mentioned the crack sealing and the great job done to preserve our streets. Mary Phillips asked about the "no parking" signs that have been placed in the alley near the Foundry. Chief Derr said the signs are

regarding Moran’s private property not parking on the street. He said the signs actually belong to the Borough. President Miller gave permission for the Borough crew to take the signs, thus eliminating all confusion regarding parking.

DEMOLITION OF SEWER PLANT:

Edie updated Council on the demolition of the sewer plant. Previous plans were postponed. A call was received today from Bill Michael stating the demolition would take place within a week or so, though nothing is firm.

FOOT PATH NEAR RIVER:

Jack Marshall asked Edie to review the plan to make sure the fence at the old plant is placed back far enough to allow for the foot path to be further from the river bank with less chance of flooding. Edie said she would check into it.

MUNICIPAL INDUSTRIAL PRETREATMENT PLAN INSPECTIONS:

Victor Derr, Genie Bausinger from MRSA, along with Scott and Edie have begun conducting un-announced “MIPP” inspections of various businesses within the Borough. They ask for a tour, they look at their chemicals. More are scheduled tomorrow morning. These inspections are done once a year. They found a strong chlorine smell in the Matthew Street pump station. Victor Derr is working with the business to get the problem corrected. Crew members will be kept from this manhole until it is resolved.

WABA YARD SALE REQUEST:

President Miller said Council was in receipt of a letter from Castan Kiersch requesting approval to hold the Watsonstown Yard Sales on September 28, 2013. Barb Diehl said unfortunately there are no spaces available for vendors to set up in town. Pat Yeager made a motion to approve the request. A second was made by Mary Phillips. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

Marshall	- yes	Young	- yes
Miller	- yes	Yeager	- yes
Phillips	- yes		

All in favor. Motion carried.

FIRE BOARD APPOINTMENT:

Pat Yeager asked if the fire board appointment could be tabled until the Council Meeting on July 1, 2013. She feels if the person is representing the Borough, they should live in the Borough. She said we need to strive to keep people within the Borough involved, to which President Miller agreed. Jack Marshall said the appointment came before Council at an earlier meeting and Council rescinded the decision to appoint Tiffany Wertman until Russ McClintock resigned. After much

discussion, Jack Marshall made a motion, seconded by Ralph Young to appoint Tiffany Wertman to the Fire Board, representing the Borough of Watsonstown. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

Marshall	- yes	Young	- yes
Miller	- yes	Yeager	- yes
Phillips	- yes		

All in favor. Motion carried.

**2013
PAVING
BIDS:**

President Miller opened the following six bids for the 2013 paving of seven Borough streets:

HRI	Bloomsburg	\$70,181.00
Eastern Industries	Winfield	\$49,090.50
M&J Excavating	Bloomsburg	\$59,624.00
Gutelius Excavating	Mifflinburg	\$71,899.00
G&R Charles	Port Trevorton	\$45,537.71
Mid State Paving	Paxtonville	\$55,382.95

Eddie said \$30,000.00 was budgeted for the project but at the June 3rd meeting Council approved paving in the amount of \$40,820.00. Though the Borough may have to cash a C.D., she assured Council the money was available and would be taken from liquid fuels. Having the lowest bid, a motion was made by Jack Marshall to award the paving project to G&R Charles. They have done work for the Borough in the past. A second was given by Pat Yeager. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

Miller	- yes	Yeager	- yes
Phillips	- yes	Marshall	- yes
Young	- yes		

All in favor. Motion carried.

**BIKE FOR
MIKE
EVENT:**

Council was in receipt of a request from Beth Dreisbach to hold the “Bike for Mike” event on October 19, 2013. Contingent on insurance, Ralph Young made a motion, seconded by Jack Marshall to approve the bike ride. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

Phillips	- yes	Marshall	- yes
Young	- yes	Miller	- yes
Yeager	- yes		

All in favor. Motion carried.

MOVIES IN THE PARK:

Barb Diehl spoke regarding WABA’s request to offer movies in the park. Pending Council’s approval, they will borrow a projector and screen to use on the back of the pool building before investing in their own equipment. Five local businesses are willing to sponsor this event with the Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts and Women’s Club have offered to supply snacks and drinks. In the event of rain, they would use one of the park pavilions for the showing. The Chief offered to have a part-time officer on foot during the movie. Edie will check into lighting to be sure it is sufficient. Solicitor Tira said the Borough’s park curfew will need adjusted to allow for the showing. WABA will also need to provide liability insurance. He suggested WABA contact Montoursville’s Recreation Committee for ideas and suggestions, as they have done such events in the past for their community. He said WABA should submit a special event permit to Council for the meeting on July 1, 2013 for approval of the movie, which will be shown on July 26, 2013. Jack Marshall thanked Barb Diehl for WABA’s continued interest and involvement to our community.

4th of JULY PARADE:

Ralph Young made a motion to approve WABA’s request for Watsonstown’s Annual 4th of July Parade, to be held on Thursday, July 4, 2013. The parade will begin at approximately 10:00 a.m. Pat Yeager seconded. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

Young	- yes	Miller	- yes
Yeager	- yes	Phillips	- yes
Marshall	- yes		

All in favor. Motion carried.

MORAN INDUSTRIES LAND DEVELOPMENT PLAN APPROVED:

Edie said Jeff Kanezo of Light-Heigel has reviewed and approved the Moran land development plan for the demolition and construction of a new warehouse in the Borough of Watsonstown. The plan complies with Watsonstown’s Zoning Ordinance. This plan was previously approved by the Watsonstown Borough Planning Commission and Northumberland County’s Planning Commission. There was discussion regarding the address of the plan in question. The actual land development plan states the site address as 202 East Seventh Street. The actual physical location for demolition and construction of a new warehouse is in the East Fifth Street area. Pat Yeager made a motion to approve Moran’s land development plan. A second was given by Mary Phillips. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

Yeager	- yes	Phillips	- yes
Marshall	- yes	Young	- yes
Miller	- yes		

All in favor. Motion carried.

**ORDINANCE
2013-01:**

Pat Yeager made a motion to adopt Ordinance 2013-01, previously advertised, updating the standards and amending Chapter 21, Streets and Sidewalks, Part 1. Street Openings and Excavations. Mary Phillips gave a second to the motion. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

Marshall	- yes	Young	- yes
Miller	- yes	Yeager	- yes
Phillips	- yes		

All in favor. Motion carried.

**ORDINANCE
2013-02:**

Ralph Young made a motion to adopt Ordinance 2013-02, previously advertised, amending Chapter 15, Motor Vehicles and Traffic Section 303 Restrictions as to weight and size of vehicles on certain streets and bridges. This limits the weight and length of trucks to a certain portion of Liberty Street. A second was given by Jack Marshall. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

Miller	- yes	Yeager	- yes
Phillips	- yes	Marshall	- yes
Young	- yes		

All in favor. Motion carried.

**TREE TRIMMING
& ELECTRICAL
LINES:**

Edie called three different companies to trim trees and limbs approximately 15 feet from electrical lines near Brookside. She only heard back from B&B Tree Service in Berwick. The price of \$2,250.00 includes clean up and removal of all debris. Pat Yeager made a motion to approve the proposal from B&B Tree Service. A second was given by Mary Phillips. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

Phillips	- yes	Marshall	- yes
Young	- yes	Miller	- yes
Yeager	- yes		

All in favor. Motion carried.

**TOW MOTOR
TO BE
ADVERTISED
ON MUNICIBID:**

Eddie asked Council's opinion regarding advertising the tow motor on Municibid or to junk it. Jack Marshall made a motion to advertise the tow motor "as is" with no guarantees of working condition on Municibid. Ralph Young gave a second. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

Young	- yes	Miller	- yes
Yeager	- yes	Phillips	- yes
Marshall	- yes		

All in favor. Motion carried.

**TANK CLEAN UP
FROM KLINE'S:**

Eddie said the Borough was in receipt of the Kline's bill for the cleaning of the tank. The bill was for \$25,495.00, which was a Watson town Borough cost, not a Sewer Project cost. The cost included hauling the liquid, removing and hauling of all solids from the bottom and cleaning the tank for DEP. Everything is now gone & the plant is ready for demolition. The bill has already been paid from the Sewer Operating Fund and Council will see it on their bill presentation.

**FINANCE
COMMITTEE
MEETING:**

Eddie asked to schedule a Finance Committee Meeting to discuss the Elm/Ash Street loan. There was much discussion regarding account balances and the cash position report. Council had many questions regarding different account balances listed on the report. Solicitor Tira explained the "permitted" use of funds from numerous accounts. The questions revolved around "sewer" money and expenses and future money transfers to Milton Regional Sewer Authority and Northern Neighbors Project. In conclusion, Solicitor Tira advised the Finance Committee to speak with the auditor about using the Sewer Capital Improvement funds to pay down and pay off the Elm/Ash Street loan, with the understanding that tax money coming in through debt service will replenish the account.

**ADJOURN TO
EXECUTIVE
SESSION:**

At 9:15 pm, there being no further business to come before Council, Ralph Young made a motion, seconded by Jack Marshall to adjourn to Executive Session.

Respectfully submitted,

Brendi L. Brooke
Secretary/Treasurer